

**BROWN CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS**  
**MAY 10, 2010**

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

Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Carpenter.

**PRESENT:** Mayor Laura Carpenter, Councilmembers: Bill Walters, Julie Miller, Ross McIvor, Pat Jacobson, Dan Loutzenhiser, and Christine Lee. City Manager Clint Holmes and City Attorney Gregory Stremers.

**ABSENT:** City Clerk Kelly Pavel.

**ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS AND DELETIONS TO AGENDA:** None.

**CORRECTION & APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion by CM Miller, second by CM Walters, to accept the minutes of the regular Council Meeting of April 26, 2010 as presented. Motion carried.

**PAY BILLS:**

Motion by CM Lee, second by CM Loutzenhiser, to pay the bills in the following funds: General - \$38,014.68 (4111-4139), Payroll - \$10,796.30 (4542-4556), Major Street - \$362.46 (3685-3686), Local Street - \$272.46 (4134), Sanitary Sewer - \$5,724.04 (3022-3029), Water Fund - \$4,963.96 (1787-1791), Arsenic Abatement - \$1.19 (1119), Equipment Fund - \$109.90 (1239). Motion carried.

**PERSONAL APPEARANCES:** None Scheduled.

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS:** None.

**POLICE REPORT:** Written report reviewed. There were no questions for Chief Smith.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None Scheduled.

**PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS:**

1. 4227 Main Street (Muxlow and Associates Real Estate) – Request for permit to replace interior lighting and roof. Request was approved by the DDA on April 27, 2010 and the Planning Commission on May 6, 2010.

Motion by CM Loutzenhiser, second by CM Lee, to accept the pre-application building permit for 4227 Main Street to replace interior lighting and roof. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTIONS:** None Scheduled.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** None Scheduled.

**ORDINANCES:** None Scheduled.

**MANAGER'S REPORT:**

1. **Economic Development Training:** The Michigan Department of Energy, Labor & Economic Growth and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation sponsored the second in a three series class on May 6<sup>th</sup> in Lapeer. This class highlighted the steps needed to transition the Michigan economy, to include asset-based assessment; integration with the local planning effort; and place-based strategies. Economy 301, the last class in the series, is all-day on June 8<sup>th</sup> in Saginaw, and will involve developing/recommending regional and state-wide strategies for economic development. The first class is being offered in Sandusky beginning May 18<sup>th</sup>. Additional information is available on the enclosed handout (lavender).
2. **Hydrant Flushing:** The DPW will conduct hydrant flushing May 17-21. A notice will run in *The Banner* on May 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> informing residents of the schedule and to avoid washing white and light-colored clothes while hydrants are being flushed.
3. **Brown City Clean-Up Days:** Staff is beginning to get inquiries concerning the schedule for Clean-Up Days. Last year they were June 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>. The DPW Foreman is recommending Tuesday and Wednesday June 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. **REQUIRES MOTION.**  
Motion by CM Miller, second by CM McIvor, to schedule Brown City Clean-Up Days for June 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. Motion carried.
4. **Brown City Days:** The Festival Commission has worked very hard to raise the funds and coordinate the planning for the June 3-6 Brown City Days. A copy of the events schedule and contacts is enclosed in your packets (white). The next meeting of the Festival Commission is scheduled for May 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM in the library.
5. **Sanilac Business Summit '10:** The Sanilac Economic Alliance hosted the annual conference at 6 PM Thursday, April 29<sup>th</sup> in Sandusky. The speakers included Chuck Kunisch of MAC in Brown City. The conference highlighted the various steps being taken to improve the local economy; draw new business into the county; and help expand existing businesses. A letter thanking the City for our continuing support of the organization is enclosed (yellow).
6. **Nextel Cell Tower:** The City received a letter offering a lump sum payment of \$132,897 for a permanent easement for the cell tower replacing the current lease agreement (orange). Currently, the City is paid \$13,800 per year which goes into the water fund. Does the City Council wish to continue with the annual payments or take the lump-sum buyout?

Discussion by the City Council concerning the proposed lump-sum payment.

Questions concerning whether the price was negotiable, the value of current verses future dollars, and if other area communities were taking the payment. City Manager tasked to provide additional information.

7. **Unoccupied Houses:** A review by staff revealed that there are currently 36 houses in the City that are unoccupied. Some are receiving lawn care and others are not. Propose having the DPW (we have a community service person available for 200 hours) keep the grass of these houses below the 8" limit required by ordinance. Time and costs will be recorded and a tax lien will be used to reimburse the City for associated costs and penalties. How does the City Council wish to proceed?

City Council consensus to use community service personnel and charge costs to the property owner or have a tax lien placed on the property.

8. **Well #4:** Well #4 is due for overhaul and having the absorption media replaced. Plan for this to take place after Brown City Days. Contact with Layne Northern revealed they have a similar product for arsenic absorption and are providing a cost estimate. They are also providing an estimate for the overhaul.

**ATTORNEY'S REPORT:** The City Attorney will be assisting the Police Chief and City Manager to address the bight issue with 4437 Vine Street.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** None.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

1. Presentation to BC Basketball Lady Green Devil Kristen Greene.
2. The Mayor presented a check for \$2,500 to Brown City Festival Commission Chairperson Patricia Jacobson to help off-set the cost of the fireworks for Brown City Days on June 5<sup>th</sup>.

**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 (Loutzenhiser) – none.
6. Personnel (Mclvor) – none.

**GENERAL CONCERNS OF THE COUNCIL:**

1. CM Jacobson noted that the trailers parked in front of Ben's Supercenter were blocking the view of traffic on Main Street/M-90 and there seemed to be a serious risk of an accident. Both CM Loutzenhiser and CM Lee also stated their concerns. Chief Smith will take the issue for action.
2. CM Walters informed the City Council that Governor Granholm had appointed him to serve on the Michigan Commission on Services to the Aging beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>.

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS:**

Resident Jack Bell asked about the status of the sidewalk in front of Hilltop House. City Manager stated that the contractor who had done the work on the building had been contacted and asked to complete the work. The City Manager will again get in touch with Fritz Builders, Inc. of Washington, Michigan concerning this issue.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None scheduled.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by CM Walters, second by CM McIvor, to adjourn at 7:16 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Clinton K. Holmes  
City Manager