

**BROWN CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
JANUARY 25, 2010**

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, 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 Walters, to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 11, 2010 as presented. Motion carried.

PAY BILLS:

Motion by CM Lee, second by CM Brown, to pay the bills in the following funds: Water Fund - \$1,448.40 (1751-1757), Storm Sewer - \$429.00 (1062), Equipment - \$210.00 (1227), General - \$18,459.67 (3967-3986), Payroll - \$12,299.50 (4404-4422), Major Street - \$1,520.79 (3680), Local Street - \$1,932.48 (4128-4129), Sanitary Sewer - \$583.72 (2996-2998). Motion carried.

PERSONAL APPEARANCES:

Mr. Kirk F. Dale, Marlette Township Supervisor, spoke with the City Council regarding his bid for the 83rd District Congressional Seat.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS: None.

DPW REPORT:

Written report reviewed. No questions or comments.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None Scheduled.

PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS: None scheduled.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

1. **Emergency Generator:** The project nears completion. Emmie Die and Engineering completed the weather enclosure for the switching box for cost of materials. The box was then sent to Great Reflections where it was painted and delivered to Well #3. The

contractor connected the gas on January 25th. The electrical contractor is scheduled to complete the installation on January 27th and 28th. The generator should be operational soon.

2. **Payroll Software:** The software that the City uses for payroll was finally upgraded by the contractor from a DOS-based system to a Windows-based system. The City has been waiting for this promised upgrade for several years. Staff required considerable time to program pay and tax rates into the software. The City is running both programs in parallel for two pay periods to ensure the new software is operating correctly. There was no direct cost to the City for the upgrade.
3. **Brown City DDA:** The DDA met on January 12th and agreed to accept the land contract back rather than go through foreclosure procedures for Master Floor Coverings. The City has received one enquiry regarding leasing the building and two concerning possible purchase. However, there has been a problem attempting to contact the current owners. A certified/return request letter from the City was returned, and Tri-County bank has not received a response to emails. The DDA had expected all contents of the store to be removed by January 31st.
4. **Jail Crew:** The City received a call stating that the County Commissioners were considering ending the program to make the jail crew available to Sanilac County communities for work. The caller requested the City send a letter to the County Commissioners stating that the program was helpful to us and requesting it be continued. The letter from Brown City was sent and will be presented to the County Commissioners at their meeting on January 26th along with those from other local communities and townships.
5. **Sales Calls:** During the past week, the City has had sales calls from three engineering firms and two banks. Normally the frequency is less, indicating the promised economic upturn is still pending. Should the City Council decide to fund capital improvement projects for 2010, good rates for engineering should be available.
6. **MLGMA:** The Michigan Local Government Managers Association Winter Conference is February 2-5 in Grand Rapids. The City Council approved my attending, so I will be out of the office from Tuesday afternoon February 2nd through the following Friday morning. I will have my cell phone if any problems arise.
7. **Pot-Bellied Pig:** Was gone by January 25th or the City would have begun \$50 per day fines.
8. **Mayor Exchange:** The City of Imlay City was contacted concerning Mayor Exchange. They will address this with their City Council and get back to us.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

Attorney Stremers stated that he has an intern from the VISTA Program doing research for their firm for the next year for low income people for no charge.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Written report reviewed. No questions or comments.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

1. Report on January 14th Fire Authority Meeting.
2. Collect remaining City Council Priority Worksheets (3) (gold).

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.

City Manager provided information pertaining to proposed Ordinance 17.900.

Mayor Carpenter opened the Public Hearing for Ordinance 17.900 at 7:15 p.m.

No public questions or comments.

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

ORDINANCES:

1. An Ordinance to Amend the Brown City Code by Adding a New Section Which New Section Shall be Known as Section 17.900 of Title XVII – Special Ordinances - Sale of Real Property (orange).

Motion by CM Mclvor, second by CM Brown, to Adopt Ordinance 17.900, *An Ordinance to Amend the Brown City Code by Adding a New Section Which New Section Shall be Known as Section 17.900 of Title XVII – Special Ordinance – Sale of Real Property.* ROLL CALL VOTE: Walters-yes, Miller-yes, Mclvor-yes, Jacobson-yes, Lee-yes, Brown -yes. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS: None scheduled.

GENERAL CONCERNS OF THE COUNCIL:

CM Mclvor asked for an update on DPW worker Henry Owens. City Manager reported that he has had additional surgery and he has no definite return date.

Mayor Carpenter stated that she has been questioned by residents regarding the new water rates. The City Manager explained that the bulk of the increase was due to an increase in sewer rates to pay for the \$200,000 bond used to complete the work required by DEQ. He stated that sewer rates were last increased in 1984. The other increase was for garbage collection due to the rate increase by the contractor last year. He added that reserves had been essentially exhausted and the rate increase could no longer be delayed.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS:

County Commissioner Jamie Daws updated council on ORV legislation.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None scheduled.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by CM Brown, second by CM Lee, to adjourn at 7:27 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted.

Kelly Pavel
City Clerk