

BROWN CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

February 24, 2020

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: Stacy Biel, Patricia Jacobson, Christine Lee, Ross McIvor, Eugene Navock and Walter Robison; City Manager Clint Holmes, City Clerk Juanita Smith and City Attorney Gregory Stremers.

ABSENT: None.

GUESTS: Police Officer Adam Stracenrider, Denise Jones, Dan Jones, Larry Steigerwald and Bob and Marilyn Armstrong.

ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS AND DELETIONS TO AGENDA: None.

CORRECTION & APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by CM Navock, second by CM McIvor, to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes of February 17, 2020 as presented. Motion carried.

PAY BILLS:

Motion by CM Jacobson, second by CM Lee, to pay the bills in the following funds: **General** - \$7,927.55 (9676-9683), **Sanitary Sewer**- \$467.68 (3865), **Water** - \$948.98 (3173-3174) and **Arsenic Abatement** - \$72.00 (1488). Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING:

1. **7:05 PM** - for the purpose of gathering public comments on increasing utility rates due to increased costs, to include those associated with the new Michigan Lead and Copper Rule. In order to pay the potential multi-million dollar cost associated with the LCR, the City Council is considering adding a \$10 LCR Fee to the monthly utility bills until the project is complete.

Mayor Julie Miller opened the Public Hearing at 7:05 p.m. for the purpose of gathering public comments on increasing utility rates due to increased costs, to include those associated with the new Michigan Lead and Copper Rule. In order to pay the potential multi-million dollar cost associated with the LCR, the City Council is considering adding a \$10 LCR Fee to the monthly utility bills until the project is complete. Three citizens attended and spoke at the Public Hearing. Each had questions concerning the rate raise and other questions concerning the water bill amounts that people are paying. Asked if grants might be forthcoming in the future, City Manager Clint Holmes replied that there would be no grants associated with the LCR according to an informational session that he attended. The Public Hearing was closed by Mayor Miller at 7:21 p.m.

PERSONAL APPEARANCES:

1. **Bob Armstrong – WMIC - 2020 Fairs & Festivals Guide.**

Bob Armstrong of WMIC radio handed out copies of the 2019 Fairs and Festivals Guide to the Councilmembers. He stated that WMIC/WTGV-FM is again publishing a special Activity Guide for 2020 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 Fairs and Festivals Guide advertising is \$975.00. For an additional \$99.00 Brown City can have a business card ad, as well as a direct link to Brown City’s website, and the summer festival via www.sanilacbroadcasting.com.

Motion by CM Lee, second by CM Navock, to purchase the radio advertisement plus the ads in the Fairs and Festivals Guide for a total cost of \$975.00 plus the website for an additional \$99.00 Total cost to the City is \$1,074.00 Motion carried.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS: None.

DPW REPORT: Report reviewed. No questions or concerns.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None Scheduled.

ORDINANCES: None Scheduled.

RESOLUTIONS: None Scheduled.

PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS: None Scheduled.

MANAGER’S REPORT:

1. **Board of Review:** The Brown City Board of Review will meet March 9th and 10th. All tax payers in the City of Brown City are reminded that the Board will hear protests at City Hall on Monday, March 9 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM and on Tuesday, March 10 from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM and 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM-. By City Council resolution, the Board of Review is authorized to act upon written request from all Brown City taxpayers who are unable to attend the meeting in person concerning their current property assessment. The Notice appears on Channel 6 and in the *Banner* .
2. **MTTP Risk Reduction Grant:** The Brown City Police Department won a grant from the City’s insurance carrier – Michigan Township Participating Plan - for \$1,200 toward the purchase of two Tasers and the associated equipment. This will allow the City’s part-time officers to carry these non-lethal weapons as do the Department’s full-time officers. Police Chief Smith has ordered the Tasers and equipment. Once paid for by the City, we can apply for reimbursement from MTTP.

3. **Reed Street Engineering RFP:** The City released the request for proposals (RFP) for the engineering associated with the replacement of the water main and curb stops on Reed Street. The RFPs were sent via email to various engineering firms throughout the state on January 28th. Bids must be received by the City by March 5th so that the City Council can act on them at the regular March 9th meeting. The City has been receiving questions from engineering firms. Expect multiple bids for this engineering project.
4. **City Budget:** The final amendment to the 2019-2020 Budget and 2020-2021 Budget must be approved by the City Council not later than the March 23rd meeting. At a minimum, need to schedule a Personnel Committee meeting to discuss pay adjustments and a Tax and Finance Committee meeting to review the budgets prior to submission to the City Council for action on March 23rd.

A Personnel Committee meeting to discuss pay adjustments was scheduled for Monday, March 9th at 6:00 p.m. The Personnel Committee consists of Chairperson Stacy Biel, Pat Jacobson and Christine Lee.

A Tax and Finance meeting was set for Monday, March 16th at 6:00 p.m. to review the budgets. The Tax and Finance committee members are Chairperson Pat Jacobson, Stacy Biel and Christine Lee.

5. **City Budget Accounts:** All local units of government in Michigan must use the Uniform Chart of Accounts. The Uniform Chart of Accounts is designed to serve basic legislative, budgetary, and accounting objectives. To increase uniformity across the state, the Michigan Department of Treasury has added significantly to the number of accounts and has changed the account numbers on many. This has resulted in the City having to extensively modify our accounting software using manual edits. The City Council will notice that certain account numbers will be different when comparing the 2019-2020 Budget with that for 2020-2021.
6. **Parking of Vehicles:** Residents are reminded that there is no on-street parking within the City Limits between November 1st and April 1st. Violators may receive a Civil Infraction ticket and could be towed. This Ordinance will be especially enforced during snow events. Also, City Ordinance §152.172 (B)(6)(a) states: ...parking spaces shall not be located in the front yard setback or required front yard, except on paved access drives or driveways having access to a public street or alley.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT: None.

TREASURER'S REPORT: None.

CLERK'S REPORT: Election work is proceeding. We have sent out 35 AV ballots with 26 being returned at this time. The Public Accuracy Test is scheduled for Wednesday, February 26th at 5:00 p.m. The public is encouraged to attend.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

1. **Board of Review:** Appoint Joe Murray to fill the vacant Board of Review position for the term ending December 31, 2020.

Motion by CM Lee, second by CM Jacobson, to appoint Joe Murray to fill the vacant Board of Review position for the term ending December 31, 2020. Motion carried.

2. Mayor Miller read a letter that she had received concerning people speeding down Fourth Street and St. Mary's Street. Brian Bullock, the author of the letter, was concerned that someone would get hit by one of the speeding cars, four wheelers or dirt bikes. He asked what he would have to do to get the corners of Fourth and St Mary's Streets turned into a 4-way stop.

Motion by CM Lee, second by CM Jacobson to have Stop Signs installed at Fourth Street and St Marys Street. Motion carried

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Building and Grounds (Mclvor) – None.
2. Personnel (Biel) – Committee meeting scheduled for March 9th at 6:00 p.m.
3. Police / Fire Authority (Lee) – None.
4. Streets and Sidewalks (Navock) – None.
5. Tax and Finance (Jacobson) – Committee meeting scheduled for March 16th at 6:00 p.m.
6. Water and Sewer (Robison) – None.

GENERAL CONCERNS OF THE COUNCIL:

CM Biel asked about having the pot holes by the school on 2nd street filled with cold patch. City Manager Clint Holmes said it would be done.

The house beside The Little Texas Party Store that was discussed at the January 27th Council Meeting was again brought up. The Councilmembers wanted to know if anything was being done about having it condemned. City Manager Clint Holmes replied that he was waiting for a response from the Sanilac County Department of Construction.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS: None.

CLOSED SESSION: None Scheduled.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by CM Lee, second by CM Mclvor, to adjourn at 7:31 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Juanita Smith
City Clerk