

BROWN CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS JANUARY 26, 2015

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

ABSENT: Councilmembers Pat Jacobson and Dan Loutzenhiser.

ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS AND DELETIONS TO AGENDA: None.

CORRECTION & APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by CM Miller, second by CM McIvor, to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 12, 2015 as presented. Motion carried.

PAY BILLS:

Motion by CM Miller, second by CM Walters, to pay the bills in the following funds: General - \$9,163.52 (6685-6699), Payroll - \$13,018.72 (6788-6802 plus EFT), Major Street - \$64.75 (3847), Sanitary Sewer - \$6,335.90 (3441-3446), Water - \$2,350.02 (2464-2469), Arsenic Abatement - \$86.90 (1270-1271). Motion carried.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS: None.

DPW REPORT: Report reviewed. No questions or concerns.

PERSONAL APPEARANCES: None Scheduled.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

PUBLIC HEARING: None Scheduled.

PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS: None Scheduled.

RESOLUTIONS: (See Manager's Report paragraph 7.)

ORDINANCES: None Scheduled.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

- 1. Police Chief Status:** Police Chief Ron Smith had emergency surgery on January 17th at Pt Huron Hospital. He is expected to require a week in the hospital and up to two months for a full recovery. The police schedule has been revised to ensure the police coverage will remain at current levels. Reserve officers have been added to the schedule.
- 2. City Salt Spreader:** The motor on the back of the City's salt spreader failed and must be replaced. DPW Supervisor Phil Bartle was able to locate a replacement motor which should arrive here on January 27th. The cost of the new motor, with shipping, was just under \$700.
- 3. COMCAST Cable TV:** The City received a check from COMCAST for \$4,500 to cover lease payments from 2001-2015 for their site at 4072 Third Street. Amount is for the period of time since COMCAST bought out Adelphia Cable in 2001. Liaison with the Facility Supervisor for Real Estate at COMCAST stated that the proposed lease is still being reviewed. The check has not yet been cashed by the City. The City Attorney recommends we "take the check and send a letter stating we are not agreeing to a new lease by cashing this check. Please advise when a proposed lease will be forward for review. If we do not receive the new lease proposal for review, we ask that Comcast property be removed from City Property before ____." How does the City Council wish to proceed?

CM Walters suggested holding onto the check until we receive a new lease proposal for review. The other Councilmembers were in agreement.

- 4. Streetlight Audit:** The City received a streetlight location map from DTE. The map also notes type and wattage of each streetlight. Staff has created a spreadsheet with this information, and the DPW has been tasked to verify each streetlight and note the pole number. Once this process is complete, the City will be able to verify that the number of streetlights we pay a monthly bill of \$2,700 for are actually present and functional.
- 5. Pipeline Safety Class:** Paradigm is sponsoring a free class on pipeline safety in Marysville on Thursday February 26th. Program is scheduled to begin at 5:30 PM and run about 90 minutes. Are any members of the City Council interested in attending?

City Manager Clint Holmes plans to attend the Paradigm Pipeline Safety Class in Marysville on Thursday, February 26, 2015. Councilmembers will have until the next Council Meeting on February 9, 2015 to decide if they will attend.

- 6. Downtown Development Authority:** The hearing associated with the DDA Land Contract associated with 4223 Main Street took place January 14th. The City Attorney represented the City and the judge ordered the current occupant to vacate by April 14th.

7. **Federal Surplus:** The City is a participant in the Federal Surplus Assistance Program in order to have access to equipment that might become available and we can use. However, there is a requirement that the City Council pass a formal resolution to continue participation. A copy of the provided Resolution is attached. The City meets the requirement set forth in Public Law 94-519. Recommend the City Council approve the Resolution and authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign on behalf of the City.

Motion by CM Walters, second by CM Mclvor, to adopt: A Resolution Allowing the City to Participate in the Federal Surplus Assistance Program. The motion also authorized Mayor Christine Lee and City Clerk Juanita Smith to sign the resolution on behalf of the City. ROLL CALL VOTE: CM Loutzenhiser – absent, CM Mclvor – yes, CM Miller – yes, CM Walters – yes, CM Jacobson – absent, CM Parks – yes. 4 Yes votes, 0 No votes, 2 absent, 0 abstaining. Motion carried.

The form to be used for the resolution is to be the one received from the State entitled “Exhibit – J” instead of the one the City of Brown City normally uses for Resolutions.

8. **BCAFA Truck Purchase:** The Brown City Area Fire Authority purchased a used truck to replace the older of the Department’s two water tankers. This truck will have its length modified, be repainted, and have the water tank from the old truck transferred to it. This process will take a few weeks.
9. **Union Contract:** The City received notice that the Union wants “to open our agreement for the purpose of negotiating for economics only.” The DPW last received pay increases in 2010 and other City employees’ wages have been frozen since 2009. Recommend a meeting of the Personnel Committee to discuss wage rates followed by a recommendation to the City Council prior to starting the 2015-2016 Budget Cycle.

Personnel Committee Chairperson, CM Ross Mclvor, scheduled a meeting to discuss wage rates of the DPW and other City employees’ on Thursday, January 29, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the Brown City Public Library. Members of this committee are Chairperson CM Mclvor, CM Jacobson, and CM Miller. They will bring back a recommendation to the City Council prior to starting the 2015-2016 Budget Cycle.

10. **The Horseshoe Restaurant:** Mary Ann’s Restaurant, on the corner of Maple Valley Road and Main Street, has been sold to new owners. They plan to rebrand as “The Horseshoe Restaurant” and open in about a month. The new owners currently own and operate the Raiders Coney & Bistro in Almont and will have a similar family dining style menu in Brown City.

ATTORNEY’S REPORT:

The Michigan Legislature has extensively revised the Freedom of Information Act. A checklist detailing required procedure changes was provided at no charge to City.

City Attorney Gregory Stremers related that his firm had hired a new attorney, Sarah Grout, and that he would like to introduce her to the Brown City Councilmembers at a future time.

TREASURER'S REPORT: None.

MAYOR'S REPORT: None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Police (Miller) – None.
2. Water and Sewer (Loutzenhiser) – Absent.
3. Tax and Finance (Jacobson) – Absent.
4. Streets and Sidewalks (Walters) – None.
5. Building and Grounds (Parks) – None.
6. Personnel (Mclvor) – None. However, a meeting for the Personnel Committee has been scheduled for 6:00 p.m. at the Brown City Library on January 29, 2015.

GENERAL CONCERNS OF THE COUNCIL:

1. Councilmember Walters: City Attorney meeting participation.

Councilmember Walters asked City Attorney Gregory Stremers if he would like to skip the meetings in the winter when the weather is bad. The City Attorney stated that he normally doesn't mind the drive to Brown City but he does appreciate the option of coming or not and if the weather suggests not coming. He will contact the City Manager if he will miss an evening meeting. He also stated that if problems or questions do arise when he is absent, that he would be happy to answer any questions from his home phone.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS: None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None scheduled.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by CM Miller, second by CM Walters, to adjourn at 7:33 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Juanita Smith
City Clerk