

BROWN CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

MAY 18, 2009

Meeting called to order by Mayor Laura Carpenter at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Carpenter.

PRESENT: Mayor Laura Carpenter, Councilmembers: Pat Jacobson, Julie Miller, Ross McIvor, Mike Lents, Christine Lee, Ken Brown; City Manager Clint Holmes, City Attorney Gregory Stremers, City Clerk Kelly Pavel.

ABSENT: None.

ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS AND DELETIONS TO AGENDA: None.

CORRECTION & APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by CM Brown, second by CM McIvor, to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes of May 11, 2009 as presented. Motion carried.

PAY BILLS:

Motion by CM Lee, second by CM Brown, to pay the bills in the following funds: General - \$440.29, Major Street - \$15.00, Sanitary Sewer - \$210.00, Water Fund - \$186.50, Storm Sewer - \$825.00. Motion carried.

PERSONAL APPEARANCES: None scheduled.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS: None.

DPW REPORT: Written report reviewed. No questions or comments.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS: None.

PUBLIC HEARING: None scheduled.

ORDINANCES: None scheduled.

RESOLUTIONS: None scheduled.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

1. **Brown City Street Project:** The estimated cost for the milling and resurfacing of North Cade Road will be about \$95K. This includes the installation of an additional turn lane at M-90. Just over \$20,000 remains on account at Exchange State Bank for use in constructing the additional turn lane. The Road Millage Fund contains \$87K, and \$46K is in the Major Street Fund. Coordination with Lapeer County revealed that they have not yet started the bid process for asphalt. Recommend the City delay the Cade Road project until we can determine the level of cooperation available from Lapeer County.
2. **Hydrant Flushing:** The DPW has completed the semi-annual hydrant flushing.
3. **Thumb Works:** Thumb Works hosted a class today at 9 AM in Marlette called American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) 101 Session. The class was designed to identify how to determine if the ARRA can provide funding for City projects. The class was very useful and provided information concerning potential funding sources.

Council member Miller arrived at 7:03 p.m.

4. **Dangerous Buildings:** Councilmember Ken Brown put together a list of three houses on Maple Street that should be inspected by the Sanilac County Building Inspector to determine if they are in violation of the City's Dangerous Building Ordinance. The County Building Department was contacted and the City must complete the following steps in order to proceed: 1) Contact the property owner. 2) Have the City Attorney file the paperwork with the Court requesting an "Investigative Search Warrant" naming the Sanilac County Department of Construction as the enforcing agent. 3) Reports will be written by the Sanilac County Inspectors and if it is deemed an unsafe structure, reports will be mailed to the owner and the City. 4) Report will be forwarded to the Prosecutor's Office for a time frame for the removal of the structure. Cost is \$125 per structure. How does the City Council wish to proceed?

Council consensus that because of the \$125 fee to begin proper paperwork and that the economy is unstable, the first step should be to send notification letters to property owners stating the intent of the City to bring action to demolish the houses if improvements do not take place.

5. **DPW Garage:** The DPW Foreman is getting additional bids for the installation of a 24' X 36' concrete slab in the front of the salt bin. Those prices will be available at the next City Council meeting for action.
6. **Main Street Trees:** The DPW removed the two downtown trees on the south side of Main Street. The pattern for pressing the concrete was also located. Cement should be installed prior to Brown City Days.
7. **City Police Car:** The 2000 police car is overdue for replacement. A Michigan company can provide the new vehicle, with lights and markings, for just over \$29K. They also offer a purchase program with either a three or four year option. How does the City Council wish to proceed?

City Manager will further investigate this process and inquire repair/warranty procedure.

8. **Well #3 Emergency Generator:** UIS Programmable Services, a company involved with the installation of the SCADA System on Well #3, has identified the type and size emergency generator we need for the new Water Treatment Facility. Cost will be \$35K plus installation. About \$31K remains in the bond fund; however, the Water Fund can make up the difference. How does the City Council wish to proceed?

Council consensus to proceed with RFP process.

9. **Tree removal** – Frank Lucas has identified various trees throughout the community that are in need of trimming or removal for review.
10. **Wanamaker property:** Property is landlocked and will be for sale through the county if the City is interested in purchasing it. I see no benefits for purchasing this property. I have made an agreement with the County that the City will mow this property and be reimbursed by the County.

There was no objection from the City Council to mowing the property.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

City Attorney recommends that the council follow proper procedures carefully if dangerous building process is begun.

TREASURER'S REPORT: None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Police (Miller) – None.
2. Water and Sewer (Lents) – None.
3. Tax and Finance (Lee) – None.
4. Streets and Sidewalks (Jacobson) – None.
5. Building and Grounds (Brown) – None.
6. Personnel (Mclvor) – None.

GENERAL CONCERNS OF THE COUNCIL:

CM Jacobson stated that a fire hydrant on First Street is in need of repair. City Manager is aware of this and the DPW is waiting for surrounding ground to firm up.

CM Jacobson stated that the first and second storm sewer on the east side of Wells street appear to be not working. City Manager will investigate.

MAYOR'S REPORT: None.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS:

Bill Walters explained the auction process of property for tax sale through the County.

Kelly Pavel questioned the completion of proper ditching on the Exchange State Bank project. Information has been communicated to project manager Dennis Phalen. City Manager will contact him for an update.

Kelly Pavel stated that there are numerous large potholes in the park drive at the Cade Road entrance that are in need of fill. City Manager will investigate.

Kelly Pavel stated that she is disappointed in the fact that council spends money on various projects, yet sees the dangerous buildings project as an area that we may need to wait on because of \$375.00 fee to file necessary paperwork for all three identified buildings. She mentioned that council saw it necessary for the bowling alley to be cleaned up and she feels that these particular homes are not only an eye sore and a disgrace to the community but also quite possibly in violation of City ordinances.

Motion by CM Miller, second by CM Lee, to adjourn at 7:21 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Pavel
City Clerk