

**BROWN CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
NOVEMBER 12, 2007**

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m by Mayor Laura Carpenter.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Carpenter.

PRESENT: Mayor Laura Carpenter, Councilmembers: Ron Wood, Julie Miler (arrival 7:02 p.m.), Ross McIvor, Christine Lee, Ken Brown. City Attorney Gregory Stremers, City Manager Clint Holmes, City Clerk Kelly Pavel.

ABSENT: Councilmember Mike Lents.

PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION TO FIRE CHIEF JIMMY GROAT JR.

Mayor Carpenter presented Fire Chief Jimmy Groat Jr. a Proclamation honoring his selection as Sanilac County and Lapeer County Fireman of the Year by his peers.

ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS AND DELETIONS TO AGENDA: None.

Motion by CM Brown, second by CM McIvor, to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes of 10-22-07 as presented. Motion carried.

PAY BILLS:

Motion by CM Lee, second by CM Brown, to pay the bills in the following funds: General - \$21,509.35, Payroll - \$22,275.92, Major Street - \$45.00, Sanitary Sewer - \$4,482.46, Water - \$8,136.00, Arsenic Abatement - \$13,313.05, Equipment - \$1,586.53. Motion carried.

Council member Miller arrived at 7:02 p.m.

Motion by CM Lee, second by CM Brown, to pay Huron Consultants for Water Treatment Facility Bills in the amount of \$905.00. Motion carried.

Motion by CM Lee, second by CM Brown, to pay Huron Consultants for Water Treatment Facility Bills in the amount of \$880.00. Motion carried.

Motion by CM Lee, second by CM McIvor, to pay Michigan Election Resources for services for the 11-6-07 election in the amount of \$345.60. Motion carried.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

Barb Stimson, Brown City Election Coordinator provided a synopsis on the 11-6-07 election. She also commented that the library facilities are not conducive to conducting an election, particularly a large election. She also has concerns for the lack of surge protection for electronic equipment.

PERSONAL APPEARANCES: None scheduled.

POLICE REPORT:

Written report reviewed. No questions or comments.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Water Treatment Facility – The arsenic abatement program must be fully operational by February 1, 2008. Please see Manager’s Report.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

City Manager stated that County Building Inspector has reviewed this project and provided additional information regarding this proposed project. Owners have stated that they intend to complete this home from start to finish. County Building is in agreement with what is planned.

CM Brown expressed his concern for the lack of footings for the home as it exists now. He feels that solid footings are pertinent to the stability of this building. CM Brown questioned if City Manager will follow-up on this project and City Manager intends to.

Motion by CM Brown, second by CM Miller, to accept the pre-application building permit for 4182 Maple Street for a 6’ x 16’ addition. Motion carried.

Motion by CM Brown, second by CM Lee, to accept the pre-application building permit for 4025 Main Street to repair fire damage. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: None scheduled.

ORDINANCES: None scheduled.

RESOLUTIONS: None scheduled.

MANAGER’S REPORT:

1. **Water Treatment Facility:** The contractor is finalizing the installation of plumbing. Doors are installed and painting should be nearing completion. The contractor was asked for a price to add a rain gutter and downspout to the east side of the roof. Currently, water is running down the wall. Booms Construction is scheduling representatives from Severn-Trent to load the absorption media and conduct the final testing sequence. Once that process is complete, the building should be finished except for a final epoxy coating on the floor. Barring unforeseen problems, the Water Treatment Facility should be on line well before the DEQ deadline. The agenda and revised schedule from the most recent Contractor/Engineer/City meeting is attached (green).

2. **City Auditor:** Three CPA firms that conduct municipal audits have contacted the City concerning their intent to respond to the Request For Proposals. Two firms have already submitted their proposals (Lehn L. King and Berthiaume & Company of Saginaw). Yeo & Yeo of Marlette also visited the City Offices to gather additional information and are also expected to submit a bid. The bids are scheduled for opening on November 20th. The City Council can expect a recommendation at the next meeting concerning contracting with an auditing firm. A new contract should be in place by January 1st.
3. **USDA Rural Development:** As the SEA Chairperson, attended the USDA RD Check Presentation ceremony. The SEA was awarded a \$50,000 Rural Business Opportunity Grant for the purpose of carrying out new initiatives. The presentation was conducted by USDA Rural Development State Director Gene DeRossett and attended by U.S. Senator Carl Levin's Regional Director Dusty Houser, U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow's Regional Manager Chris Hennessy, Congresswoman Miller's Program Director Karen Czernal and Community Outreach Director Don Brown, Representative Espinoza's Community Liaison Nort Schramm, SEA Director Dale Benish and Treasurer Cathy Knoerr.
4. **Great Lakes Internet:** The company plans to conduct an extensive series of system tests on Saturday November 10th and Monday, November 12th in the City. They are trying to locate and repair transmission problems with those having high-speed internet access such as City Hall. Expect internet service to be intermittent on these two days. They will have two crews operating in the City.
5. **DTE:** The power company has tree trimming crews in the City clearing power lines. The City was notified by letter of this plan. There is no word as to how long this process will take.
6. **Thumb Area Michigan Works!:** This Marlette-based organization will participate in the \$15,000,000 WIRED grant received from the federal government. Five million dollars are available for each of the next five years to promote "regional economic transformation." At a meeting on November 5th, in Marlette, I joined area representatives from government and business sectors to make recommendations concerning the objectives of the grant.
7. **Downtown Development Corporation:** The issue concerning the balance owned on the DDA loan by the Brown City Pharmacy is finally resolved. Tri-County Bank contributed almost \$5,900 plus significant staff time, and the DDA donated \$3,500. Also, the DDA wishes to welcome Mr. Robert Pridemore, owner of Timeless Creations, as the newest customer of the Brown City DDA. Overall, the organization is in good fiscal condition.
8. **Fire Authority Christmas Dinner:** The annual Christmas Dinner for the Brown City Firefighters is scheduled for Saturday, December 1st at the Brown City Fire Hall. City Councilmembers are invited to attend (cherry). I need to provide an approximate head count to Chief Groat after Monday's City Council meeting.

- 9. City Hall Lighting:** Rhode Electric provided a cost estimate to replace the outdoor lighting at City Hall (lavender). Estimated cost is \$1,882. **REQUIRES MOTION.**

Motion by CM Wood, second by CM McIvor, to hire Rhode Electric to replace needed lighting for City Hall at an estimated cost of \$1,882.00. Motion carried.

Motion by CM Brown, second by CM Lee, to approve a pre-application building permit for City Hall for electrical work. Motion carried.

- 10. Exchange State Bank:** Huron Consultants reported that the initial inspection series is complete and they have no concerns about the quality of the work being done on the Bank.

Resident Kelly Pavel expressed her concern for the depth of the retention pond neighboring her property, included in the Exchange State Bank project. She is concerned that this size was not what was depicted on the approved plans. She also expressed her concern that communications remain open and active for all parties involved and/or affected by this project.

- 11. Veterans Day:** City Hall will be closed on Monday, November 12th for Veterans Day. However, the City Council meeting is at 7 PM.

- 12. Thanksgiving:** City Hall will be closed on November 22nd and 23rd for Thanksgiving.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT: None.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Winter Tax bills should be available next week.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Police – none.
2. Water & Sewer- none.
3. Tax & Finance- none.
4. Streets & Sidewalks- none.
5. Building & Grounds – none.
6. Personnel- none.

GENERAL CONCERNS OF THE COUNCIL:

CM McIvor questioned City Treasurer regarding tax bill for the lost Brown City Lanes. City Treasurer stated that County Assessor stated that nothing will change regarding the bill. CM McIvor asked if the City has any control over this issue. City Manager stated that he is not aware of any legal course of action that can be taken, but will investigate the matter.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Carpenter read a thank you note from the family of Bill Sugg.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

Motion by CM Lee, second by CM McIvor, to adjourn at 7:48 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Pavel
City Clerk