

**BROWN CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS**  
**MARCH 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 (7:17), and Walter Robison; City Manager Clint Holmes, City Clerk Rhonda Johnson, City Attorney Gregory Stremers, Police Chief Ron Smith, and DPW Foremen Mike Vislosky.

ABSENT: Councilmember Ross McIvor.

GUESTS: Robert Jacobson, Bob and Marilyn Armstrong, Dustin Drabek, and John H. Johnson.

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

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

**CORRECTION & APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Motion by CM Biel, Second by CM Jacobson, to Approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of City Council, February 28, 2022, as Written.  
Motion Carried.**

**PAY BILLS:**

**Motion by CM Jacobson; Second by CM Lee, to Pay Bills in the Following Funds: General - \$22,145.51 (10799 – 10832), Payroll - \$19,278.24 (10169 – 10183), Sanitary Sewer - \$5,490.00 (4028), Water - \$18,997.07 (3464 - 3466), Arsenic Abatement – \$219.15 (1586-1588), Equipment - \$4,590.68 (1794-1797).  
Motion Carried.**

**PERSONAL APPEARANCES:**

- 1. Bob Armstrong – WMIC – 2022 Fairs & Festivals Guide:

**Motion by Lee, Second by Biel, to purchase advertising space for Brown City in the 2022 WMIC Fairs and Festival Guide and purchase 60 radio advertisements for \$995.00.**

**Motion Carried.**

- 2. John H. Johnson – Nickel & Saph, Inc: Insurance Proposal.
- 3. Dustin Drabek – Decker Agency (MTPP): Insurance Proposal.

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS:** None.

**POLICE REPORT:** Written report accepted.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** Mayor opened the public hearing at 7:05 p.m. **Proposed Brown City Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget** - The property tax millage rate

proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing. The City plans to collect at the same millage rate in 2022 that was collected each year since 2001 -16.8733 mills City Operating; and will also collect the "Headlee"-reduced 1.2299 mills Park Operating. No public comments or questions. Mayor closed the public hearing at 7:07 p.m.

**ORDINANCES:** None Scheduled.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

1. **Resolution 22-03:** Resolution Of The City Of Brown City To Amend The City's 2021-2022 Budget To Better Reflect Revenues And Expenditures.

**Motion by CM Jacobson, Second by CM Navock, to Adopt the Resolution Of The City Of Brown City To Amend The City's 2021-2022 Budget To Better Reflect Revenues And Expenditures.**

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

2. **Resolution 22-04:** A Resolution Formally Approving The City Of Brown City Millage Rate Of 16.8733 Mills And Brown City Park Millage Rate Of 1.2299 Mills And The Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget.

**Motion by CM Jacobson, Second by CM Lee, to Adopt the Resolution Formally Approving The City Of Brown City Millage Rate Of 16.8733 Mills And Brown City Park Millage Rate Of 1.2299 Mills and The Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget.**

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

**PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS:**

1. **4432 Autumn Gold:** Request building permit to install approximately 54' of 6' wood fence to the east and west of existing home and 296' of 4' chain link fence along east and north property lines.

**Motion by CM Lee, Second by CM Navock, to approve the building permit to install approximately 54' of 6' wood fence to the east and west of existing home and 296' of 4' chain link fence along east and north property line of 4432 Autumn Gold. Motion Carried.**

**MANAGER'S REPORT**

1. **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 for a second time on March 11<sup>th</sup>. Health Care and wage issues were tentatively agreed to. The "Preferred Pension Rehabilitation Plan" discussed with the City Council at the last meeting, continues to be negotiated. A signed three-year contract could happen by the end of the month.
2. **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 (updated) City's advertisement is attached.
3. **Board of Review:** The Brown City Board of Review will meet 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 15<sup>th</sup> - 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM and 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM. A reminder that the Board of Review is authorized to

- act upon a written request from all Brown City taxpayers who are unable to attend the meeting in person concerning their current property assessment.
4. **Water Testing:** The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) began a program to test for asbestos in drinking water. Brown City was selected as one of those test sites. A water sample was collected on December 12, 2021 and the results were received by the City on March 1<sup>st</sup>. NO asbestos was detected.
  5. **SEMCO Franchise Ordinance:** SEMCO requires that the complete adopted franchise ordinance be published in the City's paper of record. The full text of the document will appear in the March 16<sup>th</sup> Edition of The Banner. The cost is \$381.80 and is being billed directly to SEMCO.
  6. **City Leaf Vacuum:** The DPW Foreman tracked down the company that can provide repair parts for the City leaf vacuum. An account has been established and the required parts ordered. Expect the machine to be fully operational by fall.

**ATTORNEY'S REPORT:** City Attorney Stremers reported he spoke with Festival Commission Chairperson Jamie Bird and worked out a settlement between the Festival Committee and FunTyme Carnival.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** None.

**CLERK'S REPORT:** The Clerk and Deputy Clerk attended the March 3<sup>rd</sup> county clerk's meeting and received our election materials.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

1. Semi-Annual City Manager Evaluation tabled until next meeting.
2. Discussion of Memorial Day parade and need for ideas and help.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

1. Building and Grounds (Mclvor) – .Absent.
2. Personnel (Biel) – Meeting on March 8 at 6 p.m.
  - a. Discussed proposed union contract. Tabled pending additional information.
  - b. **Recommendations for employee pay raises:** The Committee discussed and recommends pay raises for those employees who did not get pay raises in 2021/2022 as a result of being newly hired or promoted. Those other employees (city manager, administrative assistant and custodian) should receive a five percent (5%) raise beginning on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Motion by CM Biel, second by CM Lee, that the City Council increase wages for those employees who did not get pay raises in 2021/2022 as a result of being newly hired or promoted, by five percent (5%) beginning April 1<sup>st</sup>.**

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

- c. **Recommendations for benefit changes:** Personnel committee recommends that since union employees had access to retiree healthcare, as did the current police chief, this benefit should be made available to employees who have worked for the City for a minimum of 25 years. Specifically, that a provision concerning retiree health insurance be added to the Brown City Personnel Policy Manual.

**Motion by CM Biel, second by CM Jacobson, to add the following to the Brown City Personnel Policy Manual Chapter VIII Benefits: F. Retirement Health Insurance – City paid Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Michigan Medicare Part C or similar plan based on 25 or more years of service after retirement and successful enrollment in Medicare Part A, B and D. In the case that the employee is medically retired prior to becoming eligible for Medicare, the City will establish and fund an Individual Coverage Health Reimbursement Agreement (ICHRA) that the individual can use to buy their own comprehensive individual health insurance either on or off the Affordable Care Act's health insurance marketplace. Roll Call Vote: CM Biel – Yes, CM Jacobson – Yes, CM Lee – Yes, CM Mclvor – absent, CM Navock – Yes, CM Robison – Yes. Yeas – 5, Nays – 0, Abstaining – 0, Absent – 1. Motion Carried.**

- d. The consensus of the Committee was to recommend that the City Council increase pay per meeting to: City Council \$75 each, City Clerk \$75, and Mayor \$100, to take effect at the first City Council meeting in December following the swearing in of the newly elected officials.

**Motion by CM Biel, Second by CM Jacobson, to increase pay per meeting to: City Council \$75 each, City Clerk \$75, and Mayor \$100, to take effect at the first City Council meeting in December following the swearing in of the newly elected officials.**

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

- e. The City Manager shared with the Committee that his tentative retirement date is April 28, 2023. Discussion concerning procedures and timelines to hire a replacement.

3. Police / Fire Authority (Lee) – Nothing.
4. Streets and Sidewalks (Navock) – Nothing.
5. Tax and Finance (Jacobson) – Met on March 14. New meeting March 16 at 6 p.m. to discuss liability insurance proposals.
6. Water and Sewer (Robison) – Met on March 7 at 6 p.m.

- a. **Sewer Improvements Preliminary Engineering Report:** The City Manager provided the cost summaries associated with each of the five alternatives for addressing the proposed sewer improvements to the Committee along with drawings detailing each. Also, that the City's current long-term debt now stands at \$138,262; our Taxable Value is \$24,663,114; the Department of Treasury caps debt at 5% of TV; leaving the City with a credit limit of about \$1,233,156.

**The consensus of the Committee was to select Option 5: Sump Pump Disconnection Program and Maple Valley Pump Station Upgrades at a currently estimated cost of \$1,300,000. The City Manager is to coordinate with Spicer concerning associated engineering costs and land purchase requirements.**

- b. The consensus of the Committee was to have bids due at 2:00 PM on Thursday March 24<sup>th</sup> so that the City Council can take action on the project at their regular meeting on March 28<sup>th</sup>. The recommendation to the Streets and Sidewalks Committee was to not pave the street cut for

**the water main replacement as part of this project, but to let the ground settle over the winter and pave Second Street from Walter to George Streets next summer.**

- c. The water meter installation/replacement program continues. The second group of meters to be installed includes larger meters that will need to be ordered once numbers and costs have been determined.

**GENERAL CONCERNS OF THE COUNCIL:**

- 1. Discussion of code enforcement officer becoming available in April.
- 2. Discussion of house on Main Street and Welles Street with severely damaged outbuildings.
- 3. Discussion of condition of alleys and grading schedule.
- 4. Discussion of replacement of streetlights.

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS:** None.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None scheduled.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Motion by CM Lee, Second by CM Biel, to Adjourn the March 14, 2022, Meeting of the City Council at 8:00 p.m. Motion Carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda Johnson  
City Clerk