

BROWN CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS JUNE 8, 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: Pat Jacobson, Dan Loutzenhiser, Ross McIvor, Julie Miller, Alecia Parks, and Bill Walters; City Clerk Juanita Smith, City Manager Clint Holmes, and City Attorney Gregory Stremers.

ABSENT: None.

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 May 25, 2015 as presented. Motion carried.

PAY BILLS:

Motion by CM Jacobson, second by CM Loutzenhiser, to pay the bills in the following funds: General - \$14,036.34 (6873-6903), Payroll - \$14,851.49 (6965-6983 plus EFT), Major Street - \$90.00 (3858), Local Street - \$470.54 (4231), Sanitary Sewer - \$2,036.87 (3467, 3469, 3470), Water - \$1,834.12 (2507, 2509-2516), Arsenic Abatement - \$5.95 (1285), Storm Sewer - \$390.98 (1175-1176), Equipment - \$35,710.33 (1479-1481). Motion carried.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS:

The amount of U-Haul trucks parked at Ben's was a subject of concern to a Brown City resident. Also brought up in the conversation was the plywood that is covering some holes in the parking lot. The comment was made that the west driveway has a sign which is blocking the oncoming traffic. Police Chief Ron Smith will check into the placement of the sign and its blockage of incoming or outgoing traffic.

POLICE REPORT: Report reviewed. No questions or concerns.

PERSONAL APPEARANCES: None Scheduled.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

PUBLIC HEARING: None Scheduled.

RESOLUTIONS: None Scheduled.

ORDINANCES: None Scheduled.

PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS: None Scheduled.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

1. **DPW Pickup Truck:** The City DPW took delivery of their new pick-up truck on June 2nd. The old truck was sold for cash. The City's insurance company was notified of both transactions.
2. **School Utility Charges:** The School has contracted with Hydrodynamics to sequentially test each school over a two week period beginning in the middle of September. It is unclear how an accurate comparison could be made to the water meter if only one school is being tested at a time. Also, the School has asked the City to split the \$3,200 cost. The City then contacted both the Michigan Rural Water Association and the engineering firm doing the Water Reliability Study to determine if there was another firm that could conduct magnetic flow-meter testing or if any additional options existed to resolve this issue.

Some discussion followed this report. The City and the School will continue working on this issue.

3. **Water Quality Report:** The Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) is the annual report required by the state and federal governments summarizing information about drinking water quality provided during calendar year 2014. The document was posted on the City's website, printed in the local newspaper on June 1st, and copies mailed to MDEQ and the Sanilac / Lapeer County Health Departments. The City met or exceeded all water quality requirements in 2014.
4. **Fire Hydrant Repair:** The DPW was scheduled to repair the hydrant on the corner of Main and Walter Streets on May 31st, but postponed due to weather. Issues arose with the repairs on June 1st and water had to be shut off resulting in three businesses and 14 homes being without water for some hours. Boil water notices were posted on each of these properties. On June 2nd, a leak was detected and the water pressure was lowered for about two hours while final repairs were made. Water tests were conducted over a 48-hour period. The boil water order was lifted on June 3rd.
5. **Lawsuit Filed:** The City was served with a lawsuit from the individual riding the bicycle that struck a City police car on May 31st, 2013. A copy of the lawsuit was forwarded to the City's insurance company on May 26th, the day the paperwork was received by the City. The attorney assigned to the case by the insurance company will meet with staff on June 9th to explore potential courses of action.
6. **Comcast Cable TV Lease:** The response from Comcast is (still) pending. Telephone messages have not been returned.

7. **Street Sweeping and Catch Basin Cleaning:** The City of Marlette swept City streets the first week of June. The Brown City Fire Department is scheduled to hose off downtown sidewalks on June 8th, and the DPW has set out benches on Main Street. The City of Croswell's vac-truck will assist the DPW with catch basin cleaning during the week of June 15th.
8. **Annual Audit:** The accounting firm of King and King of Marlette completed the annual audit of the City, Library and Fire Authority on June 4th. No significant issues were noted for the City. A formal report will be presented to the City Council on July 13th. Of note, the City's audit contract expires this year; King and King have offered to renew the contract for either three- or five-years at the current rate. How does the City Council wish to proceed?

Motion by CM McIvor, second by CM Walters, that the City renew the audit contract with the accounting firm of King and King of Marlette for five-years at the current rate. Motion carried.

9. **L-4029:** The City received a request from the Sanilac County Clerk for a copy of the City's L-4029. This is the document used to identify the millage rate for City Winter Taxes. The millage rate approved by the City Council on March 24th, following a Public Hearing, is 16.8733. This millage rate has been unchanged since 2001. Two copies must be signed by the Mayor and Clerk for both Sanilac and Lapeer Counties. Of note, the City's current Total Taxable Value in 2007 was \$25,687,860, and in 2014 is \$18,668,259, a decrease of \$7,019,601 or about 27.33%.

Motion by CM Parks, second by CM Miller, to authorize Mayor Christine Lee and City Clerk Juanita Smith to sign two copies for both Sanilac and Lapeer Counties of the City's L-4029. This is the document used to identify the millage rate for the City's Winter Taxes. Motion carried.

10. **Thumb Soybean Festival:** The final planning meeting of the Festival Commission took place on June 4th. Chairperson Linda Faulconer, Mayor Christine Lee, and the other members of the Festival Commission have worked very hard to bring this event fully on-line. The Brown City Police and Fire Chiefs attended the meeting to coordinate public safety concerns. The DPW will place picnic tables and trash cans on Main Street just prior to the Festival.

It was suggested that perhaps the trash cans could be hosed down to eliminate odors that the cans may be harboring from past usage.

11. **Well #4 Bypass:** Layne is coordinating with EPA and MDEQ for the necessary clearances and permits. Expect the work to be scheduled for later this summer.
12. **Rental Inspections Ordinance:** The City is researching this issue with the goal of developing an ordinance for City Council action. Currently, only Port Sanilac and Carsonville have active and enforced programs in Sanilac County. Coordination with Sanilac County revealed that they will not do rental inspections; however, the County Administrator is looking into a possible policy exception for the City of Brown City. Rental inspections in the area are currently performed by specially-licensed contractors.

The Village of Carsonville provided a copy of their 10-page rental agreement ordinance and three-page inspection form. The City is meeting with one of the area rental inspectors on June 11th to get more information. A report should be available for City Council review at the next meeting.

A discussion amongst the Councilmembers questioned if we would just be opening a “Pandora’s Box” by developing a Rental Inspection Ordinance. City Attorney Gregory Stremers informed the Council of many aspects of a Rental Inspection Ordinance including the expense of enforcing such a program. City Manager Clint Holmes will be getting additional information from inspectors and will bring more information back to the Council at that time.

ATTORNEY’S REPORT: None.

CLERK’S REPORT: None.

MAYOR’S REPORT: None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

GENERAL CONCERNS OF THE COUNCIL:

1. A Cade Road duplex has garbage cans out in the road. Police Chief to address.
2. A home on Vine Street appears to be building something in the back yard. Have they obtained a building permit or do they need one? City Manager will check.
3. The home at 7155 Lincoln has apparently put in new drainage lines from the home and has them leading to the City’s catch basin. DPW will investigate.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS: None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None scheduled.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by CM Miller, second by CM Jacobson, to adjourn at 7:36 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Juanita Smith,
City Clerk