

BROWN CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

MARCH 25, 2019

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 and Eugene Navock; City Manager Clint Holmes, City Clerk Juanita Smith and City Attorney Gregory Stremers.

ABSENT: Councilmember Alecia Parks.

GUESTS: Mike Vislosky and Phil Bartle from the DPW and Police Officer Adam Stracenrider.

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 March 11, 2019 as presented. Motion carried.

PAY BILLS:

Motion by CM Jacobson, second by CM Lee, to pay the bills in the following funds: **General** - \$9,582.92 (9134-9149), **Payroll** - \$16,550.08 (8837-8855 plus EFT), **Major Street** - \$381.00 (3986-3987), **Sanitary Sewer** - \$415.14 (3796), **Water** - \$1,028.80 (3041-3043), **Arsenic Abatement** - \$162.55 (1434-1435) and **Equipment** - \$1,011.55 (1657-1659). Motion carried.

PERSONAL APPEARANCES: None scheduled.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS: None.

DPW REPORT: Report reviewed. No questions or concerns.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None Scheduled.

PUBLIC HEARING: None Scheduled.

RESOLUTIONS: None Scheduled.

ORDINANCES: None Scheduled.

PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS: None Scheduled.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

- 1. 2019 Street Project:** Spicer Group, the engineering firm hired for the Thelman Avenue Project, has scheduled a pre-construction meeting with the City and contractor T.G. Priehs Paving Company for April 4th at 9:00 AM at City Hall. Once complete, the contractor should be able to schedule the work for Thelman Avenue, Belview and Autumn Gold Drives.
- 2. AT&T Cell Antenna:** AT&T and the City Attorney have reached agreement on the clauses in the proposed contract. Expect the contract to be presented to the City Council at the April 8th regular meeting for review and action.
- 3. ISO Rating:** The city manager and fire chief met with an ISO (Insurance Services Office) survey officer on March 12th. ISO determines ratings for fire departments and their surrounding communities. The rating being updated is partially based on the current status of the Brown City Fire Department's equipment and training. The ISO provides this score, often called the "ISO fire score," to homeowners' insurance companies. The City provided detailed information concerning our water supply and associated infrastructure since 40% of the score comes from the availability of a water supply, including the prevalence of fire hydrants and how much water is available for putting out fires.
- 4. Sanilac County City Managers Association:** Met with the city managers of Marlette and Sandusky on March 13th in Sandusky. Discussion included strategies to implement MDEQ's Lead and Copper Rule in our communities, anticipated equipment purchases, city policies, and anticipated wage negotiations.
- 5. Union Contract:** The City is still waiting on a response from the union concerning renewal of the contract. The current contract is due to expire on March 31st; however, the union has indicated that it will stay in effect until the new contract is signed or the negotiation process goes to arbitration. Primary issues raised by the union include wages, benefits and having a uniform supply and laundry service made available to the employees.
- 6. Wage and Benefits:** The Personnel Committee is recommending that the City Council approve a range of wage and benefit increases for employees to begin April 1st with the start of the new fiscal year. Current retirement payments – the City is on a defined contribution program – were set at 6% of gross pay based on an old department head contract that has not been used since the end of the last century. Under the union contract, retirement is paid at an hourly rate. As a result, the rate paid to the DPW is now between 7 and 9 percent, without the increase requested by the union. The proposal to the union (see #5 above) was to set a rate of 8% for all employees. Also, rates for DPW uniform supply were requested to get an idea of cost. If the City Council (and union) approves, bids can be requested but the cost will be around \$130.68 - \$159.72 per month plus initial set-up fees. How does the City Council wish to proceed on wages, retirement and uniforms?

The Council would like to have bids for uniforms from both Cintas and American companies by the next Council Meeting so they can make an informed decision as which company and uniform to go with.

In regards to the retirement and wages the Councilmembers recommend waiting until they get an agreement from the Union and until then will keep on with the contract agreement that we have.

- 7. Veterans Park Fence:** Brothers Fence notified the City that the materials for the new rear fence in Veterans Park on Main Street had arrived. They plan to notify Miss Dig and begin installation within the next few of weeks (once the ground thaws).
- 8. Brown City Park Roads:** At the regular March 14th Park Board meeting, a request to name the roads in the Park was presented. From the McMorrان Street entrance south to the curve north of the pond would be Jack Marion, from the Cade Road entrance east to the curve would be Raymond Witmer, and the road going north between the pavilions would be Ron Campbell. Doug Muxlow will pay for the signs and the cost to install them. The Park Board approved the request and plans to install the signs this spring.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

1. AT&T Cell Tower proposed contract has been reviewed. City Attorney Gregory Stremers will get the recommendations to the Council when the proposal and contract is finalized.
2. City Attorney Gregory Stremers is still reviewing the potential impact the Michigan Legislature's new Small Cell Phone Tower law could have on the City.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Because of a lower assessment granted to DTE by the Board of Review for their property in the City, they have overpaid their property taxes and money may have to be reimbursed to them.

CLERK'S REPORT: None.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

1. **Semi-Annual City Manager Evaluation** – The City Manager Evaluation was 955.5 out of a possible 1155 which is 83%. The Mayor congratulated City Manager Clint Holmes for the good job.
2. Motion by CM Lee, second by CM Navock, to appoint Brenda Gingell to the Cemetery Board. Motion carried.
3. Mayor Miller said that she has two people who may possibly be willing to be on the Planning Commission. She is waiting for their reply.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Building and Grounds (Mclvor) – None.
2. Personnel (Parks) – None.
3. Police / Fire Authority (Lee) – None.
4. Streets and Sidewalks (Navock) – None.

5. Tax and Finance (Jacobson) – None.
6. Water and Sewer (Biel) – None.

GENERAL CONCERNS OF THE COUNCIL: None.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS: None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None scheduled.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by CM Lee, second by CM Jacobson, to adjourn at 7:28 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Juanita Smith
City Clerk