

**BROWN CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
MARCH 23, 2009**

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

Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Laura Carpenter.

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

ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS AND DELETIONS TO AGENDA: None.

CORRECTION & APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by CM Brown, second by CM Jacobson, to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes from March 9, 2009 as presented. Motion carried.

Motion by CM Brown, second by CM Jacobson, to accept the Special Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2009 as presented. Motion carried.

PAY BILLS:

Motion by CM Lee, second by CM Brown, to pay the bills in the following funds: General - \$18,488.27, Payroll - \$11,475.68, Major Streets - \$218.92, Local Streets - \$218.93, Sanitary Sewer - \$694.03, Water - \$878.98, Storm Sewer - \$864.00. Motion carried.

Motion by CM Lee, second by CM Brown, to approve payment of the Sewer Renovation Project bill and forward to Sanilac County for approval and payment of \$79,468.00. Motion carried.

PERSONAL APPEARANCES: Mr. Bob Armstrong - WMIC.

Bob Armstrong presented material to the Council pertaining to full size, center booklet advertisement in the Thumb Area Events Guide, promoting Brown City Days for 2009 as well as radio spots. Any recommended changes to wording and/or photos should be submitted to the City Manager as soon as possible.

Motion by CM Lents, second by CM McIvor, to participate in the Thumb Area Events Guide for 2009. Motion carried.

Mr. Bob Ryan presented material to the Council explaining the Lions Club purpose. Mr. Ryan informed the Council it is his intention to promote the start of a Lion's Club chapter in Brown City. A meeting will be held at the Harrington Inn on March 24, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS:

Bill Walters explained that a train was stopped on the tracks near the school at 3:10 when school was released. Mr. Walters witnessed one student rolling under the train as well as another students hanging on the side of the moving train. He is suggesting that possibly Chief Smith speak with student body per the schools approval.

Bill Walters stated that he has had numerous residents state that they did not receive their assessment notice this year. Per Mr. Walters, the City assessor is not required to mail assessments to all residence. Council consensus that property assessment notices be mailed to all property owners.

DPW REPORT:

Written report reviewed. No questions or comments.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS: None.

City Manager reviewed Resolution 09-02: A Resolution Of the City of Brown City to Amend The City's 2008-2009 Budget To Better Reflect Revenues and Expenditures.

PUBLIC HEARING: 7:15 PM – Resolution 09-03: Setting the millage rate and approving the 2009-2010 Budget.

Mayor Carpenter opened the Public Hearing at 7:15 p.m. Regarding Resolution 09-03.

Bill Walters asked if the anticipated lower assessments and reduced property tax revenues were considered for the 2009-2010 budget. City Manager stated these were taken into consideration.

Mayor Carpenter closed the Public Hearing at 7:16 p.m.

Council discussion regarding proposed Resolution 09-03.

Motion by CM Lee, second by CM Brown, to adopt Resolution 09-03: A Resolution Formally Approving the City of Brown City Millage Rate of 16.8733 Mills and Brown City Park Millage Rate of 1.25 Mills and the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Budget.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Jacobson-yes, Miller-yes, McIvor-yes, Lents-yes, Lee-yes, Brown-yes. Motion carried

Motion by CM Lee, second by CM Lents, to adopt Resolution 09-02: A Resolution of the City of Brown City to Amend the City's 2008-2009 Budget To Better Reflect Revenues and Expenditures.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Jacobson-yes, Miller-yes, McIvor-yes, Lents-yes, Lee-yes, Brown-yes. Motion carried.

ORDINANCES: None scheduled.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

1. **Phase III Sewer Rehabilitation Project:** Michigan Pipe Inspection continues work on cutting calcium / roots and grouting the mains for the City's Sewer Rehabilitation Project. Work is now proceeding north of Main Street (Phase I).
2. **Mapleview Estates Water Meter:** Please see Attorney's Report.
3. **7123 Welles Street:** A contractor contacted the City concerning procedures for the demolition of the HUD-owned house at 7123 Welles Street. The information was forwarded and demolition is anticipated within the next couple of months.
4. **Brown City Bowling Alley:** On March 13th, the (acting) City Engineer and I inspected the area of the bowling alley. Because the driveway on the east side, and alley on the north side are higher than the concrete floor, shoring will be required. The City Engineer recommended that gravel be used instead of sand since storm water would rapidly erode sand. City Manager stated that a sand and gravel combination could be compacted in.
5. **Brown City Street Project:** The (acting) City Engineer and I inspected the first block of Walter Street and the length of John Street on March 20th. Anticipate initial survey work to begin next week followed by the engineering required for the project. Since school does not get out until Brown City Days, recommend scheduling the work for sometime after the second week of June. Once the engineering and cost estimates are complete, there will need to be some prioritization since the City probably does not have sufficient funds for all of the proposed work.
6. **Brown City Fire Authority:** The Fire Authority met on March 17th and approved the purchase of a replacement pumper truck, with delivery expected sometime after June.
7. **Rural Task Force:** There was a special meeting of the Rural Task Force to identify projects for construction under the stimulus plan. The amount potentially available is about \$850,000. The projects proposed are replacing the bridge on French Line Road at the Elk Creek Drain, and paving one mile of Campbell Road. The projects are being submitted to Lansing for review and inclusion.
8. **USDA Rural Development:** Congresswoman Candice Miller and the USDA sponsored a program to discuss the various programs available through USDA Rural Development on March 16th. Councilmembers Brown and Lee and the City Manager attended the meeting. There was a very impressive turn-out for 10 AM on a Monday morning. Handout materials are available for your review.

9. **Blight and Junk Cars:** Now that the snow has melted, the City has begun to get complaints about blight. Letters were sent to property owners on James, John and Second Streets with clean-up required by April 1st. The Chief of Police has also been directed to begin identifying vehicles in violation of the City's Junk Car Ordinance so letters can be sent out to take care of the vehicles.
10. **NuSystems, Inc:** At the February 23rd City Council meeting, representatives from NuSystems presented a plan for adding chemicals to the City's lift stations and lagoons to reduce sludge. Does the City Council wish to purchase this service? Consensus of the City Council was not to use this product.
11. **City Hall Phone System:** Research has finally provided a company that may be able to update our phone system and make voice mail and various other options available. Council consensus to seek a price for this update to the phone system.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

Attorney Stremers stated that late Friday, March 20, 2009 information regarding Mapleview Estates was received. Mr. Stremers has drawn up an Agreement for Council approval regarding this situation. Mr. Stremers also stated that when the one-year water use evaluation is complete it will be possible to assess the efficacy of the meter and billing system.

Motion by CM Lents, second by CM Brown, to accept the Written Agreement between the City of Brown City and Mapleview Estates as well as directing this Agreement be signed by the Mayor, City Clerk, City Manager and City Attorney.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Jacobson-yes, Miller-yes, Mclvor-yes, Lents-yes, Lee-yes, Brown-yes. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

City Treasurer explained difficulties she was having with the software for taxes. However, the money and reports have been turned over to Sanilac County and taxes are now complete.

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 Miller asked that the abandoned combine that has been parked in the field behind her house be addressed.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

A thank you note was received from Lucy Coulson.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS: None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None scheduled.

Motion by CM Miler, second by CM Lee, to adjourn at 7:35 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Pavel
City Clerk