

BROWN CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

NOVEMBER 10, 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 (7:02 p.m.), Julie Miller, and Bill Walters; City Clerk Juanita Smith, City Manager Clint Holmes, and City Attorney Gregory Stremers.

ABSENT: None.

GUESTS: Councilmember-Elect Alicia Parks.

ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS AND DELETIONS TO AGENDA: None.

CORRECTION & APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by CM Miller, second by CM Pat Jacobson, to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes of October 27, 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 - \$16,531.52 (6559-6604), Payroll - \$13,636.19 (6675-6692 plus EFT), Sanitary Sewer - \$890.47 (3428-3430), Water - \$16,941.91 (2438-2445), Arsenic Abatement - \$59.00 (1263), Equipment - \$162.31 (1457-1458). Motion carried.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS: None.

POLICE REPORT: Report reviewed. No questions or concerns.

PERSONAL APPEARANCES: None Scheduled.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None Scheduled.

PUBLIC HEARING: None Scheduled.

PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS: None Scheduled.

RESOLUTIONS: None Scheduled.

ORDINANCES: None Scheduled.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

- 1. December Ice Storm:** The City had presented cost information associated with the December Ice Storm to Sanilac County for reimbursement under a special state program. The City received a check for \$3,263.87 as a result. The money was divided between the Brown City Major and Local Streets Funds. The City would like to thank Sanilac County Emergency Manager Todd Hillman for all his work to get us this money.
- 2. COMCAST Cable TV:** COMCAST sent the City a letter stating that "Effective December 15, 2014, WGN America (channel 13) will no longer be available on the Limited Basic service." It will continue to be available on the Extended Basic and XFINITY TV. The City contacted the author of the letter to remind COMCAST that the City had been promised XFINITY TV not later than December 2006 and asked when this service would be available in the City. Apparently, COMCAST still does not have this scheduled.

Additionally, a review of the lease agreement for the COMCAST downlink site adjacent to the water tower revealed the requirement for an annual lease payment of \$300 that was to be renegotiated for five-year periods when the initial lease expired in 1989. This never happened and the City apparently has not been paid since then. COMCAST was asked to provide a new draft lease and a proposal for making good on the 25-year gap in payments.

- 3. Railroad Locomotive Parking:** The Huron & Eastern Railroad parked a locomotive adjacent to the houses on the south side of First Street between James and St Marys Streets and allowed it to run overnight much to the irritation of the occupants of those houses. A complaint was made to the railroad but the locomotive was neither moved nor shut off for another day. The City then contacted Chuck Kunisch at MAC who was able to get the locomotive moved within a couple of hours.
- 4. Fiber Optic Cable Boring:** The Pigeon Telephone Company has received a contract to install underground fiber optic cable to Tri-County Bank and Frontier Telephone in the City. Their plan is to bore south on James Street about 575' feet on the west side of the street to the power pole on the west side of the railroad tracks, then bore to Tri-County Bank. Pigeon Telephone Company is requesting a permit. How does the City Council wish to proceed?

Motion by CM Walters, Second by CM R. Jacobson, to grant a permit to the Pigeon Telephone Company to install underground fiber optic cable to Tri-County Bank and Frontier Telephone in the City of Brown City. Motion carried.

- 5. Election Coordinator:** Barb Stimson, the City's Election Coordinator has resigned after thirty years of running elections. The City would like to sincerely thank her for her service to our community. The next election in the City will be the presidential primary in February 2016. The City will need to find a new Coordinator, with the necessary qualifications and training, by November of next year. Election worker training has not yet been scheduled by Sanilac County.

- 6. Christmas/New Year:** These holidays each fall on a Thursday this time around. Traditionally, the City Council has granted City workers a holiday for the day before or day after Christmas and New Year's Day if the day was adjacent to a weekend. Does the City Council wish to extend the holidays to include December 26th and January 2nd on a one-time basis?

Motion by CM Miller, Second by CM Pat Jacobson, to grant the City workers a holiday for the day after Christmas which would be December 26, 2014, and the day after New Year's Day which would be January 2, 2015 on a one-time basis. Motion carried.

- 7. Sanilac Tourism Association:** The Association has asked if the City wishes to renew our membership. Recommended contribution is \$200 (based on the number of employees). However, the minimum contribution, which is the amount the City paid each of the last two years, is \$100. Membership allows for a 10% discount for an advertisement in the 2015 Sanilac Visitor's Guide. Cost to run an ad similar to last year is \$450 (\$405 if the City continues its membership). How does the City Council wish to proceed?

Motion by CM Walters, second by CM Loutzenhiser, to renew our membership with the Sanilac Tourism Association at a contribution of \$100 for one year. This membership will allow for a 10% discount for an advertisement in the 2015 Sanilac Visitor's Guide. The cost of the advertisement in the 2015 Sanilac Visitor's Guide will be \$405 with our renewed membership. Motion carried.

- 8. MML Elected Officials Training:** The Michigan Municipal League is offering a training class for newly elected and serving elected officials training on the basic functions they will need to know in their roles as public leaders. Topics include: an overview of basic local government; roles and responsibilities of elected officials; Open Meetings Act (OMA); Freedom of Information Act (FOIA); finance 101; and will include a panel discussion with seasoned elected officials. The training is available in various communities around the state in late November and throughout December. If anyone is interested, I have additional information.

Newly elected Councilmember, Alicia Parks, will be attending this training.

- 9. Horse Manure:** The City has still not received the courtesy of a reply from the Amish community concerning ways to resolve this issue.
- 10. Veterans Day:** The City and DPW Offices will be closed on Tuesday, November 11th in commemoration of Veterans Day. The VFW will have a short wreath laying ceremony at the Veterans Memorial on Main Street at 11:00 AM.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

- 1. 4211 Vine Street – October 31st court date:** Update. City Attorney Gregory Stremers, City Manager Clint Holmes, and Police Chief Ron Smith attended court proceedings on October 31, 2014 dealing with the 4211 Vine Street property. The owner was very cooperative and is cleaning up the house

and property. The city still needs an address as to where to send the tax bills on this property.

TREASURER’S REPORT:

City Treasurer Carol Walters reported that she had paid Sanilac County the third payment for the 2014 Summer taxes, she also paid Lapeer County their share of the 2014 Summer taxes collected. The October collection will be paid next week (week of November 17th). The winter tax bills for 2014 will be ready soon. (See attached sheet on the Treasurer’s Report).

CLERK’S REPORT:

City Clerk Juanita Smith reported that there were 328 ballots cast in the city for Sanilac County and no ballots were cast from the Lapeer County part of the city. Of these 328 ballots, 61 were absentee ballots. 66 Absentee Ballots were sent out with 5 not being returned to the city. Brown City voters chose Christine Lee for Mayor, Carol Walters as Treasurer, and Juanita Smith as City Clerk. Our City Councilmembers elected were: Ross Mclvor, Alicia Parks, and Dan Loutzenhiser. We are sad to be losing Robert Jacobson as a Councilmember but will welcome Alicia Parks as a new Councilmember. There were no significant problems associated with the election. Things went very smoothly. Three precincts from our county were being audited by the state but Brown City was not chosen as one of these.

MAYOR’S REPORT:

Mayor Christine Lee reported that she had been approached about dealing with a Resolution requesting that the U.S. Congress prohibit the U.S. Postal Service from closing (or “consolidating”) its mail processing center in Lansing, Michigan. She asked the Council if they wished to support Resolution 14-10.

The Councilmembers did not wish to support Resolution 14-10 at this time. The Resolution failed due to lack of a motion.

Mayor Christine Lee thanked CM Robert Jacobson for his time of service and dedication to the Brown City Council. He has been on the Council for the past two years.

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 (Mclvor) – None.

GENERAL CONCERNS OF THE COUNCIL:

CM Walters said he had been approached by a citizen of Brown City who suggested that the lettering and outstanding features of the newly installed columns in front of the City Hall be painted a contrasting color to make them stand out. The Councilmembers agreed that this would add to the appeal of the columns. It may be spring or summer

before this could be done because of the adhering of the paint to the columns during cold weather.

CM Loutzenhiser questioned the problem of skunks in the city. He asked if anyone was having a problem with them.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS: None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None scheduled.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by CM Miller, Second by CM Pat Jacobson, to adjourn at 7:31 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Juanita Smith
City Clerk