

BROWN CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
October 24, 2022

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

PRESENT: Mayor: Julie Miller; Councilmembers: Stacy Biel, Christine Lee, Ross Mclvor, Eugene Navock, and Walter Robison; City Managers Clint Holmes and Charles Bennett, City Clerk Rhonda Johnson City Attorney Gregory Stremers, and DPW Foreman Mike Vislosky.

ABSENT: Counsel Member Pat Jacobson.

GUESTS: Future Clerk Pam Willer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE LED BY MAYOR JULIE MILLER.

ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS AND DELETIONS TO AGENDA: 4 additions to Manager's Report.

CORRECTION & APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. **Motion by CM Navock, Second by CM Mclvor, to Approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of City Council, October 10, 2022, as written. Motion Carried.**

PAY BILLS:

Motion by CM Lee, Second by CM Biel, to Pay Bills in the Following Funds:
General - \$10,863.17 (11188 – 11207), **Payroll - \$18,965.75** (10439 – 10453 includes 10454 State of Michigan \$1,509.87, EFT - \$4,279.76), **Major Street - \$496.80** (4110 - 4111), **Local Street - \$3,010.00** (4394), **Sanitary Sewer - \$617.52** (4079 – 4080), **Water - \$3,572.33** (3558 - 3562), **Arsenic Abatement - \$5.97** (1617), **Equipment - \$26.09** (1826 – 1827).
Motion Carried.

PERSONAL APPEARANCES:

PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS: None.

DPW REPORT: Presented in writing. DPW Foreman Mike Vislosky also reported that all the trees were planted plus one more.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Resolution 22-11 – Appointment of Provisional District Library Board members. Tabled.

PUBLIC HEARING: None Scheduled.

RESOLUTIONS:

- 1. Resolution 22-14:** A Resolution Of The City Of Brown City To Amend The City's 2022-2023 Budget To Better Reflect Revenues And Expenditures.
City Manager Clint Holmes gave detailed explanation of 2022-23 Budget Amendments. No questions by Council.

Motion by CM Lee, Second by CM Navock, to adopt Resolution 22-14: A Resolution Of The City Of Brown City To Amend The City's 2022-2023 Budget To Better Reflect Revenues And Expenditures.

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

- 2. Resolution 22-15:** A Resolution To Formally Apply For Assistance From The Risk Reduction Grant Program (RRGP).
City Manager Holmes presented the completed grant application for Council review, recommended the Major Street fund be used and explained a matching fund grant requires matching funds only if the grant is awarded. DPW Vislosky said that he found a federal grant that may also be available. City Manager Bennett said he would pursue that option also.

Motion by CM Lee, Second by CM Navock, to adopt Resolution 22-15: A Resolution To Formally Apply For Assistance From The Risk Reduction Grant Program (RRGP).

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

ORDINANCES:

- 1. An Ordinance to Amend The Brown City Code By Repealing Section 152.178 Of Title XV Land Usage Of Said Code And Adopting In Its Stead Section 152.178A Of Title XV Land Usage. Recommended by City of Brown City Planning Commission on October 6,2022 and Introduced by CM Robison on October 10,2022.**

Motion by CM Robison, Second by CM Navock, to Repeal Section 152.178 of Title XV Land Usage and Adopt in its Place Section 152.178A of Title XV Land Usage.

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

PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS:

- 1. 4161 Maple Street:** Request for permit to install approximately 112 feet of 8' wood slat fence along the west property line. County permit required.

Motion by CM Mclvor, Second by CM Lee, to approve request for permit to install approximately 112 feet of 8' wood slat fence along the west property line. County permit required. Motion Carried.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

1. **DWAM Grant Update:** Staff met with Spicer Engineering on October 18th to get an update on the Capital Improvement portion of the project (chartreuse). Virtually all of this proposed work is to meet Lead and Copper Rule requirements. The next step will be for Spicer to conduct a rate study to determine if these projects can be paid for through sewer rate adjustments or if additional grants, loans and/or bonds will be necessary over the next two decades. Also discussed was the interior water line verification program. Spicer wants to do a round two for the 70 or so houses that were not inspected by the Brown City DPW/Spicer Team. Letters were sent to the majority of the uninspected residences (white), and the program will continue November 1-4.
 2. **DPW Employee:** The City received about a dozen applications for the DPW position. Staff and DPW Foreman reviewed the applicants and identified the three most promising for interviews. Letters were sent to these individuals and the interviews are scheduled for Thursday, October 27th.
 3. **Streetlights:** According to an email the City received on October 17th from DTE, replacement of existing streetlight bulbs with LED fixtures was completed at the end of September.
 4. **EGLE Site Visit:** A representative from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) is scheduled to inspect the City's wastewater system - to include the lagoons and lift stations - during the week of October 24th. EGLE has been adding requirements and should be providing training on how best to implement these new rules.
 5. **Maple Street:** A resident contacted City Hall about speeders on Maple Street. They requested that a three-way stop sign be installed at the corner of Reed and Maple Streets. How does the City Council wish to proceed? Requires motion.
- Discussion of complaint by one resident by phone call. No resident attended the meeting to request this change. Consensus of Council to take no action at this time.**
6. **Fire Hydrant Flushing:** The Brown City DPW flushed fire hydrants October 17th through October 21st as part of this semi-annual program. No issues were reported.
 7. **Government Survey:** The University of Michigan's Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy (CLOSUP) surveyed Michigan local government leaders concerning the state of public discourse among residents and government officials. A summary of their findings is enclosed. A full copy of the 22-page report is available for review at City Hall.
 8. **Leaf Vacuuming:** The DPW will begin vacuuming leaves throughout the City the week of October 24th. However, the machine has a limited reach. Residents are reminded to rake their leaves to within 36" of the curb or road edge. The DPW will also continue to pick-up bagged leaves and brush for the next couple of weeks.
 9. **No Overnight Parking:** Residents are reminded that there is no overnight parking on City streets between November 1st and March 31st. The Brown City Police Department will ticket vehicles that are in violation of this ordinance. The signs stating this policy are located east and west on M-90 and north and south on Maple Valley Road.

10. **Maple Valley Lift Station:** On September 12th the DPW Foreman reported that both pumps are overdue for overhaul, and that he had finally received a quote of \$14,590. The quote was accepted. Since then Kerr has overhauled and reinstalled one pump. The other pump must have the stainless steel heavy duty 6” knife gate replaced at an estimated cost of \$2,243. Therefore, the total cost of the overhaul will be about \$16,833.
11. **Grant Street:** Burgess Excavating is scheduled to clean the ditches on the north and south side of Grant Street on October 24th. The whole project should only take a day.
12. **Veterans Day:** The City and DPW Offices will be closed on Friday, November 11th in commemoration of Veterans Day. The DPW will have a representative on call.
13. **Cell Phones:** City Manager Bennett reported that the City’s phones needed an update and new phones have been ordered. Phones were at a zero cost, new contract will be less than former contract.
14. **Tornado Siren:** City Manager Bennett reported that there may be a pole available to mount the siren in the park at no cost to the city.
15. **Sale of Salt Spreader** City Manager Bennett reported that Brown City Schools have agreed to purchase the City’s old salt spreader for \$200.
Motion by CM Lee, Second by CM Navock, to approve sale of the City’s old salt spreader for \$200.
Roll Call Vote: CM Biel – Yes, CM Jacobson – Absent, CM Lee – Yes, CM Mclvor - Yes, CM Navock - Yes, CM Robison – Yes. Yays – 5, Nays – 0, Abstaining – 0, Absent – 1. Motion Carried.

16. **Discussion of Resident Issues:** City Manager Bennett reported that resident Marlene Hill presented photos to City Hall documenting her concerns on Grant Street. He also answered a question about a resident’s complaint of the dumpster at Maple Ridge Apartments.

CM Robison asked that the City transfer the responsibility of the dumpster to Kilpatrick Apartments so that all further complaints would be directed to the Management Resources Development which owns Kilpatrick Apartments.

Motion by Cm Robison, Second by CM Mclvor, to direct City Manager Bennett to send a letter to Maple Ridge Apartments Management transferring responsibility of their dumpster from the City of Brown City to Maple Ridge Apartments. Motion Carried.

ATTORNEY’S REPORT: City Attorney Stremers reported that he will request that the City’s labor attorney contact the Operating Engineers Union directly to discuss contract issue concerning pension subsidy payments.

TREASURER’S REPORT: None.

CLERK’S REPORT:

1. The Public Accuracy test will take place at 5:00 PM on Thursday, November 3rd at City Hall.

2. Extended voter registration hours will be from 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM at City Hall on Saturday, November 5th.
3. The Brown City election polls will be open from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM on Tuesday, November 8th at City Hall.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

1. Council expressed appreciation to Rhonda Johnson for her service as City Clerk and welcomed Pam Willer as City Clerk effective November 11, 2022.
2. MML Conference Report:
 - a. Spark Grant for the park is available and does not require matching funds.
 - b. Several Cities, some of similar size to Brown City, presented impressive community projects.
 - c. CM Lee attended a cyber security session.
3. Trunk or Treat; Side by Side Run, Chili Cook-off and Spooky Trail was Saturday October 22 in the Park. Consensus of residents was for future Trunk or Treat to be on Main Street on Halloween. Council should consider that for next year.
4. Christmas Tree Lighting at 6 p.m. Friday December 2. Main Street will close at 5 p.m.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Building and Grounds (Mclvor) – Nothing.
2. Personnel (Biel) – Park meeting October 25 at 7pm at City Hall council room.
3. Police / Fire Authority (Lee) – Fire Department assisted Mussey Twp by lending them a tanker truck.
4. Streets and Sidewalks (Navock) – Nothing.
5. Tax and Finance (Jacobson) – Absent.
6. Water and Sewer (Robison) – Nothing.

GENERAL CONCERNS OF THE COUNCIL:

1. CM Mclvor asked about the Rehabilitation Contract. City Manager Bennett will send follow-up letters.
2. CM Robison encourages anyone with a complaint or suggestions for City Council to attend City Council meetings. Meetings are held 2nd and 4th Mondays at City Council Chambers at 7pm. Agendas for meetings are posted at City Hall and on the City website: www.ci.brown-city.mi.us Constructive involvement by city residents is encouraged and welcomed.
3. Discussion of the ineffectiveness of social media for constructive comments and effectiveness of face-to-face conversation in presenting complaints.
4. Discussion of quorum of Council.
5. The Mayor recommended Mark Vaerton for a three year term to planning commission.

Motion by CM Robison, Second by CM Navock, to appoint Mark Vaerton to City of Brown City Planning Commission for a three year term. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS: None.

CLOSED SESSION: None Scheduled.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by CM Lee, Second by CM Biel, to Adjourn the October 24, 2022, Regular Meeting of the City Council at 8:23 p.m. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda Johnson
City Clerk