

**BROWN CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS**  
**January 9, 2017**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY MAYOR JULIE MILLER AT 7:00 PM.**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE LED BY MAYOR JULIE MILLER.**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Julie Miller, Councilmembers: Pat Jacobson, Gerald Kosal, Christine Lee, Ross Mclvor, Alecia Parks, and Bill Walters; City Clerk Juanita Smith, City Manager Clint Holmes, and City Attorney Gregory Stremers.

**ABSENT:** None.

**GUESTS:** Banner Reporter Steven Kovac.

**ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS AND DELETIONS TO AGENDA:**

City Manager Clint Holmes reported that there will be two additions to the agenda. One addition under "Petitions and Communications" and the other under the Manager's Report.

**CORRECTION & APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion by CM Parks, second by CM Mclvor, to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes of December 19, 2016 as presented. Motion carried.

**PAY BILLS:**

Motion by CM Jacobson, second by CM Walters, to pay the bills in the following funds: General - \$23,153.95 (7799-7835), Total Payroll - \$29,596.99—payroll paid for 12-07-2016 to 12-20-2016 was \$16,121.66 (7716-7742 plus EFT), payroll for 12-21-2016 to 01-02-2017 was \$13,475.33 (7743-7758 plus EFT), Sanitary Sewer - \$1,882.48 (3610,3612-3615), Water - \$4,369.72 (2730, 2732-2737), Arsenic Abatement - \$107.85 (1345,1347), Storm Sewer - \$358.44 (1231), and Equipment - \$637.46 (1547-1548). Motion carried.

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS:** None.

**POLICE REPORT:** Report reviewed. No questions or concerns on the regular report.

Police Chief Ron Smith reported that throughout the year the assault cases were up from the previous year, larceny cases were down, credit card theft was up, disorderly conduct was up, suspended driver license was up, suspicious activity was up and medical marijuana usage up.

Police Chief Ron Smith also reported the new Police car has a water leak in the overhead lights. An appointment has been made for January 10<sup>th</sup> with the dealer in Lapeer to replace the light bar at no cost to the City.

A quiet holiday season was reported with one exception of an assault case on New Year's Eve.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

**PERSONAL APPEARANCES:** None Scheduled.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** None Scheduled.

**ORDINANCES:** None Scheduled.

**RESOLUTIONS:** None Scheduled.

**PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS:**

1. **7153 Maple View Circle West** – Request Permit to construct a wheelchair ramp going into the home.

**Motion by CM Jacobson, second by CM McIvor, to grant a permit to the owners of 7153 Maple View Circle West to construct a wheelchair ramp. Permit will need to be purchased in Sandusky at the Court House. Motion carried.**

**MANAGER'S REPORT:**

1. **Capital Conference in Lansing:** A Capital Conference will be held in Lansing on Tuesday, March 21 and Wednesday, March 22. Meetings will start at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday and conclude on Wednesday at 4:00 p.m. City Manager Clint Holmes will be attending this conference.
2. **Cade Road Drainage Ditch:** The City Attorney reported that a court date of February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:30 a.m. was set to address, and hopefully resolve, this issue.
3. **MEDC:** The Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) is hosting a focus group to discuss means to improve local economies in Sanilac County. The meeting will take place the afternoon of January 10<sup>th</sup> in Sandusky. I have been invited and plan to attend.
4. **Sanilac Official Vacation Planner:** The City's draft advertisement in the Official Vacation Planner for the Sanilac County Area has been completed (color photo). If there are no recommended changes by the City Council, the advertisement will run in the 2017 publication. The City has already paid for this advertisement, and the City's 2017 membership in the Sanilac Tourism Association.

**The City Council reviewed the final draft of the ad and recommended it be submitted for publication.**

5. **New Sidewalk Law:** The Legislature passed, and the Governor signed, a bill that amended MCL 691.1402a, to reduce municipal liability associated with sidewalks.

The bill may reduce the cost of settlements, judgments, and litigation expenses, by adding defenses against a “slip and fall” lawsuit on a public sidewalk.

6. **Maple Valley Lift Station:** The minor leak that has been plaguing the Maple Valley lift station was repaired on December 23<sup>rd</sup>. The necessary parts had been on order since August 2016.
7. **Skid Loader Bucket:** The 84” Lo Pro Skip Steer bucket should be replaced due to heavy wear. A new one, with cutting edge, is available through TNT Equipment for \$1,838. Recommend the City Council approve the replacement.

**Motion by CM Walters, second by CM Kosal, to approve the replacement of the 84” Lo Pro Skip Steer bucket at a cost of One Thousand Eight Hundred Thirty-eight dollars (\$1,838) from TNT Equipment out of Sandusky. Motion carried.**

8. **Blight and Junk Car Notices:** The City continues to address blight and junk car problems. Following an inspection by the City Police of properties throughout the City of Brown City, sixteen (16) were determined to be in violation of City Ordinances. Letters have been sent requesting that property owners resolve the problems identified. Generally, they have fourteen (14) days to comply or the City will begin issuing municipal citations.
9. **December / January Holidays, Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday:** Aside from one minor incident New Year’s Eve, the Brown City Police reported a quiet holiday season. However, seven municipal violation tickets were issued to cars parked on the streets after 2 AM on New Year’s Day. No vehicles may be parked on City streets between the hours of 2 AM and 6 AM from November 1<sup>st</sup> through April 1<sup>st</sup> (\$70.06 (L)). City Hall, DPW and the Police Department will be open on Monday, January 16th.

#### **ATTORNEY’S REPORT:**

City Attorney Greg Stremers spoke about the new Sidewalk Law that was discussed in the Manager’s Report. He said that the case could be dismissed if a fall could have been prevented by going around the raised or broken area.

City Attorney Greg Stremers recommended changes to the contract for a City Website from a company out of Grand Blanc. However the changes were not acceptable by the company so the City is now looking at other website companies.

#### **TREASURER’S REPORT:**

1. **2017 Agreement for Database Management/Printing Services:** The City received the new contract from Sanilac County to maintain our property tax database and print tax bills and assessment rolls. The costs are generally the same as last year. Request the City Council authorize the Mayor to sign the contract on behalf of the City.

**Motion by CM Lee, second by CM Mclvor, to authorize Mayor Miller to sign the 2017 Agreement for the Database Management/Printing Services contract on**

**behalf of the City to maintain our property tax database and print the tax bills and assessment rolls. The cost to be generally the same as last year. Motion carried.**

**CLERK'S REPORT:**

There is a meeting scheduled for Wednesday, January 11, 2017 in Sandusky for the Sanilac County Schools along with the Intermediate School District which I plan on attending. The Sanilac County School District Election Coordinating Committee agreements were filed setting forth the terms of how elections would be conducted for special elections but those agreements expired on December 31, 2016. Therefore a meeting has to be held for the Clerks, School Representatives and Intermediate School District to renew and or modify the agreements.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

1. Mayor and City Council 2017 Priorities:

**Mayor Julie Miller reported that all City Council Priorities Worksheets were turned in and each Councilmember received a copy of the City Council Priority List for 2017.**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

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

**GENERAL CONCERNS OF THE COUNCIL:**

City Manager Clint Holmes stated that the Cemetery Board meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the 1<sup>st</sup> month of each quarter. The Mayor typically attends these meetings. As we have a new Mayor he asked if she wanted to attend these meetings or would one of the Councilmembers like to be appointed to these meetings. The Mayor said she would try to attend the meetings.

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS:** None.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None scheduled.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by CM Lee, second by CM Mclvor, to adjourn at 7:21 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Juanita Smith  
City Clerk