

**BROWN CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
DECEMBER 18, 2006**

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

Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Carpenter.

PRESENT: Mayor Laura Carpenter, Council Members: Ken Brown, Christine Lee, Mike Lents, Ross McIvor, Julie Miller, and Ron Wood. City Manager Clint Holmes, City Attorney Gregory Stremers, City Clerk Kelly Pavel.

ABSENT: None.

ADDITIONS, CORRECTION & DELETIONS TO AGENDA: None.

Motion by CM Miller, second by CM Lee, to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes from 12-11-06 as presented. Motion carried.

Motion by CM Lee, second by CM Brown, to pay the bills in the following funds: General - \$2,293.96, Payroll - \$50.00, Water Fund - \$1,500.00, Equipment - \$640.92. Motion carried.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS:

County Commissioner William Walters, District 5, talked to the City Council regarding the ongoing issues between the Sanilac County Board of Commissioners and the Sanilac County Economic Development Corporation. Mr. Walters distributed copies of the Carol Seifferlein byline article in the December 13th *Sanilac County News* regarding this matter. Commissioner Walters also reported the Sanilac County Board of Commissioners' view of the situation. He recommended that the City enter into a formal contract with the EDC's 501(c) non-profit corporation SEA just as the BOC wants to do.

PERSONAL APPEARANCES: None scheduled.

DPW REPORT: Written report reviewed. Hours worked recordkeeping will be addressed in the Manager's Report.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Bullock Project – essentially completed.
2. Codification of City Ordinances – Attorney review complete.
3. Arsenic Abatement- Funding application must be complete by February 1, 2007. City Manager discussed various developments that will be taking place in the near future. Planning Commission will be reviewing the water treatment construction plans at their regular January 4, 2007 meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING: None Scheduled.

RESOLUTIONS: None scheduled.

PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS: None.

ORDINANCES: None scheduled.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

- 1. Cable Franchise Bill:** With the passage of HB 6456 by the legislature and the anticipated signing by the governor, expect Comcast will cancel the fifteen-year franchise agreement with the City approved in March 2006. Also expect no further franchise fees paid to the City by Comcast (2006 - \$1,426.66, 2005 - \$1,814.60, 2004 - \$2,337.52). Comcast was also asked what the status of the upgrade was for Brown City (yellow). The plan is for them to "request funding to upgrade all of Sanilac County." More information may be available if funding is approved by Comcast.
- 2. Sanilac County Rural Task Force:** The group met in Sandusky on December 12th. Schedule is to repave Maple Valley Road from the City limits to Peck Road and from Peck Road to Marlette Road in 2011 (estimated cost \$755,000). The group has agreed to work with us to possibly tie in the section of Maple Valley Road within the City limits and north of Main Street. The group will also negotiate with the state to determine if any funding is available to apply toward the repair/upgrade of Cade Road. Also, designation of Cade Road as eligible for federal funds will also be explored.

Discussion regarding the possibility of using these RTF funds for repaving/repair of Cade Road. City Manager explained the various sources of monies that fund road repair and that these federal funds could not be used to repair local streets.

- 3. Sanilac County Economic Development Corporation:** The EDC met on December 14th in Sandusky. Meeting included a mission overview of the Center for Automotive Research (CAR) by two members of their staff. CAR works to provide mid-Michigan businesses with national and international company contracts. Other discussion included conditions required by the Sanilac County Board of Commissioners (gold) before they will provide financial support (estimated at 7% of the EDC Budget).
- 4. Election Coordinator:** Correspondence with the County Clerk Linda Kozfkay revealed no apparent problem with hiring a non-City resident for the position of Election Coordinator.

5. **Tri-County Equipment:** A snow blower attachment for the City's John Deere 955 is available at a cost of approximately \$4,000 with installation requiring less than thirty minutes. How does the City Council wish to proceed?
6. **Michigan Liquor Control Commission:** LCC was contacted concerning the beer/wine permit for Bud's Corner Café. Lansing revealed that local government approval had been provided by Maple Valley Township. When informed that the café is not in the Township but in the City of Brown City, I was told to contact the LCC Inspector responsible – Derek Jones. He spoke with his supervisor and recommended the City send a letter to the Director of Licensing at LCC concerning this jurisdictional issue (green).
Apparently, Lansing has approved the liquor license transfer from the old pharmacy to the individual purchasing the property. Expect a closing on the property soon.
7. **Tracking DPW Hours:** A request was sent to all of the communities in Michigan concerning how DPW hours are tracked and paid for by the different budget funds. A copy of the e-mail and the responses is attached (blue).

CM Lee expressed her concern about the high number of DPW hours allocated to filling out daily work logs.

8. **2007 Banner Article:** The Brown City Banner plans to list anticipated 2007 accomplishments in their January 2, 2007 issue. They have requested a list of those projects planned by the City. What projects does the Council wish to include?

City Manager discussed including such upcoming events as sidewalk replacement, up to four blocks of street resurfacing, Brown City Days, Mayor Exchange Day probably with Mayville, improving storm water control in the City Park and Vine Street areas, commercial construction projects pending such as the new Sacred Heart Catholic Church and the proposed bank, and enhancement of the City web page. City Manager noted that the number of hits on the City's webpage had increased significantly over the past couple of weeks. He asked that if any members of the City Council had additional items they wanted in the proposed article to submit them by the end of the day tomorrow (12-19-06).

9. **City Manager Availability:** On vacation / out of the office December 20 – 31.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

Election coordinator hiring should pose no problems.

EDC contract with the City would be a good idea and he is available to review it.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Police – none.
2. Water & Sewer – Suggestion that committee meet with the Planning Commission to review Rowe water treatment plant plans. Consensus that Water and Sewer Committee be present at the January 4, 2007 Planning Commission Meeting.
3. Tax & Finance – discussion regarding Christmas gifts for city employees. Suggestion that since Christmas is on a Monday, employees work ½ day on Friday, 12-22-06.

Motion by CM Lee, second by CM McIvor, to allow City Employees to work for ½ day on 12-22-06 while receiving a full day's wages as a Christmas gift to all employees. Motion carried.

4. Streets & Sidewalks – CM Wood commented on work sheets that have been submitted and suggests that Council play close attention to incoming monies versus expenditures. Discussion regarding projected incoming monies.
5. Buildings & Grounds – None.
6. Personnel – None.

GENERAL CONCERNS OF THE COUNCIL:

CM Miller questioned what police authority reviewed Ben's Supermarket liquor permit. City Manager stated that Chief Smith was probably involved in that particular process.

City Manager read a letter of concern from Jack Nickens, Harrington Inn, regarding the lack of street sweeping along Main Street.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS:

Motion by CM Miller, second by CM McIvor, to adjourn at 7:40 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Pavel
City Clerk