

BROWN CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

March 13, 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, Alecia Parks, and William Walters; City Clerk Juanita Smith, City Manager Clint Holmes, and Attorney Sarah Grout (Filling in for City Attorney Gregory Stremers).

ABSENT: Councilmember Ross McIvor and City Attorney Gregory Stremers.

GUESTS: Steven Kovac representing the Brown City Banner, Emily Kovac, Bernard A. Jocuns, Robin Grey, Brenda Owens, Tom Owens, Dan S. Dencln, Max Tobey, Clint Bowen, Michelle Tincknell, Tammy Bowen, Fiey Hayward, Tom Owens, Jr., John and Patsy Hayes, Pam Sutt, Randy King, Justin Holsworth, Jerry Steigerwald, Tom Verpen, Jackie Krampien, Ked Krampien, Kim King, Lynn Surprenant, Murleen Hill, Brandon and Katrina Armstead, and Melissa Gammon.

PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTION 17-02 COMMENDING STUDENT PAINTERS.

A signed and framed copy of Resolution 17-02 commending Student Painters was presented to Emily Kovac by Mayor Julie Miller. Mayor Miller read aloud the Resolution while presenting it to Miss Kovac. Pictures were taken of Emily Kovac accepting the Resolution from Mayor Miller. Student Painters help educate and train local college students and help prepare them for successful lives while helping to improve our community by enhancing property values.

ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS AND DELETIONS TO AGENDA:

City Manager Clint Holmes reported that there would be one addition under Personal Appearances.

CORRECTION & APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by CM Walters, second by CM Jacobson, to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes of February 27, 2017 as presented. Motion carried.

PAY BILLS:

Motion by CM Jacobson, second by CM Lee, to pay the bills in the following funds: General - \$15,840.07 (7896-7926), Payroll - \$12,673.69 (7819-7834 plus EFT), Major Street - \$1,238.26 (3908), Local Street - \$4,775.27 (4252-4254), Sanitary Sewer - \$8,023.25 (3625), Water - \$47,602.54 (2753-2755), Arsenic Abatement - \$18.00 (1352), Storm Sewer - \$4,407.15 (1235-1236), and Equipment - \$81.28 (1552).
Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: 7:05 PM – A Public Hearing for the purpose of gathering public comments and recommendations concerning renovating Lincoln Street from Maple Street south to the end of the existing pavement sometime this summer.

The Public Hearing was opened at 7:05 p.m. by Mayor Julie Miller for the purpose of gathering public comments and recommendations concerning renovating Lincoln Street from Maple Street south to the end of the existing pavement sometime this summer.

Many residents attended the meeting with questions, comments, suggestions, complaints, and compliments. Many wanted to know why the discussion to remove and replace all of the sidewalks when the public had clearly stated they wanted to replace only the broken or heaved sidewalk sections instead of replacing all of them at the last meeting on May 9, 2016.

City Manager Clint Holmes addressed the crowd and explained why the sidewalks were being considered for removal. After a lengthy discussion whereby people spoke of the replacement sidewalks probably being the best way to go but they also spoke of not being able to afford their share of the expense for the new sidewalk within the given three year payment plan.

A Motion was made by CM Kosal to go ahead with full replacement of the sidewalks but have a five (5) year payment plan window. This motion was seconded by CM Parks.

ROLL CALL VOTE: CM Jacobson – yes, CM Parks – yes, CM Kosal – yes, CM McIvor – absent, CM Lee – yes, CM Walters – yes.

5 Yes Votes, 0 No Votes, 1 Absent, 0 Abstaining. Motion carried.

The residents in attendance agreed that five years to pay would work for them.

The Public Hearing was closed at 7:35 p.m.

City Manager Clint Holmes said that he was working on getting a “Crack Filling” machine to fill the cracks in the streets before they fall apart. He has several different options that he is studying. He will provide a full briefing to the City Council concerning these options at the March 27th regular meeting.

PERSONAL APPEARANCES:

1. Bernard Anthony Jocuns & Associates, PLLC.; Mr. Bernard Jocuns –Advocate for the Medical Marihuana Facilities Licensing Act.

Mr. Bernard Jocuns gave a presentation to the City Councilmembers and the audience about Medical Marihuana coming into our City and the implications it would have on our city. He had several handouts which the Councilmembers said they wished to study further before making any decision on whether they agreed or disagreed with the Medical Marihuana issue.

Motion by CM Walters, second by CM Parks, to table the issue since there was not a full Council at this meeting. The MMA discussion will resume at the Council Meeting slated for March 27th. Motion carried.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS:

Jerry Steigerwald reported that traffic “flies” down Lincoln Street completely ignoring a speed sign of “25 Miles Per Hour” and he questioned whether a Stop Sign could be placed at the corner of Maple Street and Lincoln to help alleviate this problem. Others verified that traffic was extremely fast in that area.

Motion by CM Walters, second by CM Parks, to have the DPW place four way Stop Signs at the corner of Maple Street and Lincoln Street. Motion carried.

POLICE REPORT: Report reviewed. No questions or concerns.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

ORDINANCES: None Scheduled.

RESOLUTIONS: None Scheduled.

PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS:

1. **6872 St Marys Street – Construct New Garage:** The property owner is requesting the City Council approve the application for a building permit to construct a new 26’ X 36’ garage with a wood frame and vinyl siding.

Motion by CM Parks, second by CM Walters, to approve the application for a building permit to construct a new 26’ x 36’ garage with a wood frame and vinyl siding to the owners of the property at 6872 St. Marys Street. Motion carried. The permit may be picked up at the City Hall on Tuesday, March 14, 2017 by the owner of this property after 10:00 a.m. The owner must then go to Sandusky to purchase the required permit.

4188 Second Street – replace front porch: The property owner is requesting the City Council approve the application for demolishing and replacing a 6’ X 6’ front porch.

Motion by CM Parks, second by CM Lee, to approve the request to issue an application for demolishing and replacing a 6’ x 6’ front porch at the home at 4188 Second Street. Motion carried. The owner of the property at 4188 Second Street may pick up the permit on Tuesday, March 14, 2017 at the City Hall after 10:00 a.m. The owner must go to the Sandusky Court House to buy the required permit.

MANAGER’S REPORT:

1. **City Master Plan:** The Request For Qualifications (RFQ) for Michigan Master Plan Update was released on March 2nd to multiple organizations in Michigan. The proposals are due on April 6, 2017, for action by the City Council at the regular April 10th meeting. Requested completion date is on or before September 21, 2017 to meet RRC deadlines.
2. **MEDC RRC Update:** Representatives from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation provided overview training on the Redevelopment Ready Community Program in Sandusky on March 3rd. All of the City/Village Managers in Sanilac County attended as well as representatives from other communities within the county. In addition to a Master Plan Update, mandatory training is scheduled for March 20th and April 13th. Training will include instruction on completing the 15-page Self Evaluation Form.

- 3. Cade Road Drainage Ditch:** The Consent Order is in place. An understanding of work required and the associated responsibility for the project components was reached between the City, owner and contractor. The pipe was ordered and received and is being stored at the DPW pending installation.

The pipe was installed today, Monday, March 13, 2017.

- 4. Computer Networking Support:** I.T. Right is the primary provider of computer system maintenance services and website development for local Michigan governments, and come highly recommended by other city managers. A meeting with their representative took place on February 27th at City Hall. The estimated cost to provide a server, networking, antivirus protection, and web page design and storage, plus a replacement computer for DPW is \$7,719. The annual fee for information back-up, maintenance of the network and for all of the City's computers, and the web site will be \$3,905 per year.

Motion by CM Parks, second by CM Jacobson, to contract with I.T. Right for Computer Networking Support that will include a server, networking, antivirus protection, and web page design and storage, plus a replacement computer for DPW at a cost of \$7,719. The annual fee for information back-up, maintenance of the network and for all of the City's computers, and the web site will be \$3,905 per year. The mayor is authorized to sign the contract with I.T. Right. Motion carried.

- 5. Utility Bills:** City Ordinance §52.07 provides for annual utility bill rate adjustments due to inflation and rounds the amount to the nearest whole dollar. 2016 rates were adjusted to reflect a 2016 CPI increase of 2.5%. The new rate schedule will begin with the City's 2017-2018 Fiscal Year on April 1st. Total utility rates for City utility customers generally increased by \$1.00 per month.

- 6. City Liability Insurance:** The City met with the representative from the Michigan Township Participating Plan on March 2nd. Since the City is in the third year of a three year contract, the cost should remain steady.

- 7. 4196 First Street Trees:** The Raymond's Tree Service inspected the two trees and wrote: "Recommend removal of both trees. The tree to the east has a hollow spot in the trunk at the main crotch. The other tree has large dead section leaning toward house. By the time you remove dead there would not be enough live limbs left to keep tree alive." Estimated cost for removal is \$1,175.00. How does the City Council wish to proceed?

Motion by CM Walters, second by CM Jacobson to authorize the removal of the two trees at 4196 First Street by Raymond's Tree Service at a cost of \$1,175.00. Motion carried.

- 8. Budget:** The City **2017/2018 City Budget:** Copies of the proposed budgets were provided to the Mayor and members of the Tax & Finance Committee. The Committee needs to schedule a meeting to review the budgets and make a recommendation to the City Council. The City Council should schedule a Public Hearing for March 27th at 7:10 PM "for the purpose of gathering public comments on the proposed Brown City Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Budget" and the associated millage rate. The new budget must be approved prior to April 1st. How does the Committee and Council wish to proceed?

Motion by CM Jacobson, second by CM Walters to have the Tax and Finance Committee meet in the City Library at 6:00 p.m. on the evening of March 27, 2017

for the purpose of reviewing the budgets and to make a recommendation to the City Council. A Public Hearing is to be scheduled for March 27, 2017 at 7:05 p.m. for the purpose of gathering public comments on the proposed Brown City Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Budget and the associated millage rate. Motion carried.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT: None.

TREASURER'S REPORT: None.

CLERK'S REPORT: None.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Julie Miller reported that she had taken part in the reading program at Brown City School. She read to 2nd graders and reported that they were a "lively bunch"! She enjoyed reading to them.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Tax and Finance (Jacobson) – There will be a Tax and Finance Committee Meeting at 6:00 p.m. on March 27, 2017.
2. Streets and Sidewalks (Kosal) – None.
3. Police (Lee) – None.
4. Building and Grounds (McIvor) – Absent.
5. Personnel (Parks) – None.
6. Water and Sewer (Walters) – None.

GENERAL CONCERNS OF THE COUNCIL: None.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS:

Jerry Steigerwald thanked the Council for listening to his concerns about the traffic and a proposed Stop Sign and taking action on the stop sign to be installed at the corner of Maple and Lincoln Street.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None scheduled.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by CM Lee, second by CM Walters, to adjourn at 8:59 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Juanita Smith
City Clerk