

**BROWN CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS**  
**JANUARY 27, 2025**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY MAYOR JULIE MILLER AT 6:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Mayor: Julie Miller; Councilmembers: Robert Jacobson, Patricia Jacobson, Eugene Navock, Mark Vaerten, City Manager Charles Bennett, City Clerk Pamela Willer.

ABSENT: Neil Kohler, Ross McIvor.

GUESTS: Commissioner Chris Lee, Angel Kreiner, Denise Jones, Dan Jones, Lt. Mark Perez, Bob Armstrong, Marilyn Armstrong, William Muxlow, Sara Muxlow, Austin Roy, Todd Vandewarker.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE LED BY MAYOR JULIE MILLER.**

**ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS AND DELETIONS TO AGENDA:**

**CORRECTION & APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Correction to remove Walter Robison as present Council Member. Motion by CM-Eugene Navock to approve the Regular Council Meeting Minutes on January 13, 2025. Second by CM-Mark Vaerten. Motion Carried.

**PAY BILLS:** Motion by CM-Patricia Jacobson to approve and pay the bills as presented. Second by CM-Robert Jacobson. Motion Carried.

**01/14/2025 TO 01/27/25.**

**Following Funds: General - \$6,370.77 (12539 – 12552), Payroll - 01/08/2025 / TO 01/21/25, \$24,944.82 (11461 – 11473), Includes EFT Tri-County Bank - \$4,983.00, State of Michigan - \$2,041.70 (11474), Operating Engineers Dues – 0.00, Major Streets - 0.00, Local Streets – 0.00, Sanitary Sewer - \$7,332.76 (4336 – 4339), Water - \$27,817.33 (3963 - 3970) , Arsenic – \$295.00 (1742 - 1743), Storm Sewer - 0.00, Lead & Copper – \$26,100.00 (170), Equipment -0.00.**

**PERSONAL APPEARANCES:** Summer Event Book: Bob Armstrong to ask if Council would like to advertise in the Summer Event Book for 2025. The annual cost \$1,104.00 which includes 2 Ads and Radio Commercials.

**Motion by CM-Eugene Navock to approve the Summer Event Book at the cost of \$1,104.00, Second by CM-Robert Jacobson.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**CM-Eugene Navock – Yes, CM-Robert Jacobson – Yes, CM-Mark Vaerten – Yes, CM-Patricia Jacobson – Yes.**

**4 – Yay’s    0 – Nay’s    2 – Absent    0 – Abstaining.**

**Motion Carried.**

**Denise Jones: Water Meters. Denise submitted 93 signatures stating they do not want the Water Meters installed in homes. Denise commented on several points going against the Water Meters.**

**POLICE REPORT: None.**

**PUBLIC HEARING: None.**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICE: Ethan Workman Absent. Manager Chuck Bennett gave Ethan’s report.**

**The Cemetery will be applying for a grant through the Lapeer County Community Foundation. This grant is to request funds for new street signs and garbage receptacles.**

**Ethan had meeting with the Spicer and Wade & Trim. Two consulting firms that are looking to assists the City with our Master Plan Update.**

**Ethan had a meeting with the County Administrator and County EDC, City Manager and local government to discuss ways to address the housing and childcare issues.**

**Ethan had a meeting with local officials and Sanilac County Emergency Manager to discuss countrywide plans for emergencies and how we can utilize funds in urgent times.**

**Manager Chuck Bennett and Ethan had a meeting with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation to discuss the Redevelopment Ready Communities program and how we can utilize the technical funds to help redo our zoning once the master plan is completed.**

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS:** (Anyone wishing to address the City Council concerning items not on the agenda may do so. When recognized by the Council, please state name and address for the record. Please direct all remarks to the whole City Council. The Council reserves the right to delay any action, if required, until such time as when they are fully informed on the matter.) Please note that Public Comments

are limited to three (3) minutes unless an extension is approved by a majority of the Council.

**Todd Vandewarker made several comments regrading the Water Meter's. Todd wanted to know how much this would cost each homeowner. Manager Bennett told Todd that we are in the beginning stages, and does not have all that information at this time.**

**RESOLUTIONS: Number 25-02; Resolution TO FORMALLY ADOPT GUIDELINES FOR POVERTY EXEMPTIONS FOR PROPERTY TAXES.**

**Motion by CM-Patricia Jacobons to approve Resolution 25-02 to Formally Adopt Guidelines for Poverty Exemptions for Property Taxes. Second by CM–Eugene Navock.**

**ROLL CALL VOTE: CM-MCIVOR-YES, CM-EUGENE NAVOCK-YES, CM-ROBERT JACOBSON-YES, CM-MARK VAERTEN-YES, CM-PATRICIA JACOBSON-YES.**

**Yay's - 4    Nays-0    Abstaining-0    Absent-2**

**Motion Carried.**

**ORDINANCES: None.**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Appointments:**

**Chris Page - Planning Commission**

**Angel Kreiner-Planning Commission**

**Jay Berry-Planning Commission**

**John Liebler - Cemetery Board**

**David Van Cura – Election Commission**

**Richard Lee – BOR**

**Kevin Miller – BOR**

**Larry Steigerwald – BOR**

**Motion by CM-Eugene Navock for the Reappointment of Chris Page, Angel Kreiner, Jay Berry for Planning Commission, John Liebler Cemetery Board, David Van Cura Election Commission, Richard Lee, Kevin Miller, Larry Steigerwald on the BOR. Second by CM-Mark Vaerten.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**CM-Eugene Navock – Yes, CM- Robert Jacobson – Yes, CM-Mark Vaerten – Yes, CM-Patricia Jacobson – Yes.**

**4 – Yay’s    0 – Nay’s    2 – Absent    0 – Abstaining.**

**Motion Carried.**

**Zoning:**

Two ordinances for Retail Marihuana Sales. Motion by CM-Mark Vaerten to refer the draft Zoning Ordinance to the Brown City Planning Commission for review and recommendation, Second by CM-Eugene Navock. Motion Carried.

**Board Openings:**

City Hall has created an application form for anyone interested in applying for the openings on Planning Commission, Park Board, and Festival Committee. The application form has been put on the City Website. It is also posted on Facebook if anyone is interested to please apply by 2/07/2025.

Motion by CM-Patricia Jacobson to appoint Angel Kreiner to the Park Board, and Planning Commission. Second by CM-Robert Jacobson. Motion Carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**2025 Park Mowing Contract:**

Rapid Lawn Maintenance price quote for the 2025 season. CM-Eugene Navock suggested that the Lawn Mowing to be bid out. CM-Patricia Jacobson and CM-Robert Jacobson agreed that the Lawn Mowing should be sent out for other bids.

**MANAGER’S REPORT:**

**LIFT STATION PROJECT:**

According to Project Manager from Fleice & Vandenbrink the supplies for the project are slated to arrive on time, so construction should start in the Spring of 2025.

**POLICE STATION:**

Police Chief McKibben, Officer Ron Smith, Ethan Workman and Manager Chuck Bennett toured the building next door to City Hall on the west side. This could be a possible site for a new Police Station in the future. Collectively we are going to gather information and see if we can submit for a grant to Senator Peters office that would assist in creating a Police Station, repair of City Hall Roof, and insulation and heating additional outbuildings for the DPW.

**MAYOR’S REPORT:**

Memorial Day Parade: Band will play in the parade, and will go to two cemeteries.  
Thank-You to D&N Vending/Steve Murray for the land donation.

**COMMITTEE REPORT'S:**

1. Building and Grounds (Navock): None.
2. Personnel/Park & Recreation (P.Jacobson): Personnel Meeting on 2/10/25 at 5:15 PM.
3. Streets and Sidewalks (Vaerten): MDOT Map. City would like to remove the drive to Emmie Die, Slaughter House Street.
4. Tax and Finance (Kohler): Meeting 2/10/25 after council meeting.
5. Water & Sewer (R.Jacobson): None.
6. Police (McIvor): None.

**PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS:** None.

**ATTORNEY'S REPORT:** None.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** None.

**CLERK'S REPORT:** None.

**GENERAL CONCERNS OF THE COUNCIL:**

Question if hole in Baptists Church was fixed. NO. Need to have building inspector evaluate.

SEMCO patch work on George Street is not good work.

DPW: None.

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:** SEE ATTACHED.

**CLOSED SESSION:** None Scheduled.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by CM-Eugene Navock, Second by CM-Patricia Jacobson to Adjourn the January 27, 2025, Regular Meeting of the City Council at 7:32 PM. Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pamela Willer  
City Clerk