

BROWN CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS FEBRUARY 23, 2015

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, Dan Loutzenhiser, Ross McIvor, Julie Miller, Alecia Parks, and Bill Walters; City Clerk Juanita Smith, City Manager Clint Holmes, and City Attorney Gregory Stremers.

ABSENT: None.

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 February 9, 2015 as presented. Motion carried.

PAY BILLS:

Motion by CM Jacobson, second by CM Loutzenhiser, to pay the bills in the following funds: General - \$6,703.11 (6723-6733), Payroll - \$14,266.92 (6822-6838 plus EFT), Sanitary Sewer - \$1,326.95 (3449-3452), Water - \$1,110.50 (2475-2476), Arsenic Abatement - \$5.95 (1273), Equipment - \$16.95 (1468). Motion carried.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS: None.

DPW REPORT: Report reviewed. Mayor Christine Lee asked if the pile of snow in the area of the bus barn could be checked out. It is very hard to see around or over

PERSONAL APPEARANCES: Bob Armstrong – WMIC 2015 Fairs & Festivals Guide. Bob Armstrong of WMIC radio handed out copies of the 2014 Fairs and Festivals Guide to the Councilmembers. He stated that WMIC/WTGV-fm is again publishing a special Activity Guide for 2015 covering all the events in the Thumb and Blue Water Area. They have put together a special advertising package for the City of Brown City whereby the City would receive 60 commercials to promote the community plus ads in the Activity Book. The ads in the Activity Book are free with the purchase of the radio advertising. The total investment for the Radio and Activity Guide advertising is \$899.00. (This is a \$14.00 increase from last year).

Motion by CM Walters, second by CM Miller, to purchase the radio advertisement plus the free ads in the Activity Book for a total cost of \$899.00. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

PUBLIC HEARING: None Scheduled.

PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS: None Scheduled.

RESOLUTIONS: None Scheduled.

ORDINANCES: None Scheduled.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

1. **Police Chief Status:** Police Chief Ron Smith has received clearance from his physician and will return to duty on February 23rd.

Police Chief Ron Smith was to check into ordering Tasers before he became ill. He looked them up today—they will run in the area of \$3200. If there are no objections from the Councilmembers they will be ordered tomorrow. No objections from the Councilmembers were expressed.

2. **Maple Valley Estates:** A letter was sent to the new owners Maple Valley Estates conveying the decision of the City Council. The owner's representative called and requested additional clarification, which was provided.

3. **COMCAST Cable TV:** The City has not received a response to the counter-offer letter sent to Comcast.

4. **COMCAST II:** COMCAST called to say the franchise agreement with the City is due to expire in March. They mailed a copy of the proposed contract on February 19th. Apparently, there are legal time limits and response dates associated with a cable franchise agreement. Once the document is received, the City Attorney and City Manager will review and forward to the City Council for action.

5. **City Webpage:** AirAdvantage has completed the transfer of the City's website to a new server. The City was required to contact the company that provides our domain name in order to modify certain programming. This was completed and the website is now accessible to the public. However, there still seems to be a problem with transferring updates from City Hall to the website. Expect this to be resolved soon.

6. **MDEQ Inspection:** The MDEQ Office of Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance conducted their semi-annual inspection of the City's two wells and associated arsenic abatement systems on February 19th. No discrepancies were noted. A formal report will be generated and forwarded to the City within the next couple of weeks. A draft interim report is available for your review.

7. **Employee Wages:** City employees welcomed the City Council proposed wage increase. If there is no objection from the City Council, the increase will be included in the 2015/2016 City Budget.

- 8. 2015/2015 City Budget:** The City's fiscal year ends on March 31st. The Tax & Finance Committee needs to review the proposed 2014/2015 Budget Final Amendment and 2015/2016 Budget. The City Council must schedule a public hearing concerning the budget and "The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing." The public hearing and budget approval cannot be later than March 23rd, the last City Council meeting in March. How does the City Council wish to proceed?

Motion by CM Miller, second by CM Jacobson, to schedule a Public Hearing for March 23rd at 7:10 p.m. in the Brown City Public Library concerning the budget for 2015-2016 and "The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget". Motion carried.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

City Attorney Gregory Stremers said that he would be willing to help out with the Comcast Cable franchise if needed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: None.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

1. Semi-Annual City Manager Evaluation –

Mayor Christine Lee reported that the Manager Evaluation resulted in a score of 1050 out of a possible 1155 for City Manager Clint Holmes. This is a 92% rating.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

GENERAL CONCERNS OF THE COUNCIL:

CM Parks stated that the Pastor of the First United Methodist Church at 7043 Lincoln Street asked her to approach the Council with the question of repaving the parking lot at the church and if the City would be willing to help with the cost as they have in the past. City Manager Clint Holmes said that the upper parking lot is owned by the church along with the lower parking lot. However, the City has helped with the cost of repaving the lower lot in exchange for using it during the week. He told CM Parks to have them find out the cost and what they are planning on doing and to bring the cost back to the Council. At that time discussion could take place on city participation in the project.

CM Parks had been approached by a Brown City citizen who was concerned about the position of a storage unit at an apartment on 1st Street. He also would like to have a catch basin checked out in the same area.

CM Loutzenhiser asked about the power outage on a Sunday. None of the Councilmembers had lost power during this time so apparently it was just a few houses affected. City Manager Clint Holmes was not aware of this situation.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS: None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None scheduled.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by CM Miller, second by CM McIvor, to adjourn at 7:20 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Juanita Smith
City Clerk