

BROWN CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS SEPTEMBER 8, 2014

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY MAYOR CHRISTINE LEE AT 7:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE LED BY MAYOR CHRISTINE LEE.

PRESENT: Mayor Christine Lee, Councilmembers: Pat Jacobson, Robert Jacobson, Dan Loutzenhiser, Ross McIvor, Julie Miller, and Bill Walters; City Clerk Juanita Smith, City Manager Clint Holmes, and City Attorney Gregory Stremers.

ABSENT: None.

ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS AND DELETIONS TO AGENDA.

City Manager Clint Holmes reported that there would be one additional item under Petitions & Communications and two additional items to the Manager's Report.

CORRECTION & APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by CM Miller, second by CM McIvor, to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes of August 28, 2014 as presented. Motion carried.

PAY BILLS:

Motion by CM Pat Jacobson, second by CM Loutzenhiser, to pay the bills in the following funds: General - \$13,127.98 (6477-6495), Payroll - \$11,922.49 (6599-6613 plus EFT), Major Street - \$35,465.00 (3837-3839), Local Street - \$72,650.99 (4217-4219), Sanitary Sewer - \$1,423.76 (3417-3418), Water - \$908.59 (2412-2419), Storm Sewer - \$60.00 (1162), and Equipment - \$25.58 (1447-1448). Motion carried.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS: None.

POLICE REPORT: Report reviewed. No questions or concerns.

PERSONAL APPEARANCES: None Scheduled.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None Scheduled.

RESOLUTIONS: None Scheduled.

ORDINANCES: None Scheduled.

PUBLIC HEARING: None Scheduled.

PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS:

1. **4120 Second Street:** Repair/replace patio.

Motion by CM Walters, second by CM R. Jacobson, to grant a building permit to the owners of the property at 4120 Second Street to repair and replace a 12' x 12' wooden patio at this address. The construction of the patio has been completed. Motion carried.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

1. **City Street Renovation Project:** Astec Asphalt completed paving Second Street and the patches on St Marys and First Streets. They have also completed applying 22A gravel to Cade Road. The City DPW will complete adding gravel to the sides of Second Street and the associated driveways.
2. **4211 Vine Street:** The City Attorney forwarded the four citations written against 4211 Vine Street to Sanilac County District Court for action. There has been no follow-up communication with the owner. The DPW was tasked to (again) knock down the weeds and grass at this address.
3. **Fire Hydrant Flushing:** The DPW plans to conduct hydrant flushing September 22-26. Notices will be published in *The Banner* and on the City's website identifying the dates and reminding residents to avoid washing white and light-colored clothes while hydrants are being flushed.
4. **DPW Seasonal Employee:** The City hired Jadon Fox as a part-time seasonal employee for the DPW. He began work the first week of September, after passing a physical exam, and will continue until the end of October.
5. **Garbage Disposal Contract:** The City contract with Knox expires on September 30th. Requests for Proposals (RFPs) were sent to area companies and a formal notice was published in the *Sanilac County News* on September 3rd. RFPs are due to the City not later than 4:00 PM on Thursday, September 18, 2014.
6. **Horse Manure:** The City sent a letter to the leader of the local Amish community concerning failure to clean-up horse manure on City streets and parking lots. If reasonable voluntary compliance is not achieved, the City Council may wish to consider an Ordinance to allow enforcement.
7. **Water Sales:** A representative from Northern A-1 Environmental Services approached the City concerning purchasing water on a contingency basis. This company is responsible for providing water to the energy well drilling companies in the area. If City water is needed, it will be drawn from a fire hydrant on Corn Drive and a check-valve is mandatory. City commercial customers pay \$4.63 per thousand gallons, they have agreed to \$5.50 per thousand.

- 8. Health Care:** Since the City's current policy is being cancelled under the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare), the Personnel Committee met on August 29th to review employee health insurance options. The consensus of the Committee was to recommend the City Council "opt-out" of PA 152, as allowed by the law, and switch the City's non-union health care policy to BC/BS CB HRA 1500. This change will save the City about \$37,658.40 over the next year. How does the City Council wish to proceed?

After much discussion on the employee health insurance options, a Motion was made by CM Walters, second by CM Miller, to "opt-out" of PA 152 as allowed by the law. ROLL CALL VOTE: CM Pat Jacobson – yes, CM R. Jacobson – yes, CM Loutzenhiser – yes, CM McIvor – yes, CM Miller – yes, CM Walters – yes. 6 Yes Votes, 0 No Votes, 0 Absent. Motion carried.

Motion by CM Walters, second by CM McIvor, to switch the City's non-union health care policy to BC/BS CB HRA 1500. ROLL CALL VOTE: CM R. Jacobson – yes, CM Loutzenhiser – yes, CM McIvor – yes, CM Miller – yes, CM Walters – yes, CM P. Jacobson – yes. 6 Yes Votes, 0 No Votes, 0 Absent. Motion carried.

- 9. James and 2nd Street Stop Sign:** Superintendent of Brown City Schools, Doug Muxlow, requested that a Four (4) Way Stop Sign be installed at the corner of James and Second Street for safety reasons as a school bus picks up at least fifteen (15) students at this corner daily.

Motion by CM Miller, second by CM McIvor, to have a stop signs placed on James Street so that the corner of James and Second Street would become a four way stop for traffic. Motion carried.

- 10. Lift Station:** On Saturday morning the DPW on-call worker received an alarm from the lift station at Maple Valley Road. The DPW Foreman determined a float had gone bad and replaced it with a spare. The unit was fully operational by early afternoon.

- 11. Minimum Wages:** Effective September 1st, the federal minimum wage went to \$8:15 per hour. Currently, the City pays Board of Review and election workers \$7.50 per hour. The crossing guard is paid \$8.00 per hour. How does the City Council wish to proceed?

Motion by CM Walters, second by CM R. Jacobson, to increase the workers wages from the current level to the minimum wage. Motion carried.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

City Attorney Greg Stremers reported that he has sent out four citations and hopes to get a response on them. A court hearing on the Vine Street property to be cleaned up will be scheduled soon and the date should be known before the next council meeting. Attorney Greg Stremers recommendation is that we just wait and see what happens for now—we can go to Circuit Court at a later date if we need to.

TREASURER'S REPORT: None.

MAYOR’S REPORT:

1. Semi-Annual City Manager Evaluation – Please return forms at or before the next City Council meeting on September 22nd.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Police (Miller) – None.
2. Water and Sewer (R. Jacobson) – None.
3. Tax and Finance (P. Jacobson) – None.
4. Streets and Sidewalks (Loutzenhiser) – None.
5. Building and Grounds (Walters) – None.
6. Personnel (McIvor) – None.

GENERAL CONCERNS OF THE COUNCIL:

1. CM Walters stated that he had driven through Parkside Drive; work continued on the new house but no swale work was being done.
2. A house on Vine Street was reported to have extensive work being done on it but no permit had been issued by the City.
3. Kohler Street and Buby Street— north side ditch needs to be cleaned up.
4. Catch basins throughout the City need to be cleaned out with some needing to be repaired or replaced.
5. A concern was the Amish Buggies with their steel wheels were causing some damage to the City streets.

Mayor Christine Lee asked the City Attorney to inquire if any city has adopted an ordinance about rubber tires being required on vehicles driven on City streets.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS:

One comment was made by visitor, Alicia Park, concerning the house on Vine Street that was reported to be having work done on it with no permit—She said that the couple working on the home is a couple who probably did not realize that they needed a building permit from the City to work on the house.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None scheduled.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by CM Miller, second by CM Pat Jacobson, to adjourn at 7:40 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Juanita Smith
City Clerk