

**BROWN CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS**  
**FEBRUARY 28, 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, Ross McIvor, Eugene Navock, and Walter Robison; City Manager Clint Holmes, City Clerk Rhonda Johnson, City Attorney Gregory Stremers, Police Officer Ron Howe, and DPW Foremen Mike Vislosky.

ABSENT: None.

GUESTS: Robert Jacobson.

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

**ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS AND DELETIONS TO AGENDA:** One addition under Petitions & Communications.

**CORRECTION & APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Motion by CM Navock, Second by CM Biel, to Approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the City Council, February 14, 2022, as Written.  
Motion Carried.**

**PAY BILLS:**

**Motion by CM Jacobson, Second by CM Lee, to Pay Bills in the Following Funds: General - \$9,773.23 (10787 – 10798), Payroll - \$18,365.83 (10155 – 10167), Sanitary Sewer - \$705.51 (4025 – 4026), Water - \$17,697.42 (3455 - 3463), Arsenic Abatement – \$72.00 (1584).  
Motion Carried.**

**PERSONAL APPEARANCES:** None.

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS:** None.

**DPW REPORT:** Written report accepted without questions. Council expressed appreciation for street clearing. DPW Foreman Mike Vislosky added that DPW is working steadily to change out water meters.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** Mayor opened the public hearing at 7:05 p.m. Opportunity for public comments / concerns regarding the addition to Chapter XIV: Franchises of the City: Section 2450 - City of Brown City Franchise Granted to SEMCO Energy Gas Company. No public comments or questions. Mayor closed the public hearing at 7:06 p.m.

**ORDINANCES:**

1. **Section 2450 - City of Brown City Franchise Granted to SEMCO Energy Gas Company:** An ordinance to allow SEMCO Energy, Incorporated, “the right, power and authority to lay, maintain and operate gas mains, pipes and services on, along, across and under highways, streets, alleys, bridges, waterways, and other public places, and to conduct a local gas business...for a period of thirty years” within the City of Brown City.

**Motion by CM Lee, Second by CM Jacobson, to authorize Mayor Miller and City Clerk Johnson to sign contract with SEMCO Energy Gas Company.**

**Roll Call Vote: CM Biel – Yes, CM Jacobson – Yes, CM Lee – Yes, CM Navock – Yes, CM Mclvor – Yes, CM Robison – Yes. Motion Carried.**

**RESOLUTIONS:** None Scheduled.

**PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS:**

1. **4309 Main Street** request a permit to replace garage rafters and roof.

**Motion by CM Mclvor, Second by CM Navock, to approve permit for 4309 Main Street to replace garage rafters and roof. Motion Carried.**

**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 report, and the executive summary of the 127 page report is provided. A copy of the full report is available for review at City Hall.
2. **Second Street Project:** Fleis & Vandenbrink Engineering submitted a set of plans and specs and the accompanying 228-page Project Manual. Recommend advertising the bid with the public opening scheduled for 2:00 PM on Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup>. Bids would then be available for City Council action at the regular March 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.
3. **Union Negotiations:** The contract with Operating Engineers Local 324, which represents the DPW, is due to expire March 31<sup>st</sup>. City Staff met with the Union Representative and DPW Shop Steward on February 24<sup>th</sup>. The negotiation focused on three issues: Article XVI - Cost of health insurance; Article XVII - the “Preferred Pension Rehabilitation Plan; and Article XXVI Classification and Wages. The next round of negotiations is scheduled for March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Motion by CM Jacobson, Second by CM Lee, to schedule a Public Hearing about Budget for March 14 at 7:05 p.m. Motion Carried.**

4. **Sanilac Tourism Association:** The Association will again be publishing the Sanilac Visitor’s Guide. The City’s dues and advertising fee have been paid. A copy of the City’s advertisement is attached.
5. **Board of Review:** The Brown City Board of Review will meet March 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. All taxpayers in the City of Brown City are reminded that the Board will hear protests at City Hall on Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup> – 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM

to 4:00 PM and Tuesday, March 115<sup>th</sup> - 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM and 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM –. By City Council Resolution 22-01, the Board of Review is authorized to act upon written request from all Brown City taxpayers who are unable to attend the meeting in person concerning their current property assessment.

6. **Salt Spreader:** The city's road salt spreader, despite heroic efforts by the DPW to keep it operational, is essentially worn/rusted out. The City has ordered a new one, with the hope that it will arrive prior to the fall. Cost is about \$7K.

**ATTORNEY'S REPORT:** City Attorney Stremers reported he will speak with Jamie Bird to work out what to do about the carnival.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** None.

**CLERK'S REPORT:** The county clerk's meeting is Thursday March 3.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

1. Semi-Annual City Manager Evaluation.
2. Agri-Valley mailer discussed.
3. Hogtown waiver discussed.
4. Email concerning a letter of support for a former Brown City resident in a Bocce Ball tournament.
5. Brown City Park & Recreation Board revised pavilion rental forms.
6. Festival Committee asked Ross to help with a Euchre Tournament.
7. Memorial Day parade help and involvement requested.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

1. Building and Grounds (Mclvor) – Nothing.
2. Personnel (Biel) – Meeting on March 8 at 6 p.m.
3. Police / Fire Authority (Lee) – Fire Authority Meeting on March 1 at 7 p.m. Discussion of body cams demonstrating the courtesy, competence, and professionalism of Brown City Police Officers. Committee and Council expressed appreciation and gratitude for Brown City Police Department.
4. Streets and Sidewalks (Navock) – Nothing.
5. Tax and Finance (Jacobson) – Meeting on March 14 at 6 p.m.
6. Water and Sewer (Robison) – Meeting on March 7 at 6 p.m.

**GENERAL CONCERNS OF THE COUNCIL:**

1. Discussion of pay for council.
2. Discussion of DPW union and pension plan.
3. Discussion of city website problems.
4. Discussion of new Fire Chief.
5. Discussion of water rates.
6. Discussion of road conditions in the park as weather thaws.

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS:** None.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None scheduled.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Motion by CM Lee, Second by CM Biel, to Adjourn the February 28, 2022, Meeting of the City Council at 8:20 p.m. Motion Carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda Johnson  
City Clerk