

**BROWN CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS**  
**FEBRUARY 14, 2022**

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

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

ABSENT: Councilmember Ross McIvor.

GUESTS: Becky Vislosky and Robert Jacobson.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE LED BY MAYOR JULIE MILLER.**

**ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS AND DELETIONS TO AGENDA:** None.

**CORRECTION & APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Motion by CM Navock, Second by CM Biel, to Approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of City Council, January 24, 2022, as Written.**

**Motion Carried.**

**PAY BILLS:**

**Motion by CM Jacobson; Second by CM Lee, to Pay Bills in the Following Funds: General - \$19,710.58 (10756 – 10786), Payroll - \$43,088.86 (10122 – 10153), Major Street - \$1,338.99 (4082), Local Street - \$1,338.99 (4378), Sanitary Sewer - \$3,882.36 (4021 – 4024), Water - \$682.16 (3450 - 3454), Arsenic Abatement – \$10.00 (1583), Equipment - \$920.42 (1791 – 1793).**

**Motion Carried.**

**PERSONAL APPEARANCES:** None.

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS:** None.

**POLICE REPORT:** Written report accepted with no questions. Chief Smith added update on new police car.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

- 1. Opportunity for public comments/concerns regarding the Ordinance to update City utility rates based on recommendations from the Michigan Rural Water Association (MRWA).**

Mayor Miller opened Public Hearing at 7:05 p.m. No public comments.

Mayor Miller closed Public Hearing at 7:06 p.m.

**ORDINANCES:**

1. **Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 of Chapter 52** of the Brown City Code to Reflect a Necessary Increase in the Monthly Utility Fees and Subsequently Adjust Rates Annually for Inflation on April 1st Based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) Published by the United States Government; and Adjust to the Whole Dollar Amount.

**Motion by CM Robison, Second by CM Navock, to Amend Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 of Chapter 52 of the Brown City Code to Reflect a Necessary Increase in the Monthly Utility Fees and Subsequently Adjust Rates Annually for Inflation on April 1st Based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) Published by the United States Government; and Adjust to the Whole Dollar Amount.**

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

**RESOLUTIONS:** None.

**PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS:** None.

**MANAGER'S REPORT**

1. **SEARCH Grant:** The City received a \$30,000 Special Evaluation Assistance for Rural Communities and Households Grant from USDA to model the sanitary sewer system and recommend upgrade options. Spicer Group has finished this report, and the executive summary of the 127 page report was provided to the City Councilmembers and the City Attorney. A copy of the full report is available for review at City Hall. In order to close out the grant and get reimbursed for the \$30,000, several forms must be filed with USDA-RD. Recommend authorizing the Mayor to sign these documents on behalf of the City.

**Motion by CM Lee, Second by CM Robison, to Authorize Mayor Miller to sign the Documents of Special Evaluation Assistance for Rural Communities and Households Grant from USDA to model the sanitary sewer system and recommend upgrade options. Motion Carried.**

2. **Union Negotiations:** The contract with Operating Engineers Local 324, which represents the DPW, is due to expire March 31<sup>st</sup>. Despite repeated requests from the City, the union representative has not yet scheduled a meeting with the City.
3. **Second Street Project:** Fleis & Vandenbrink Engineering should have a set of plans and specs available for review by the end of this week. They will then go to bid after this review.
4. **City Liability Insurance:** The City's annual liability insurance policy is due to expire at the end of April. The City's current provider, Decker Agency, and a second bidder, Nickel & Saph, Inc. Insurance Agency, are both bidding on the policy. Expect to present the options to the City Council at the March 14<sup>th</sup> regular meeting.
5. **SEMCO Franchise:** The Public Hearing for Ordinance Chapter XIV Franchises, New Section 2450: The City of Brown City Franchise Granted to SEMCO Energy Gas Company is scheduled for 7:05 PM during the next City Council meeting on February 28, 2022.
6. **Garbage Removal:** Contact with Knox Disposal on February 7<sup>th</sup> revealed that the company had been sold effective February 1<sup>st</sup>. The new company providing garbage removal services in Brown City is GFL (Green For Life). The City received a letter from GFL on February 10<sup>th</sup> notifying us of the sale. A representative from Knox Disposal, as well as the letter from GFL, stated that the City's

current contract, which is valid until September 30, 2024, will be honored by GFL - "all operations will remain business as usual."

- 7. **MDOT Contract:** A copy of the completed and electronically signed Annual Act 51 Mileage Certification Report was mailed to MDOT. This report is required in order for the City to receive highway funds from the state. This year the amount will be over \$124,000.
- 8. **Presidents Day:** The City Hall, Police and DPW will be closed on Monday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, in honor of Presidents' Day. A DPW employee will be on call.

**ATTORNEY'S REPORT:** City Attorney Stremers reported he is in the process of reviewing the Library contract to become a district library. He also said he has sent a letter to FunTyme Carnival concerning the deposit refund and will follow up.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** None.

**CLERK'S REPORT:** The county clerk's meeting is March 3. We will receive election packets for the August election.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

- 1. The Park and Recreation board will meet February 22<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. in City Hall.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- 1. Building and Grounds (Mclvor) – Nothing.
- 2. Personnel (Biel) – Nothing.
- 3. Police / Fire Authority (Lee) – All 3 guys attended the Board of Review Training.
- 4. Streets and Sidewalks (Navock) – Nothing.
- 5. Tax and Finance (Jacobson) – Nothing.
- 6. Water and Sewer (Robison) – Will set a meeting after the Fleis &Vandenbrink Engineering plans and specs arrive.

**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 the February 14, 2022, Meeting of the City Council at 7:16 p.m. Motion Carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda Johnson  
City Clerk