

BROWN CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

FEBRUARY 26, 2018

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE LED BY MAYOR JULIE MILLER.

PRESENT: Mayor Julie Miller, Councilmembers: Patricia Jacobson, Gerald Kosal, Christine Lee, Ross Mclvor, Alecia Parks, and William Walters; City Manager Clint Holmes, Administrative Assistant David R. Van Cura and City Attorney Gregory Stremers.

ABSENT: City Clerk Juanita Smith.

GUESTS: Mike Vislosky from the DPW; Steven Kovac representing the Brown City Banner; John Bell; and Jamie Bird representing the Brown City Festival Commission.

ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS AND DELETIONS TO AGENDA: Two additional items will be added to the Manager's Report.

CORRECTION & APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by CM Parks, second by CM Walters, to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes of February 12, 2018, as presented. Motion carried.

PAY BILLS:

Motion by CM Jacobson, second by CM Lee, to pay the bills in the following funds:

General - \$10,124.95 (8450-8459), **Payroll** - \$16,154.50 (8311-8331 plus EFT), **Sanitary Sewer** - \$356.01 (3707), **Water** - \$1,599.68 (2881-2885), and **Arsenic Abatement** - \$24.70 (1389). Motion carried.

PERSONAL APPEARANCES: None Scheduled.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS:

Jamie Bird, Brown City Festival Commission, expressed the Commission's concern regarding the safety of blocking the streets to traffic during the Festival. Currently they are using snow fence which is not stable. They need a better alternative.

Additionally, the Festival Commission is requesting from the City the yearly donation of \$2,500.00 toward the fireworks display.

Motion by CM Lee, second by CM Mclvor, to honor the request of the Brown City Festival Commission for \$2,500.00 to be used for the fireworks display. Motion Carried.

DPW REPORT: Report reviewed. No questions or concerns.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None Scheduled.

RESOLUTIONS: None.

PUBLIC HEARING:

- 1. Alley Abandonment:** The City will hear public questions and comments concerning the request for abandoning the twelve foot (12') wide alley easement located halfway between Main and First Streets and extending from James Street east to the driveway adjacent to the Harrington Inn (about 231 feet).
Mayor Miller opened the Public Hearing at 7:05 PM.
There were no public questions or comments.
Mayor Miller closed the Public Hearing at 7:09 PM.

ORDINANCES:

- 1. Introduction of Section 17.995. Sale of Real Property:** CM Lee introduced an Ordinance authorizing the sale of a certain parcel of property owned by the City of Brown City to a third party.
Motion by CM Lee, second by CM McIvor, to schedule a Public Hearing for Monday, March 26, 2018, at 7:05 PM on Ordinance Section 17.995, Sale of Real Property.
Motion Carried.

PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS: None Scheduled.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

- 1. Rain Event:** As a result of heavy and continuous rain and melting snow, the City's Maple Valley lift station reached maximum capacity at about 6 AM on February 20th and continued at maximum capacity until about 4 AM on February 22nd. The lift station consists of a wet well that holds about 5,400 gallons and two pumps that each has a capacity of 750 gallons per minute. Normally, at this time of year, the lift station pumps about 100,000 gallons per day. During this period the number was in excess of 1.1 million gallons.

As a result of the City investing \$200,000 in waterproofing the sewer mains a few years ago, little storm water is believed to leak into the system. However, it is very likely that a number of basement sump pumps in private homes and businesses are illegally connected to the sanitary sewer system which adds to the system's burden during events like those above.

The check valves installed by the City at the school worked as expected to ensure no back-ups at the school. However, since the valves prevented outflow from the school, they closed on Tuesday and remained closed on Wednesday to preclude excess buildup in their system.

- 2. Database Management/Printing Services:** The City received the annual Agreement to Provide Database Management/Printing Services from Sanilac County Equalization (pink). The rates for both Summer 2018 Billing and Winter 2018 Billing remain the same as last year. Recommend the City Council accept the Agreement and authorize the Mayor to sign on behalf of the City.

Motion by CM Walters, second by CM Parks, to accept the 2018 Agreement for Data Base Management/Printing Services from Sanilac County Equalization and authorize the Mayor to sign on behalf of the City. Motion carried.

- 3. 2017/2018 Budget Amendment and 2018/2019 Draft Budget:** The amendment and budget must be acted on by the City Council not later than March 26th. A Public Hearing is required concerning the millage rate and 2018/2019 Budget. The draft documents will be presented to the members of the Tax & Finance Committee at the March 12th City Council meeting. There will be a request to set a Public Hearing for March 26th at that time. Does the Tax and Finance Committee wish to meet to review the amendment and Budget prior to the 26th?

The Tax and Finance Committee will meet on Monday, March 26, 2018 at 6 P.M. to review the amendment and Budget.

Motion by CM Lee, second by CM Parks, to schedule a Public Hearing for Monday, March 26, 2017 at 7:15 P.M. to approve the 2017-2018 amendment and 2018-2019 Budget and approve the 2018-2019 Millage Rate. Motion carried.

- 4. Fire Hydrant Snow Removal:** A narrow reading of City Ordinance 93.32 Snow Removal revealed that apartment, group home, office building, restaurant or shopping center and other owners of any property within the City to which the public is invited for business purposes have specific snow and ice removal responsibilities. These include keeping fire hydrants on their property clear of ice and snow. Residential property owners are apparently not required to keep fire hydrants on or adjacent to their property immediately accessible to the fire department in the same way. Does City Council wish to amend the current ordinance (yellow) or address snow related issues in another way?

The Council does not wish to amend the current ordinance at this time.

- 5. Union:** The City Personnel Committee, City Attorney, Mayor and Staff are scheduled to meet with the Operating Engineers Local 324 Union representatives, to include the City's shop steward, at 10 AM on Tuesday, February 27th in the City Library. This bargaining session will include the draft Personnel Policy Manual and the Union's demand "to open our Agreement for the purpose of negotiating for economics only."
- 6. Solar Panel Policy:** The draft copy of City Ordinance Section 153 – Alternative Energy will be reviewed by the Planning Commission at their regular meeting on March 1st.
- 7. MDEQ Inspection:** The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Water Division inspected and tested the City's drinking water system on January 30th. The report was received on February 12th (blue). A full copy of the 18-page report is available for review at City Hall. No deficiencies were noted. Their only recommendation was to "continue to plan on replacing the remainder of the cast iron main as funding allows."
- 8. Hazard Mitigation Plan:** The Sanilac County Advisory Committee met on February 22nd to review the next steps in the County-wide Plan Update. This meeting included identification of multiple hazard mitigation alternatives. Also provided was a copy of "Mitigation Strategies/Action Steps" (white) that will be the focus of the next meeting, scheduled for March 15th. Any recommendations the City Council has regarding the contents of this memo can be passed on to the committee at that time.
- 9. Advertising T-Shirts:** A company named Communi-Tee in conjunction with local merchants and industries created a t-shirt for the City advertising area businesses. A number of these t-shirts were provided to the City at no cost. They will be provided to the Festival Commission for distribution around the community.

- 10. City Website:** Staff met with the company hired to design, construct and host the City's website at their headquarters in Bath, Michigan, on February 26th. Final elements are being constructed and the transfer of hosting from Air Advantage to I.T. Right should be complete by March 2nd. The City's website address is still: **www.ci.brown-city.mi.us**.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT: Nothing additional.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The last day to pay 2017 Winter Taxes is Wednesday, February 28, 2018.

CLERK'S REPORT: None.

MAYOR'S REPORT: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Tax and Finance (Jacobson) – None.
2. Streets and Sidewalks (Kosal) – CM Kosal asked about the status of the 2018 Street Project. The City Manager stated that the construction plans are being developed by Spicer Engineering.
3. Police / Fire Authority (Lee) – None.
4. Building and Grounds (McIvor) – None.
5. Personnel (Parks) – CM Parks reported that there is a meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 27, 2018, at 10 AM with Operating Engineers Local 324 Union representatives.
6. Water and Sewer (Walters) – None.

GENERAL CONCERNS OF THE COUNCIL: None.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS: None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None scheduled.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by CM Lee, second by CM Parks, to adjourn at 7:26 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

David R. Van Cura