

# **BROWN CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS**

## **NOVEMBER 24, 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.

**GUESTS:** Councilmember-Elect Alecia Parks.

**ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS AND DELETIONS TO AGENDA:** None.

**CORRECTION & APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion by CM Miller, second by CM McIvor, to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes of November 10, 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 - \$9,886.48 (6605-6618), Payroll - \$13,269.38 (6693-6710 plus EFT), Major Street - \$1,494.34 (3846), Local Street - \$1,494.35 (4223), Sanitary Sewer - \$1,090.03 (3431-3433), Water - \$2,341.50 (2446-2451), Arsenic Abatement - \$36.00 (1264). Motion carried.

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS:** None.

**DPW REPORT:** Report reviewed. No questions or concerns on the report. However, CM Pat Jacobson inquired about the leaf pickup status. City Manager Clint Holmes replied that unless we had snow that they would be picking up the leaves through Wednesday, November 26<sup>th</sup>.

**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. **CVTRS Submission:** The state has changed the Economic Vitality Incentive Program (EVIP) into the City, Village, and Township Revenue Sharing (CVTRS) program. There is still a requirement to submit the same four reports as previously (Citizen's Guide, Performance Dashboard, Debt Service Report and Projected Budget Report), but instead of them being due at various dates throughout the year, all must be submitted prior to December 1<sup>st</sup>. Copies of the draft reports were provided in your packets. If approved by the City Council, they will be posted on the City's website and forwarded to Department of Treasury (along with the Certification of Accountability and Transparency (Form 4886)) to insure our revenue sharing payments are not delayed or cancelled.

**Motion by CM Walters, second by CM R. Jacobson, to approve the draft reports of the Citizen's Guide, Performance Dashboard, Debt Service Report and Projected Budget Report as presented and to post these draft reports on the City's website. These four reports should then be forwarded to the Department of Treasury prior to December 1, 2014 along with the Certification of Accountability and Transparency Form #4886 to insure our revenue sharing payments are not delayed or cancelled. Motion carried.**

2. **Blue Cross/Blue Shield:** As a direct result of Obamacare, the City's health insurance coverage dies on November 30<sup>th</sup>. The City is still coordinating with the Ascend Group to insure the new weaker but cheaper policy is fully available. There have been a couple of minor issues, but anticipate the transition should be transparent to staff.
3. **Michigan Gas Tax:** The Senate has just passed HB 5477, a bill that would phase in a new percentage-based gasoline tax that will result in an additional \$1.2 billion for transportation funding by 2019. Revenue from other bills in this package could result in transportation increases as high as \$1.5 billion annually once fully phased in. The bill would replace the current cents per gallon structure, which is 19 cents per gallon on gasoline and 15 cents per gallon on diesel fuel. Under the bill, the percentage tax on gas would start at 9.5 percent as of April 1, 2015 and would increase to 11.5 percent on January 1, 2016; 13.5 percent on January 1, 2017; and to 15.5 percent on January 1, 2018.
4. **Fiber Optic Cable Boring:** The Pigeon Telephone Company had to adjust their boring plan to install underground fiber optic cable to Tri-County Bank and Frontier Telephone in the City. They needed to go south on St Marys rather than on James Street. Project is underway and should be completed soon.
5. **COMCAST Cable TV:** COMCAST has not yet responded with a proposed lease or payment plan for their site next to the water tower. The City will continue to try and contact the Facility Supervisor for Real Estate for a response.

**Comcast Cable TV called City Manager Clint Holmes and told him that WGN America (channel 13) will not be discontinued as part of the Limited Basic service as had been previously reported by Comcast. It will continue to be available on the Limited Basic service as it has been in the past.**

**The City Council requested that City Manager Clint Holmes send a letter to Comcast requesting that the past due lease payment of \$300 per year for the past twenty-five (25)**

**years be paid to the City per the lease agreement for the COMCAST downlink site adjacent to the water tower.**

- 6. Downtown Development Authority:** The DDA Board met on November 18<sup>th</sup>, and agreed to sell 4227 Main Street and start enforcing the land contract on 4223 Main Street.
- 7. Resolution 14-07:** The City received a letter from the Canadian Prime Minister's Office in response to the resolution opposing the construction of the nuclear waste repository in the Great Lakes Basin.
- 8. Thanksgiving Holiday:** The City and DPW Offices will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> in commemoration of Thanksgiving.
- 9. Fire Hydrant:** The fire hydrant on the corner of Main Street and Welles Street has been repaired and the concrete and asphalt work completed.
- 10. Cade Road Blacktop:** Astec Asphalt will look at the Cade Road blacktop by the Exchange State Bank in the Spring and decide what can be done about the waves in the road.
- 11. Brown City Park Equipment Usage for 2014:** A spreadsheet was presented giving the charges to the Brown City Park for equipment usage throughout the summer. There is a disagreement of several of the charges between the City and the Park Board. The Brown City Park Equipment Usage charges will be tabled until next City Council meeting.

**ATTORNEY'S REPORT:**

City Attorney Gregory Stremers spoke of the foreclosure procedures associated with the building at 4223 Main Street. He said it would take about four months to foreclose on this building and have the DDA gain possession.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** None.

**CLERK'S REPORT:** None.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Mayor Christine Lee reminded the City Council of the annual Christmas Dinner and Awards Ceremony on Friday night at 6:00 p.m. on December 5<sup>th</sup> at the Brown City Fire Hall. The Council is invited to attend.

Mayor Christine Lee again thanked outgoing Councilmember Robert Jacobson for his work on the council this 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 (McIvor) – None.

**GENERAL CONCERNS OF THE COUNCIL:**

Happy Thanksgiving wishes were echoed by several councilmembers.

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS:** None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None scheduled.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion to CM Miller, second by CM Pat Jacobson, to adjourn at 7:32 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Juanita Smith  
City Clerk