

BROWN CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
June 27, 2022

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

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

ABSENT: Councilmember Christine Lee.

GUESTS: Robert Jacobson, Marlene Hill, Eric Rickman, and Austin Roy.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE LED BY MAYOR JULIE MILLER.

ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS AND DELETIONS TO AGENDA: One addition to the manager’s report, and two corrections to minutes.

CORRECTION & APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

**Motion by CM Navock, Second by CM Robison, to Approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of City Council, June 13, 2022, as amended.
Motion Carried.**

PAY BILLS:

**Motion by CM Jacobson; Second by CM Biel, to Pay Bills in the Following Funds: General - \$19,267.63 (10992 – 11009), Payroll - \$19,323.95 (10292 – 10305), Major Street - \$158.75 (4093 - 4094), Local Street – 68.75 (4387), Sanitary Sewer - \$2,618.75 (4047 – 4051), Water - \$3,446.62 (3503 - 3507), Arsenic Abatement - \$262.90 (1601 – 1603).
Motion Carried.**

PERSONAL APPEARANCES: None Scheduled.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS:

1. Marlene Hill spoke for 30 minutes and presented several complaints regarding a Grant Street property and requested an ordinance to require Miss Dig and an ordinance to regulate commercial vehicles on city streets.
2. Austin Roy introduced by Mike Vislosky as new DPW employee.
3. Eric Rickman presented photos of improvements to 7132 Wells Street. Discussion of next steps to bring house up to code as per Rehabilitation Agreement.

DPW REPORT: Presented in writing without objection or questions.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

PUBLIC HEARING: None Scheduled.

RESOLUTIONS:

1. **Resolution 22-08:** Resolution to Set an Alternative Date for the July Board of Review Meeting.

Motion by CM Biel, Second by CM Navock, to offer a Resolution to Set an Alternative Date for the July Board of Review Meeting.

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

ORDINANCES: None Scheduled.

PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS:

1. **6808 James Street:** Request permit to replace approximately 32' of existing fence with new material.

Motion by CM Navock, Second by CM Mclvor, to approve the permit for 6808 James Street to replace approximately 32' of existing fence with new material. Motion Carried.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

1. **4031 Main Street:** The property owner contacted staff and the City Attorney and detailed the repairs and upgrades made to the house. The owner is working to clear title to the property so that it can be sold. The City Attorney is not recommending Court on this matter.
2. **7132 Welles Street:** The property was sold by the original owner. The new owner was provided with a Rehabilitation/Demolition Agreement that must be agreed to, and a schedule of completion dates provided, before any building/mechanical/plumbing/electrical permits can be issued by the City. The completed document has not yet been received by the City. So far, the new owner has done a great deal of work to clean up the house and grounds.
3. **Salt Contract:** The City received a copy of the final contract between the state and the Detroit Salt Company. The City ordered 200 tons of salt for the 2022-2023 season, about 50 tons more than in years past. The City is being charged \$58.58 per ton for a total cost of \$11,715.
4. **2023 Street Project:** The draft grant application for streets was completed by Spicer and forwarded to MDOT on June 7th. Total funds requested from the state were \$250,000 out of a total project estimated cost of \$553,340. MDOT did a pre-review of the application and requested additional information – specifically, how the project would address the railroad crossing. The engineer from Spicer Group resubmitted the application with the additional information. MDOT should announce the winners of the grant sometime in the future.
5. **Second Street Project:** The City has not yet received the contract and schedule from Murray Underground Systems for the Second Street water main replacement project.
6. **Union Negotiations:** The union representative has neither sent additional information nor scheduled a meeting.

7. **Fire Hydrant Repairs:** The fire hydrants at Walter and Fourth; Second and Walter; and Reed and Maple are still inoperable and must be repaired. The DPW again contacted the parts supplier and the parts are still on order. Current estimated time of receipt is unknown.
8. **Annual Audit:** King & King CPAs are scheduled to be in the City offices June 29th and 30th to conduct Phase I of the City's and Fire Authority's annual financial audit. Phase II is to complete the report of the City's audit. Anticipate that the results will be provided to the City Council in July.
9. **4th of July Holiday:** City Hall, the Police Department and DPW will be closed on Monday, July 4th in observance of Independence Day. Please note that garbage pick-up will be delayed one day that week as a result.
10. **Revised City Manager Evaluation Form:** In order for the Mayor and City Council to better evaluate the City Manager's performance, beginning with the next evaluation cycle in September, the attached evaluation form should be used. Please review and share any recommended changes.
11. **BC Police:** The City interviewed two recent graduates of the police academy on June 16 and 17. The police chief recommended hiring Brendan Ecker as a full-time officer. His training will begin once the background investigation is complete, and when successfully completed, will bring the Brown City Police Department back to an affordable manning level.

Discussion of City Charter 3.04. Powers and Duties of the City Manager and of coordination of hiring and firing of City employees has been coordinated with Council as a courtesy not a requirement.

Motion by CM Biel, Second by CM Jacobson, to approve hiring Brendan Ecker as a full-time police officer subject to a background check.

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

12. **Dumpsters:** The City Council was sent an email on June 15th concerning dumpster ordinance enforcement.

Discussion of enforcing Ordinance concerning dumpsters on new businesses.

13. **City Manager Search:** The contractor requests a wage range for new City Manager.

Discussion of wage range for City Manager. Consensus of Council to use 61K – 65K.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT: City Attorney Stremers reported progress on blight legal action in progress and asked if Council was requesting any further action.

TREASURER'S REPORT: None.

CLERK'S REPORT:

1. Public Accuracy Test for August election is July 22 at 5 p.m. at City Hall.
2. Additional reminder that nominating petitions are available at City Hall and are due back by Thursday, July 21st. A minimum of 25 signatures from City of Brown City registered voters are required.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

1. Discussion of Marlene Hill's complaints, and Mayor asked City Manger to look into the Ordinance requests.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Building and Grounds (Mclvor) – Nothing.
2. Personnel (Biel) – Report on New City Manager Search wage range of \$61K-\$65K.
3. Police / Fire Authority (Lee) – Absent.
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 Jacobson asked if the fence on the corner to McMorrان and Vine Streets was permitted.
2. CM Robison asked about city trash pick up and Brown City clean-up day. Discussion of improvement in trash pick-up and Clean-up day went smoothly.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS:

1. Robert Jacobson reported that a street light on Vine Street is damaged.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None scheduled.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by CM Jacobson, Second by CM Mclvor, to Adjourn the June 27, 2022, Meeting of the City Council at 8:21 p.m. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda Johnson
City Clerk