

**BROWN CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
DECEMBER 21, 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, Council members: Bill Walters, Julie Miller, Ross McIvor, Pat Jacobson, Christine Lee, and Ken Brown. City Manager Clint Holmes, City Attorney Gregory Stremers and 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 12-07-09 as presented. Motion carried.

PAY BILLS:

Motion by CM Lee, second by CM Brown, to pay the bills in the following funds: General - \$7,095.78 (3930-3938), Payroll - \$8,746.62 (4364-4380), Sanitary Sewer - \$130.00 (2989), Water - \$178.00 (1739-1741), Equipment - \$111.62 (1222-1223). Motion carried.

Motion by CM Lee, second by CM Brown, to pay Dixon Engineering \$1,520.00 for the water tower inspection. Motion carried.

PERSONAL APPEARANCES: None Scheduled.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS: None.

DPW REPORT:

Written report reviewed. No questions or comments.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None Scheduled.

PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS: None scheduled.

PUBLIC HEARING: None scheduled.

RESOLUTIONS: None scheduled.

ORDINANCES: None scheduled.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

- 1. Emergency Generator:** The City has received two bids for wiring the new generator. The bid from Rhode Electric is \$9,500; and the bid from Maurer Electric is \$4,858. The bid for a weather enclosure from the company that supplied the switching panel is \$1,876; George Emmie of Emmie Die and Engineering offered to build the enclosure for the cost of materials. Bob's Custom Heating & Cooling will connect the gas supply to the generator for \$400. SEMCO has already replaced the gas meter. Recommend the City contract with Maurer Electric, Emmie Die & Engineering, and Bob's Custom Heating & Cooling to make the generator at Well #3 operational. The Water Fund has sufficient money for these contracts. REQUIRES MOTION.

Motion by CM Walters, second by CM McIvor, to accept the bid from Maurer Electric for \$4,858.00 with assurance that all work will be complete for this price. Motion carried.

- 2. Well #4:** The most recent test of the water produced by Well #4 revealed that the arsenic content was 0.008. The maximum allowable is 0.010 so the City is approaching that limit. The City received a call from DEQ expressing concern and asking when the City planned to take action. Funds were set aside to replace the adsorption media in this year's budget. The DPW Foreman will contact the supplier to determine current cost, availability and proposed delivery and installation timeline for the replacement media. The City Council will be provided with this information when it becomes available. The change-out should be completed next summer following the regularly scheduled overhaul of the well and pump.
- 3. Police Grant:** Sam's Club provided a grant of \$1,000 toward the installation costs of the in-car camera system on the new police car. The check was picked-up by the Brown City Police Chief and City Manager on December 18th in Port Huron. The City has written a thank you letter to Sam's Club for the grant (lavender).
- 4. Foreclosed Lot:** On December 8th, letters were sent to individuals with property adjacent to the landlocked parcel located on the southwest end of Welles Street (former Wannamaker property) requesting a bid if they were interested in buying the property (white). As of noon on December 18th, the City has received two (verbal) bids of \$500 and \$750. The Sanilac County Treasurer extended the deadline until December 22nd for the City to either accept the property, or allow the County to retain it. Either course of action requires a written response to Sanilac County. Annual property taxes are about \$215. How does the City Council wish to proceed? REQUIRES MOTION.

Motion by CM Walters, second by CM Brown, to direct City Manager to obtain landlocked parcel located on the southwest end of Welles Street from the County by the 12-22-09 deadline. Motion carried.

- 5. Reed and Maple Streets:** Last week a motorist failed to stop at the south end of Reed Street, crossed Maple Street and knocked down the (big orange and black) sign there. The property owner whose house would have been driven into if the vehicle had continued on is concerned about a possible repeat of this type of accident resulting in damage to the home.

Consultation with the DPW Forman revealed that the optimal solution is the installation of a short section of guardrail. A 12' length of guardrail was installed on December 17th using a section provided by MDOT. He has also ordered a replacement sign for this location. The DPW Forman has also ordered a new "Speed Zone Ahead" sign for Maple Valley Road at the north City Limits and will install it when available.

6. **Water Tower Inspection:** The City's water tower was inspected by Dixon Engineering on October 22nd. The official report was received December 16th and is available at City Hall for review. A copy of the four page executive summary is enclosed (blue). Overall, the water tower is in good condition. However, Dixon recommends repainting and various repairs / modifications be completed in 2017 at an estimated cost (in current dollars) of about \$100,000. The City still owes \$60,000 in principal on the current water tower bond, with the last payment due in 2012.
7. **Mayor Exchange:** The City Manager of Yale was contacted to determine if they would be agreeable to having a Mayor Exchange sometime between Brown City Days and the Bologna Festival. He checked with his City Council and they do not want to spend any money on this. He did volunteer that if members of the Brown City electorate wanted to "drop by" to discuss business of mutual concern, he could make sure staff and Council members were available. I will poll the other adjacent communities to see if they are interested.
8. **Pot Belly Pig Removal:** I spoke with the owner of the pot belly pig today. The pig was to be removed from the City today. The owner requested an extension of time until 01-11-10 in order to find a new home for the pig. This extension was granted.
9. **Data Base Services Contract:** I have received the 2010 contract agreement for Data Base Services with the County for about the same fee as last year. Does the council wish to renew this agreement?

Motion by CM Miller, second by CM Brown, to renew Data Base Services with the County for 2010. Motion carried.

10. **4120 Second Street:** The former occupants of 4120 Second Street have recently moved and removed much of the homes structural contents. This property is notorious for flooding, particularly in the basement. I have contacted the mortgage company to inquire about entering the property to assure that the sump pump remains intact. The mortgage company has filed bankruptcy. I will further investigate this situation.
11. **City Hall Holiday Closure:** City Hall will be closed on Friday December 25th for Christmas, and Friday December 31st for New Year's. As a holiday gift to City Employees, is the City Council interested in closing City Hall at noon on Christmas Eve and/or New Year's Eve? **REQUIRES MOTION.**

CM Walters suggested that employees should be granted a full day off because of the traditional lack of customers on these two days of the year.

Motion by CM Miller, second by CM Brown, to close City Hall all day on December 24th as well as all day on December 31. Motion carried.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

Attorney Stremers stated that if City Manager requires assistance in the sale of the acquired landlocked property on Welles Street he is available for assistance.

TREASURER'S REPORT: None.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Carpenter wished all council members and their families a Merry Christmas.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Police (Miller) – None.
2. Water and Sewer (Walters) – 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: None.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS:

Commissioner Daws gave a brief County update to the council.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None scheduled.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by CM Miller, second by CM Lee, to adjourn at 7:20 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Pavel
City Clerk