

BROWN CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
July 11, 2022

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

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

ABSENT: City Attorney Gregory Stremers.

GUESTS: Robert Jacobson, Nancy Pilarski, Nathan Grogan, Larry Steigerwald, Kevin Miller, Rebecca Rickman, George Rickman, Robert Rickman, Debbie Rickman, Seth Benson, Cynthia Rossman, Katie Rossman, Brandy Trinkle, Lily Trinkle, Austin Trinkle, Grace Woodhall, Rachel Woodhall, Suzanne Shafer, Claire Srodawa, Kelsie Quant, Charlene Gingell, Neal Gingell, Kaylee Gubanche, Alisha Caughel, Deanna Hurley, Joe Hurley, Joseph Hurley, Amelia Boyce, Sophie Peterson, Zaima India, Kendra Webster, Hannah Schott, and Collin Hurley.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE LED BY MAYOR JULIE MILLER.

MAYORAL PROCLAMATIONS:

Mayor Miller presented proclamations to the Brown City High School 2022 Robotics Team; Brown City Junior High School 2022 Robotics Team; and the 2022 Lego League Robotics Team.

ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS AND DELETIONS TO AGENDA: One addition to Petitions and Communications.

CORRECTION & APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by CM Navock, Second by CM Biel, to Approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of City Council, June 27, 2022, as Written.
Motion Carried.

PAY BILLS:

Motion by CM Jacobson; Second by CM Lee, to Pay Bills in the Following Funds: General - \$20,620.27 (10010 – 11037), Payroll - \$15,588.76 (10308 – 10320), Major Street - \$761.74 (4095 - 4097), Local Street – \$658.75 (4388), Sanitary Sewer - \$2,037.95 (4052 – 4055), Water - \$27,977.99 (3508 - 3514), Arsenic Abatement - \$9,178.00 (1604 – 1605), Equipment - \$889.03 (1812 – 1814).
Motion Carried.

PERSONAL APPEARANCES: None Scheduled.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS:

1. Larry Steigerwald presented a complaint concerning a dumpster for apartments adjacent to his property. Mayor Miller asked how long Mr Steigerwald has lived at his present residence. Mr Steigerwald answered over thirty years and added that he has been complaining about the dumpster for that long. Mayor Miller asked if the apartments and the dumpster were there when he bought his current residence. Mr Steigerwald said that they were there when he bought his house. Mayor Miller asked if he ever had a privacy fence between his house and the apartments. Mr. Steigerwald said that he never had a privacy fence between his property and the apartments. Mayor Miller asked if Mr Steigerwald would put up a privacy fence. Mr Steigerwald said that he shouldn't have to put up a fence. Mayor Miller said the City can't force him to put up a fence, and that the City Attorney had said that the City cannot force the apartment management to fence their property, and the City cannot force anyone to fence a dumpster that predates the ordinance.
2. Seth Benson asked about the consultation of the city engineer to his ditch project. City Manager said an engineer should be available soon.

POLICE REPORT: Presented in writing without objection or questions. Council expressed appreciation for Chief Smith's and the department's hard work.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

PUBLIC HEARING: None Scheduled.

RESOLUTIONS: None Scheduled.

ORDINANCES: None Scheduled.

PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS:

1. **4273 Grant Street:** Request permit to construct a 14' X 14' wood pavilion in the backyard. No Sanilac County permit required because dimensions are <200 square feet.

Motion by CM Navock, Second by CM Robison, to approve permit for 4273 Grant Street to construct a 14' X 14' wood pavilion in the backyard. No Sanilac County permit required because dimensions are <200 square feet.

Motion Carried.

2. **6795 St Marys Street:** Request permit to construct a 4' chain-link fence along the east side of property; and build driveway along north side of property to provide better access. No Sanilac County permits required.

Motion by CM Navock, Second by CM Jacobson, to approve permit for 6795 St.Marys Street to construct a 4' chain-link fence along the east side of property; and build driveway along north side of property to provide better access. No Sanilac County permits required. Motion Carried.

3. **7146 Welles Street:** Request permit to construct a 24' x 36' pole barn. Will need Sanilac County permit.

Motion by CM Navock, Second by CM Robison, to approve permit for 7146 Welles Street to construct a 24' x 36' pole barn. Will need county permit. Motion Carried. CM Jacobson abstaining.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

1. **Second Street Project:** The City was notified on June 28th that the Second Street Project would break ground on July 11th. Pipe delivery took place July 7th, and a Pre-Construction Meeting with the engineer, City staff, contractor and utilities is scheduled for 9 AM on July 11th. Property owners on Second Street were notified of the work by letter mailed on June 28th. The City Council was also notified by email on June 28th. This \$252,685 project should be completed within a couple of weeks.
2. **7132 Welles Street:** The owner met with City staff on July 5th. The house and grounds have been cleaned up and Chief Smith said that there were no blight issues. The owner will work with his contractor to complete the timeline required by the Rehabilitation Agreement and submit to the City Council with a request for building permits.
3. **Maple Valley Estates:** The City contacted the attorney representing the individuals requesting the ordinance change on June 28th requesting the status of the project and whether to schedule a Planning Commission meeting. The attorney responded the same day saying that deal was cancelled. Therefore, the regular July 7th Planning Commission meeting was cancelled. Both the Maple Valley Estates developed property and the undeveloped property to the south have been listed for sale by the current owner.
4. **Sutter IC Drain:** The City received notice on July 5th that the Sanilac County Drain Commission would be cleaning the county drain from Main Street north to about the middle of the football field. The DPW Foreman inspected the drain and the City has no infrastructure that could be affected by the work. The Drain Commissioner also notified adjacent property owners using the same letter. Work is scheduled to begin on July 11th.
5. **Union Negotiations:** The union representative sent an email asking to restart negotiations (green). A few days later, the City received the response from the IRS Government Entities Employee Plans division concerning whether the City is subject to ERISA. The City Attorney is assisting with the analysis of the IRS letter and we should have an answer for the union soon.
6. **Michigan Public Policy Survey:** The most recent survey of local government officials revealed that local leader's pessimism about Michigan's direction continues, but eases slightly from last year. An executive summary of the survey is enclosed. A copy of the 16-page survey is available for review at City Hall.
7. **Annual Audit:** King & King CPAs were 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 final report of the City's audit; however, a preliminary informal briefing indicated no significant issues. The written report will be presented to the City Council on July 25th.
8. **Water Tower Inspection:** The City water tower was emptied on June 1st. A crew from Utility Service Company (which has the maintenance contract with the City) cleaned the portion of the tower that holds the water on June 2nd. An interior and exterior inspection was conducted after the cleaning. The City received the results of that inspection on June 27th. No significant discrepancies were noted. A copy of the report is available for review at City Hall.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT: Absent.

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 and Affidavits of Identity & receipt of Filing are available at City Hall and are due back by Thursday, July 20 to City Hall. A minimum of 25 signatures from City of Brown City registered voters are required. Signatures will be checked for duplicate signatures.
3. Nomination of Election Inspectors for August 2, 2022 Primary Election.

Motion by CM Navock, Second by CM Biel, to appoint the following election inspectors; Stephanie Stimson, Rhonda Johnson, Erin Loutzenhiser, Jaci Wedlake, Amy Smith, Charles Mitchell, Nicole Sanchez, and Tara Owens. Motion Carried.

4. Election inspectors will be attending training in Sandusky some this Wednesday and some on the 20th.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

1. Breakfast in the park went well, and there are plans to have more.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Building and Grounds (Mclvor) – Nothing.
2. Personnel (Biel) – Report on New City Manager Search.
3. Police / Fire Authority (Lee) – Fire Authority met last week. They passed a motion to pay the acting fire chief at the same rate as fire chief.
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 Robison asked about code enforcement for tall grass.
2. CM Mclvor reported tall grass behind the Health Center.
3. CM Biel asked about the timeline for DTE streetlight project.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS:

1. Larry Steigerwald stated that he believes tickets for tall grass and for dumpsters should be separate tickets.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None scheduled.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by CM Biel, Second by CM Navock, to Adjourn the July 11, 2022, Meeting of the City Council at 7:42 p.m. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda Johnson
City Clerk