

BROWN CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
DECEMBER 13, 2021

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY MAYOR JULIE MILLER AT 7:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Mayor: Julie Miller; Councilmembers: Stacy Biel, Patricia Jacobson, Christine Lee, Ross McIvor, and Walter Robison; City Attorney Gregory Stremers, City Manager Clint Holmes, City Clerk Rhonda Johnson, Police Chief Ron Smith.

ABSENT: Councilmember Eugene Navock.

GUESTS: Robert Jacobson, Mike Vislosky, and City Treasurer Jaimie Faust.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE LED BY MAYOR JULIE MILLER.

ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS AND DELETIONS TO AGENDA:

1. One addition to Resolutions: Resolution 21-11 A Performance Resolution for Governmental Agencies.

CORRECTION & APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by CM Biel, Second by CM Jacobson, to Approve the Minutes of the November 15, 2021, Regular Meeting of City Council as Written.

Motion Carried.

PAY BILLS:

Motion by CM Jacobson; Second by CM Lee, to Pay Bills in the Following Funds: General - \$32,144.80 (10650 - 10694), Payroll - \$35,014.56 (10042 - 10070), Sanitary Sewer - \$10,746.48 (4006 - 4012), Water - \$5,854.89 (3425 - 3436), Arsenic Abatement - \$175.78 (1576 - 1577), Storm Sewer - \$2,990.48 (1339 - 1340), Equipment - \$40.52 (1786).

Motion Carried.

PERSONAL APPEARANCES: None.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS: None.

POLICE REPORT: Chief Ron Smith presented a written report to Council and added that he has been spending a lot of time at the school. He also reported that every juvenile detention holding facility in Michigan is at capacity.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Water Rate Review – See Manager’s Report below.

PUBLIC HEARING: None.

ORDINANCES: None.

RESOLUTIONS:

1. **Resolution 21-10:** A Resolution to Set an Alternative Date for December Board of Review Meeting.
Motion by CM Lee, Second by CM Mclvor, to Approve Resolution 21-10 a Resolution to Set an Alternative Date for the December Board of Review Meeting.
Roll Call Vote: CM Biel – Yes, CM Jacobson – Yes, CM Lee – Yes, CM Mclvor – Yes, CM Navock – Absent, CM Robison – Yes. 5 Yays, 0 Nays, 0 Abstaining, 1 Absent. Motion Carried.
2. **Resolution 21-11:** A Performance Resolution for Governmental Agencies.
Motion by CM Lee, Second by CM Mclvor, to Approve Resolution 21-11 Performance Resolution for Governmental Agencies and to Authorize City Clerk, Rhonda Johnson, to sign on behalf of the City.
Roll Call Vote: CM Biel – Yes, CM Jacobson – Yes, CM Lee – Yes, CM Mclvor – Yes, CM Navock – Absent, CM Robison – Yes. 5 Yays, 0 Nays, 0 Abstaining, 1 Absent. Motion Carried.

PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS:

1. **RDOF Project** – Request permit to install approximately 4,828 feet of underground fiber optic cable along the east side of Maple Valley Road from north of Buby Street south to Slaughterhouse Road. Requires an MDOT permit to cross M-90.
Motion by CM Mclvor, Second by CM Biel, to Approve Permit Request to install approximately 4,828 feet of underground fiber optic cable along the east side of Maple Valley Road from north of Buby Street south to Slaughterhouse Road. Requires an MDOT permit to cross M-90. Motion Carried.
2. **6873 Thelma Avenue:** Request permit to install a 5' chain link fence south across the driveway and through the back yard.
Tabled until further information can be provided.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

1. **MRWA Water Rate Study:** The rate expert from the Michigan Rural Water Association has spent several days here to review options for updating the current utility rate structure. The report should be completed by December 17th. Consensus of the City Council to hear the 20-minute executive summary at the next regular Council meeting.
2. **Police Car:** The City contracted with Arrowhead Upfitters of Lapeer to install equipment and marking on the new police car. This is the same company that did our last patrol unit. The vehicle was picked up on December 10th and should be completed within a few weeks.
3. **DWAM Grant:** Spicer has completed the modeling of the City's sanitary sewer system for three design scenarios. They include:
 - a. Do Nothing – Existing Sanitary Conditions.

- b. Storm Interceptor – Upgrade to Pump Station, Upsize Pipes, New Storm Interceptor and Wet Weather Pump Station
 - 1) Pump Station upgraded with larger wet well and increased pumping capacity.
 - 2) Pipe upsized from MH6 to pump station and from MH83 to pump station.
 - 3) Overflow weir placed offline to MH50 to direct high flows to 12” diameter pipe running to new wet weather pump station near fire barn. Pump directly to lagoon.
- c. Main Reroute – Upsize Pipes and Reroute Main, Upgrade to Pump Station
 - 1) Pipe upsized from MH6 to pump station and from MH83 to pump station.
 - 2) Reroute flow from MH31 West to MH49, North to MH55, and then East to pump station. Upsize pipes from MH55 to MH6.
 - 3) Pump Station upgraded with larger wet well and increased pumping capacity.
- d. Staff requested adding a fourth alternative, which would include constructing holding tank on the west side of the City.

Cost estimates for b-d range from about \$500,000 to \$10,000,000 or more. Primary problem is supercharging the system with storm water from basement sump pumps and floor drains. Best course of action would be to establish a program to have residents disconnect their sump pumps and floor drains from the sanitary sewer and have them drain into the storm water system. This program has been implemented in other communities with some level of success. Otherwise, each homeowner could receive a special assessment for up to \$18,182. How does the City Council wish to proceed?

- 4. **Michigan Water Asset Management Council (WAMC):** The City was notified that we are required to submit a detailed questionnaire developed by the WAMC prior to January 30th. Much of the form requests information presently being developed as part of the DWAM Grant. Additional information may be available through MRWA. Staff will be working with these organizations and utilizing local records to ensure the report is submitted in a timely manner.
- 5. **RFP For Engineering:** The Request for Proposals approved by the City Council were sent to various engineering firms in the state. Project is to replace the water main on Second Street between Walter and St Marys Streets. Deadline for submission was Thursday December 9, 2021 at 2:00 PM. The City received two proposals: Fleis & Vandenbrink - \$32,000 (Design Engineering - \$14,500; Bidding Assistance \$2,000; Construction Engineering - \$16,000); and Spicer – Not To Exceed \$50,000 (Design Engineering and Bidding Assistance - \$22,000; Construction Engineering - \$28,000). How does the City Council wish to proceed?

Motion by CM Biel, Second by CM Robison to Accept the Proposal by Fleis & Vandenbrink for \$32,000 (Design Engineering - \$14,500; Bidding Assistance \$2,000; Construction Engineering - \$16,000).

Roll Call Vote: CM Biel – Yes, CM Jacobson – Yes, CM Lee – Yes, CM Mclvor – Yes, CM Navock – Absent, CM Robison – Yes. 5 Yays, 0 Nays, 0 Abstaining, 1 Absent. Motion Carried.

- 6. DPW Foreman:** The DPW Foreman job applications were due to the City on November 30th. Eight applications were received. Five individuals were offered interviews and four accepted. Those interviews were completed December 10th (orange). Does the City Council wish to accept a recommendation; interview the top two candidates; receive a recommendation from a Council Committee; or re-advertise the opening?

Motion by CM Robison, Second by CM Mclvor, to Offer the Position of DPW Foreman to Mike Vislosky and Assistant DPW Foreman to Ronald Krick with Benefits and Wages to be Negotiated.

Roll Call Vote: CM Biel – Yes, CM Jacobson – Yes, CM Lee – Yes, CM Mclvor – Yes, CM Navock – Absent, CM Robison – Yes. 5 Yays, 0 Nays, 0 Abstaining, 1 Absent. Motion Carried.

- 7. Maple Valley Lift Station:** The impellor was successfully replaced on one of the two pumps at the Maple Valley Lift Station. However, while doing the repair, the contractor noticed that some of the pumps seals could fail soon. They recommended overhauling the pump primarily to replace a number of seals. Estimated cost is \$5,490. Kerr Pump was directed to proceed with scheduling the repairs.

Motion by CM Robison, Second by CM Mclvor, to Approve Kerr Pump to Overhaul Pumps at the Maple Valley Lift Station for an Estimated Cost of \$5,490.

Roll Call Vote: CM Biel – Yes, CM Jacobson – Yes, CM Lee – Yes, CM Mclvor – Yes, CM Navock – Absent, CM Robison – Yes. 5 Yays, 0 Nays, 0 Abstaining, 1 Absent. Motion Carried.

- 8. Michigan Public Policy Survey:** The most recent survey, concerning local government leader's views regarding the functioning of American democracy in their jurisdictions, the State of Michigan and the United States as a whole as well as their confidence in elections was released. A summary of the survey is enclosed. A copy of the 12-page survey is available for review at City Hall.

- 9. CVTRS Submission:** The state Revenue Sharing Program has changed into the City, Village, and Township Revenue Sharing (CVTRS) program. There is still a requirement to submit the same four reports as previously (Citizen's Guide, Performance Dashboard, Debt Service Report and Projected Budget Report), prior to December 1st. The City's Munetrix generated submission was successfully forwarded to Department of Treasury to meet the City's requirement. The report – CVTRS City Financial Report 2021 - is available for review at City Hall.

- 10. Rural Task Force:** The RTF met on December 8th to set the budget and county road construction priorities for 2022-2026.
- 11. Water Testing:** EGLE has hired AECOM to draw a water sample from all community water providers in Michigan that have AC pipes in the water distribution system. The City's sample will be taken on December 15th. Results should be available within a couple of weeks.
- 12. No Overnight Parking:** Residents are reminded that there is no overnight parking on City streets between November 1st and March 31st. The Brown City Police Department continues ticketing vehicles that are in violation of this ordinance. The new signs arrived today.
- 13. December Meeting Schedule:** The second City Council meeting in December is scheduled for the 27th. Does the City Council wish to reschedule this meeting to the 20th?

Motion by CM Lee, Second by CM Robison, to Change the December 27, 2021 Regular Council Meeting to December 20, 2021. Motion Carried.

- 14. Christmas Holiday:** City Hall, Police Department and DPW Garage will be closed December 24, 27 and 31 plus January 3 for the holidays. The police will have officers on duty and a DPW representative will be on-call during these holiday periods.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT: City Attorney Stremers reported nothing additional.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Jaimie Faust reported that the tax bills were sent out.

CLERK'S REPORT: None.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

1. Appoint / Reappoint Committeemen:
 - a. Planning Commission – For term ending 12-31-24: Jay Berry, Mike Frey, Vacant.
 - b. Evergreen Cemetery Board - For term ending 12-31-26: Ray Carman.
 - c. Park and Recreation Boards – For term ending 12-31-24: Ron Marion.
 - d. Brown City Election Commission – For term ending 12-31-23: Vacant.
 - e. Board of Review – For term ending 12-31-22: Ron Campbell, Richard Lee, Joe Murray.

Motion by CM Biel, Second by CM Jacobson, to Reappoint All Members Listed. Motion Carried.

2. Thank you card from Dorothy Martus.
3. Tree Lighting last Friday went well
4. City needs a sound system for events downtown.
5. Donation of items for Council Chambers.

6. Thank you to Ed from E&J Construction for the use of their lift for installing street holiday decorations.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Building and Grounds (McIvor) – Nothing.
2. Personnel (Biel) – Nothing.
3. Police / Fire Authority (Lee) – CM Lee reported there will be a Fire Authority Meeting the first Tuesday in January.
4. Streets and Sidewalks (Navock) – Nothing.
5. Tax and Finance (Jacobson) – Nothing.
6. Water and Sewer (Robison) – Nothing.

GENERAL CONCERNS OF THE COUNCIL:

1. CM Lee expressed appreciation for how well Brown City Police Department handled the gas leak on Thelman Street.
2. CM Robison asked about Fire Department wage negotiations.
3. CM Biel asked about water study.
4. CM Biel asked about taxes for churches where people live.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS: None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None scheduled.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by CM Lee, Second by CM Jacobson, to Adjourn the December 13, 2021, Meeting of the City Council at 8:05 p.m. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda Johnson
City Clerk