

BROWN CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

JANUARY 25, 2016

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY MAYOR CHRISTINE LEE AT 7:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE LED BY MAYOR CHRISTINE LEE.

PRESENT: Mayor Christine Lee, Councilmembers: Pat Jacobson, Dan Loutzenhiser, Ross McIvor, Julie Miller, Alecia Parks, and Bill Walters; City Clerk Juanita Smith, and City Manager Clint Holmes.

ABSENT: City Attorney Gregory Stremers.

GUESTS: Steven Kovac representing the Brown City Banner, Scott Cronce, Kevin B. Miller, and John Bell.

ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS AND DELETIONS TO AGENDA: None.

CORRECTION & APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by CM Miller, second by CM McIvor, to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 11, 2016 as presented. Motion carried.

PAY BILLS:

Motion by CM Jacobson, second by CM Loutzenhiser, to pay the bills in the following funds: General - \$8,079.70 (7238-7248), Payroll - \$14,171.94 (7279-7294 plus EFT), Major Street - \$1,724.17 (3881), Local Street - \$1,724.17 (4240), Sanitary Sewer - \$984.62 (3530-3532), Water - \$1,341.94 (2606-2608), Arsenic Abatement - \$30.45 (1312), Storm Sewer - \$700.00 (1191), Equipment - \$91,258.74 (1499-1501). Motion carried.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS:

Scott Cronce of 1931 Laidlaw Road, Brown City brought forth an idea that he would like to pursue. Scott had a sketch that he had drawn concerning the water crisis in Flint. He would like to have it made into bumper stickers to sell to raise money to contribute to the Flint Water crisis. The councilmembers suggested that Mr. Cronce contact Neil Kohler, principal of the Brown City High School, with his idea to see if the students would like to get involved in this project.

DPW REPORT: Report reviewed. One question surfaced from the report requesting the reason for Jetting out the sanitary sewer behind Linda Lou's. City Manager Clint Holmes replied that grease had collected in that line and needed to be cleaned out. A company has been hired to televise the sewer main to determine why it becomes blocked. The DPW also Jetting out the storm drain on Second Street between James and Walter Streets which was blocked by storm debris.

PERSONAL APPEARANCES: None Scheduled.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

PUBLIC HEARING: None Scheduled.

RESOLUTIONS: None Scheduled.

ORDINANCES: None Scheduled.

PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS: None Scheduled.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

- 1. Document Scanning:** City staff reviewed and boxed up two boxes of sample documents identified for scanning. The RICOH representative stated that the cost to scan the Assessor and Tax Rolls would be much higher than expected. A discussion with the Sanilac County Equalization Department revealed that they do not retain these historical documents beyond three years, and the only copies are retained by the taxing authority. The detailed estimate for the remainder of the material proposed for scanning remains pending. As an alternative, the City purchased three wall lockers and identified a storage location for these oversize files.
- 2. New Backhoe:** The City DPW received their new backhoe on January 7th. The cost was \$89,900. Tri-County Bank created the necessary loan documents for the City and they have been signed by the Mayor and City Clerk and returned to the bank. The funds for the backhoe have been received and will be forwarded to the vendor.
- 3. Old Backhoe:** While a formal advertisement has not yet been published, two local residents have made bids on the old backhoe and its associated buckets. The two bids were in excess of \$15,000. How does the City Council wish to proceed?

Several bids were made on the backhoe with the largest being \$16,250. The council said they would like to sell it as they probably would not get much more if they made a formal advertisement to sell it.

Motion by Loutzenhiser, second by Walters to sell the City's JCB Backhoe for \$16,250 and to authorize Mayor Christine Lee and City Clerk Juanita Smith to sign the agreement to sell the backhoe. ROLL CALL VOTE: CM Walters – yes, CM Parks – yes, CM McIvor – yes, CM Miller – abstain, CM Jacobson – yes, CM Loutzenhiser – yes. 5 Yes votes, 0 No votes, 0 Absent, 1 Abstaining. Motion carried.

- 4. Maintenance Program:** In order to ensure the maximum longevity for new vehicles, the City is developing a formal preventative maintenance program. Checklists are being developed for scheduled checks and periodic maintenance for police and DPW vehicles. Expect the program to be fully operational by the beginning of the new fiscal year.
- 5. The Banner Office:** On January 15th, the Publisher and Regional General Manager for the View Newspaper Group, which owns and operates the Brown City Banner, stopped by City Hall to inform us that the Banner Office on Main Street would close in February and the building listed for sale. Operations will be moved to Lapeer.

The Banner Office, Mike's Barber Shop and Ginger's Café have historically shared a water service line. Since Mike's is closed, and The Banner Office soon will be, the DPW was tasked to install a separate water line to Ginger's. Work should begin on this project by January 26th.

6. **MSU Focus Group:** A focus group is scheduled "to identify the issues and educational program opportunities that Michigan State University (MSU) Extension and MSU AgBioResearch will address in the future." This meeting will be one of 14 around the state. The local group is scheduled for January 26th from 3-5:30 PM in Sandusky.
7. **Thumb Cellular Connectivity:** The antennas located on the City's water tower were turned-off on January 15th due to extensive interference. City Staff has met several times with the technician tasked to locate and block the source of this interference. Managers at Thumb Cellular are working with the FCC and the owner of the possible source of interference to resolve the issue and bring the antennas back on-line. Currently, Thumb Cellular phone users are being connected to other area cell towers, primarily the one in Peck.
8. **FOIA Request:** On January 18th, the City received a Freedom of Information Act request for "a copy of the following records: **An electronic copy of any and all employees for year of 2015, (fiscal or calendar year). Each employee record should contain the employer name; employer zip code; year of compensation; first name, middle initial, last name; hire date (mm-dd-yyyy); gross annual (fiscal or calendar) wages (including but not limited to salary, over-time wages); position; etc.** (etc.: means any other public data available, as to not require the agency to have to remove data from existing records.)" [Bold text in the original.] The requested information was collected and forwarded the same day. The City received a response stating the information was received and accepted.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT: None. (Attorney Gregory Stremers absent)

TREASURER'S REPORT: None.

CLERK'S REPORT: We have the new electronic poll book laptop computer to be used in all future elections. Training on the laptop took place on January 14th at Worth Township Hall in Lexington. All Permanent AV applications have been sent out, and to date, 17 people have returned their applications and have been mailed ballots for the March 8th election.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

1. The Cemetery Board met on January 19th, and recommended the appointment of Colleen Mitchell of Maple Valley Township to the Board. If appointed, an additional member would still be required.

Motion by CM Miller, second by CM Parks, to appoint Colleen Mitchell of Maple Valley Township to the Cemetery Board for a term of five years. Her term will expire December 31, 2020. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Police (Miller) – None.
2. Water and Sewer (Loutzenhiser) – None.
3. Tax and Finance (Jacobson) – None.
4. Streets and Sidewalks (Walters) – None.
5. Building and Grounds (Parks) – None.
6. Personnel (Mclvor) – None.

GENERAL CONCERNS OF THE COUNCIL:

One concern was voiced: Does Brown City have some lead water lines which could cause the same problems that Flint, Michigan is having with their water? City Manager said that the EPA and MDEQ require City water be tested for lead and copper every five years. There is no lead in the water that the City pumps out of the ground and into the water distribution system. However, while water samples drawn from some homes and businesses in the City have no lead detected, others show infinitesimal amounts possibly due to lead solder used in the plumbing. The City may have a few remaining sections of pipes that have lead seals on the joints, but their exact location is unknown. The City has not had the changes to our water that Flint had. His answer would be a definite “no” that we could not have the same situation as Flint.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS: None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None scheduled.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by CM Miller, second by CM Jacobson, to adjourn at 7:30 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Juanita Smith
City Clerk