

**BROWN CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS**  
**May 09, 2022**

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

PRESENT: Mayor Julie Miller; Councilmembers: Patricia Jacobson, Christine Lee (7:35), Ross Mclvor, Stacy Biel, and Walter Robison; City Manager Clint Holmes, City Clerk Rhonda Johnson, City Attorney Gregory Stremers, Police Chief Ron Smith, DPW Foreman Mike Vislosky.

ABSENT: Councilmember Eugene Navock.

GUESTS: Robert Jacobson and Larry Steigerwald.

**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 Mclvor, to Approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of City Council for April 25, 2022, as Written.**

**Motion Carried.**

**PAY BILLS:**

**Motion by CM Jacobson; Second by CM Biel, to Pay Bills in the Following Funds: General - \$30,506.96 (10886 – 10920), Payroll - \$17,598.38 (10243 – 10258), Major Street - \$2,076.25 (01363 – 01324), Local Street - \$2,037.04 (4383 – 4385), Sanitary Sewer - \$570.00 (4035 – 4036), Water - \$4,737.39 (3493 - 3486), Storm Sewer – \$1,110.00 (1347), Equipment - \$23,386.81 (1803 - 1807).**

**Motion Carried.**

**PERSONAL APPEARANCES:** None scheduled.

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS:**

1. Larry Steigerwald had a question about progress on previously presented blight ordinance problems. Council discussed actions taken and further actions possible.

**POLICE REPORT:** Written report accepted with no questions.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** None Scheduled.

**ORDINANCES:** None Scheduled.

**RESOLUTIONS:** Resolution 22-07 – A Resolution To Establish A Request For Funding, Designate An Agent, Attest To The Existence Of Funds And Commit To Implementing A Maintenance Program For Resurfacing Roads And Improving Certain Curb And Gutter To Enhance Storm Water Removal Funded By The Transportation Economic Development Fund Category B Program.

**Motion by CM Robison, Second by CM Mclvor, to Adopt Resolution 22-07 – A Resolution To Establish A Request For Funding, Designate An Agent, Attest To The Existence Of Funds And Commit To Implementing A Maintenance Program For Resurfacing Roads And Improving Certain Curb And Gutter To Enhance Storm Water Removal Funded By The Transportation Economic Development Fund Category B Program.**

**Roll Call Vote: CM BIEL – Yes, CM Jacobson – Yes, CM Lee – Absent, CM Mclvor – Yes, CM Navock – Absent, CM Robison – Yes. Yeas: 4, Nays: 0, Abstaining: 0, Absent: 2. Motion Carried.**

#### **PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS:**

1. **4466 Parkside Drive:** Request building permit to construct a 30' X 45' metal garage on the lot adjacent to existing home. Planning Commission recommends approval.

**Motion by CM Robison, Second by CM Mclvor, to Approve the request for a building permit to construct a 30' X 45' metal garage with porch on the lot adjacent to existing home. Motion Carried.**

#### **MANAGER'S REPORT:**

1. **GFL:** Green For Life (GFL) is the company that bought out Knox Disposal and Waste Management and took over the City's garbage collection contract. The City met with their representative on May 3<sup>rd</sup> to discuss several issues:
  - a. **Changing pick-up day:** Should there be another change in the future (unlikely), they will coordinate notice better with both the City and residents.
  - b. **Charges for service:** Will be based on the current number of occupied houses rather than to total number of housing units in the City.
  - c. **Fuel Charge Surcharge:** Since a surcharge is not addressed in the current contract, GFL will not currently charge this fee to the City. However, they plan to negotiate a change to the contract next September if fuel costs continue to rise.
  - d. **Recycling:** This is a service that GFL provides. The company representative is researching exact costs but estimates they will be around \$2 per month per customer.
  - e. **Brown City Clean-Up Day:** Thursday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>. They will have an extra truck available. A copy of the newspaper notice, with the rules, was provided to GFL.
  - f. **95 Gallon Cans:** They can make these available to residents at a cost of \$1 per month for five years.

Once the City receives the definitive price list, the City Council can decide what additional services, if any, they want to add to the existing contract.

2. **Planning Commission:** The Brown City Planning Commission met May 5<sup>th</sup>. They scheduled a Public Hearing for June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:05 PM to hear public concerns and comments concerning the zoning status of Maple Valley Estates with the Public Hearing to be cancelled if the zoning review determines the meeting is unnecessary. The Planning

Commission also passed a motion “to Recommend that Council Apply Rules for Future Maple Valley Estates Mobile Home Park Consistent with the Existing Maple View Estates Mobile Home Park.” They also received information on the required procedures to amend the City’s Land Use Ordinance (MSU Extension Check List #4). Also reviewed was a request to construct a 30’ X 45’ metal garaged at 4466 Parkside Drive. The Planning Commission recommends approval by the City Council.

Discussion of zoning complications. City Attorney Stremers and City Manager Holmes need to investigate further since there are inconsistencies between the ordinances, zoning maps and property master deed. Mayor Miller requested the matter be expiated if possible.

3. **Street Project:** The draft grant application for streets was completed by Spicer with an estimated cost of \$1,872,000 (pink). The City would be responsible for a minimum of \$1,622,000 assuming there are no cost overruns and the City wins the \$250,000 grant. The City’s total streets funds available is currently \$605,681.55 - this includes maintenance and operating funds. Does the City Council want to look into bonding for \$1,200,000 to complete the project? Of concern is the fact that no one knows what the 2022/2023 inflation rate or borrowing rate will be let alone potential asphalt prices.

Discussion of need for a Streets and Sidewalks Committee Meeting. Meeting set for May 18 at 6 p.m. CM Lee will contact CM Navock.

4. **Second Street Project:** The City sent a letter to Murray Underground congratulating them on winning the bid on April 12, 2022. Letters were sent to the others at the same time thanking them for their bids and asking them to bid on future projects. The contract and bond documents were forwarded to Murray Underground by Fleis & Vandenberg on April 19<sup>th</sup>. Once signed by Murray Underground and copies sent to the City for signature, the project can be scheduled.
5. **Union Negotiations:** Have not heard from the union since March 11. Sent the attached email on May 5<sup>th</sup>. No response to date.
6. **Nominating Petitions:** All nine elected positions in Brown City government are up for election, as are three Library Board positions. Nominating petitions are available at City Hall and are due back by Thursday, July 21<sup>st</sup>. A minimum of 25 signatures from City of Brown City registered voters are required.
7. **Street Banners:** Michigan Agricultural Commodities (MAC) will make available their lift truck so that street banners can be installed on Main Street. Anticipate installing the banners the week of May 9<sup>th</sup>.
8. **Street Crack Filling:** The City DPW received the machine to fill street cracks with tar from National Highway Maintenance Systems on May 4<sup>th</sup>. They began filling cracks on Cade Road and will continue east.

9. **Fire Hydrant Flushing:** The Brown City DPW plans to flush fire hydrants May 16<sup>th</sup> through May 20<sup>th</sup> as part of this semi-annual program. Hydrant flushing will usually take place during the day. Residents may notice some discoloration in the water during this process. Residents are advised not to wash white or light colored clothes during this period. This notice will be published in the Brown City Banner on May 11<sup>th</sup> and is posted on Channel 6.

10. **7132 Welles Street:** The City Attorney sent a notice of violation to the owners (orange). They are contracting to have the house and outbuildings demolished. The owners were informed that a demolition permit is required from both the City and the County before work can begin. The permit request was supposed to be delivered to City Hall on May 6<sup>th</sup>.

Discussion of rehabilitation agreement between the property owner and the city. City Attorney Stremers discussed process of enforcement of a rehabilitation agreement for a dangerous building. City Manger discussed blight ordinance enforcement is proceeding as a separate issue to the rehabilitation agreement.

**ATTORNEY'S REPORT:** Nothing additional.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** None.

**CLERK'S REPORT:** Additional reminder that nominating petitions are available at City Hall and are due back by Thursday, July 21<sup>st</sup>. A minimum of 25 signatures from City of Brown City registered voters are required.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

1. Memorial Day Parade begins 10 a.m. May 30 at Maple Valley Plastics parking lot and goes to the missile monument. Anyone wishing to join the parade should contact the Mayor.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

1. Building and Grounds (Mclvor) – Nothing.
2. Personnel (Biel) – Report on Committee meeting on May 9 at 6:30 p.m.  
Discussion of City Manager search. Next meeting May 18 at 7 p.m.
3. Police / Fire Authority (Lee) – Met last week.
4. Streets and Sidewalks (Navock) – Absent. Next meeting May 18 at 6:00 p.m.
5. Tax and Finance (Jacobson) – Nothing.
6. Water and Sewer (Robison) – Nothing.

**GENERAL CONCERNS OF THE COUNCIL:**

1. CM Mclvor asked about resident requirements to fill in a ditch. Discussion of approval process and resident responsibilities.
2. CM Robison reported seeing standing water in the park. DPW <Foreman to investigate.
3. CM Robison commented on the number of stray cats.
4. CM Biel asked about permits for pools. Discussion of Police Chief safety inspection of pools.

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS:** None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None scheduled.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Motion by CM Lee, Second by CM Robison, to Adjourn the May 09, 2022, Meeting of the City Council at 8:05 p.m. Motion Carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda Johnson  
City Clerk