

BROWN CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

September 26, 2016

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

ABSENT: Councilmember Dan Loutzenhiser.

GUEST: Larry Steigerwald.

ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS AND DELETIONS TO AGENDA.

City Manager Clint Holmes stated that City Attorney Gregory Stremers would have an update on the recently amended Michigan Medical Marijuana Act included in the Attorney's report.

CORRECTION & APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by CM Miller, second by CM McIvor, to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes of September 12, 2016 as presented. Motion carried.

PAY BILLS:

Motion by CM Jacobson, second by CM Walters, to pay the bills in the following funds: General - \$11,899.52 (7629-7641), Payroll - \$12,715.01 (7578-7594 plus EFT), Major Street - \$755.00 (3901-3902), Local Street - \$595.00 (4248), Sanitary Sewer - \$2,687.35 (3588-3593), Water - \$1,388.66 (2700-2702), Storm Sewer - \$3,197.69 (1217-1219), Equipment - \$691.80 (1532). Motion carried.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS:

Larry Steigerwald of 4083 2nd Street, Brown City, returned to the Council to ask what has been done about the complaints that he made at the September 12, 2016 meeting. He said it appears that nothing has been done and he would like to know why. He also asked about the tires and cars with no licenses on them at Brown City Tire and Auto at 6930 Maple Valley Road that he spoke about at the September 12th meeting. Larry says that he has come to the Council with these same complaints five times since April. CM Miller replied that she had spoken with the owner of Brown City Tire and Auto at which time she was told that the tires were picked up quarterly.

DPW REPORT: Report reviewed. No questions or concerns.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

PERSONAL APPEARANCES: None Scheduled.

PUBLIC HEARING: None Scheduled.

ORDINANCES: None Scheduled.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution 16-06: A Resolution To Formally Accept Full Ownership Of The Brown City Veterans Memorial Located At 4270 Main Street And Installation Of The Demilitarized Missile From The Brown City VFW Post 2943

Motion by CM Miller, second by CM Jacobson, to adopt Resolution 16-06: A Resolution to Formally Accept Full Ownership of the Brown City Veterans Memorial located at 4270 Main Street and Installation of the Demilitarized Missile from the Brown City VFW Post 2943. ROLL CALL VOTE: CM Parks – yes, CM Loutzenhiser – absent, CM McIvor – yes, CM Miller – yes, CM Walters – yes, CM Jacobson – yes. 5 Yes Votes, 0 No Votes, 0 Abstained, 1 Absent. Motion carried.

PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS:

1. **6865 St Marys Street:** Request Permit to construct approximately 160 feet of privacy fence along the side and back of the property.

Motion by CM Miller, second by CM Parks, to issue a building permit to the owners of the property at 6865 St. Marys Street to construct approximately 160 feet of privacy fence along the side and back of their property. No Sanilac County Building Permit is required. Motion carried.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

1. **Lincoln Street Drainage:** The DPW completed tying together the corner catch basins at the intersection of Lincoln and Maple Streets. The next step in the process is replacing the pipe between these catch basins and ones to be installed in front of 7114 Lincoln Street. The City has contracted to have the easement located between Lincoln and Welles Streets surveyed. Once the easement is marked, the DPW will be able to connect the Lincoln Street catch basins to the existing storm drain.
2. **Union Contract:** The City met with the Union representative and DPW Shop Steward on September 16th. The issue over the new contract primarily concerned progressive discipline and maintenance of appropriate licenses. The Union updated the contract, and the City Attorney has approved the changes. Recommend the Mayor and Clerk sign the documents.

Motion by CM Walters, second by CM McIvor, to authorize Mayor Christine Lee and City Clerk Juanita Smith to sign the documents accepting the newly updated Union contract between the DPW Union workers and the City of Brown City. Motion carried.

- 3. Halloween Hours:** The City Council has traditionally set Halloween hours for the City. Last year the hours were from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. Halloween is Monday, October 31st. Requires Motion.

Motion by CM Miller, second by CM Jacobson, to set Halloween Trick or Treat hours from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Motion carried.

- 4. Salt Spreader:** The City's salt spreader requires sandblasting and repainting to combat corrosion. Joe Berry has offered to do the work for a price not to exceed \$1,500. The DPW Foreman requests approval. Requires Motion.

Motion by CM Miller, second by CM McIvor, to award the job of sandblasting and repainting of the City's salt spreader in order to combat corrosion to Joe Berry for a price not to exceed One Thousand, Five Hundred Dollars. (\$1,500). Motion carried.

- 5. Blue Cross/Blue Shield:** The City received notice from Blue Cross/Blue Shield concerning health care insurance plan renewal and the associated rate increase of 7.7% or about \$344 a month for 2017. The current policy provides less coverage, at much higher cost to the employee, than the City's previous policy. The City has also had a conversation with another insurance company, one that handles other City employee insurance policies, for information on alternative plans for health insurance. Expect that information to be available in the near future.

- 6. Sanilac Tourism Association:** The Association has asked if the City wishes to renew our membership. Recommended contribution is \$100, which is the amount the City paid last year. Membership allows for a 10% discount for an advertisement in the 2017 Sanilac Visitor's Guide. How does the City Council wish to proceed?

It was the consensus of the Councilmembers to renew our membership with the Sanilac Tourism Association with a contribution of \$100 for one year. This membership will allow for a 10% discount for an advertisement in the 2017 Sanilac Visitor's Guide.

- 7. Fire Hydrant Flushing:** The DPW will conduct hydrant flushing October 10-14. A notice will be placed on the City's website and published in *The Banner* on October 3rd and 10th. Residents are reminded to avoid washing white and light-colored clothes while hydrants are being flushed.
- 8. Michigan Public Policy Survey:** The most recent Public Policy Survey from the University of Michigan School of Public Policy concerned state funding of local governments and concluded the system is "broken." The Key Findings are enclosed, and the full report is available for review.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

City Attorney Gregory Stremers told the Councilmembers that the new Medical Marijuana law, which allows for dispensaries, has passed and it will now be legal to have a local Medical Marijuana dispensary. However, written approval from the

community is required by the new law. There will also be an annual service fee to operate the dispensary.

TREASURER’S REPORT:

The taxes are all collected except for the delinquent ones.

CLERK’S REPORT: None.

MAYOR’S REPORT:

1. City Manager’s semi-annual evaluation:

The Semi-Annual Evaluation showed an impressive 94.1% approval rating for City Manager Clint Holmes. He received a score of 1087 out of a possible score of 1155.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Police (Miller) – Raymond Nogowski came to the Councilmeeting before it started and spoke with CM Miller regarding the noise coming from a neighboring home. He questioned the Noise Ordinance of the City. The police will monitor the noise coming from this area.
2. Water and Sewer (Loutzenhiser) – None. (CM Loutzenhiser was absent)
3. Tax and Finance (Jacobson) – None.
4. Streets and Sidewalks (Walters) – None.
5. Building and Grounds (Parks) – None.
6. Personnel (Mclvor) – None.

GENERAL CONCERNS OF THE COUNCIL:

CM Walters questioned what all the commotion was at 1st Street and James Street on Sunday afternoon. There were several Police cars there. City Manager Clint Holmes will get an update from the Police Chief.

Mayor Christine Lee stated that the new fire siren was not as loud as the old one and is harder to hear and the sound doesn’t carry as far. Also, at the request of Fireman Redlin the siren is blowing for only two minutes instead of the former three minutes.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS: None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None scheduled.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by CM Miller, second by CM Jacobson, to adjourn at 7:51 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Juanita Smith
City Clerk