

BROWN CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
MAY 12, 2025

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

PRESENT: Mayor Julie Miller, Councilmembers: Patricia Jacobson, Robert Jacobson, Neil Kohler, Ross McIvor, Eugene Navock, and Mark Vaerten, City Clerk - vacancy; City Manager Charles Bennett.

ABSENT: None.

GUESTS: Tyne Kreiner, Denise Jones, Jamie Bird, Angel Kreiner, Sara Muxlow, William Muxlow, Rae Ann Kreiner, Christine Lee, Kevin Miller, Michelle Cisilino, Gary Douglas, Mike Vislosky, David R. Van Cura.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE LED BY MAYOR JULE MILLER.

Mayor Miller read a letter from City Clerk Pam Willer informing the Council that she was resigning her position as city clerk effective April 30, 2025.

Mayor Miller asked how does the Council want to proceed to fill the vacancy. She reported that Sara Muxlow has expressed interest in being appointed to the city clerk position.

MOTION BY CM P. Jacobson, SECOND BY CM McIvor, to appoint Sara Muxlow as city clerk for the remainder of Pam Willer's term.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Navock – yes, Kohler – yes, McIvor – yes, R. Jacobson – yes, Vaerten – yes, P. Jacobson – yes. 6 – Yeas, 0 – Nays, 0 – Abstain, 0 – Absent. MOTION CARRIED.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:

1. Public Comment – County Commissioner Christine Lee emailed her report, she will be in attendance tonight to review it.
2. New Business – Discussion / Approval of the Union Labor Contract.

CORRECTION & APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to accept the minutes for the Regular Meeting of April 28, 2025:

Corrections –

Page 1 : motion regarding painting water tower add “Motion Carried”.

motion regarding approving minutes change “as written to as corrected”

Page 2 : add “already approved at a previous meeting” to sentence regarding donations for fireworks

Page 3: amend motion regarding new fencing donation “Motion by CM McIvor, Second by CM Vaerten to AMEND the motion by adding – “by a professional company and any damages will be covered”. Motion Carried.

Page 4: motion regarding concrete for the 43’/86’ building add “located in the park”
motion regarding scales for the tractor pulls add “located next to the pulling track”
remove “Attorney Greg Stremers” from Attorney’s Report

Page 5: Mayor’s Report – Memorial Day Parade add “anyone wanting to donate”

Adjournment – add to motion “Second by CM Ross McIvor”

MOTION BY CM Vaerten, SECOND BY CM R. Jacobson, to approve the minutes of April 28, 2025 as CORRECTED. MOTION CARRIED.

PAY BILLS:

MOTION BY CM P. Jacobson; SECOND BY CM Vaerten, TO PAY BILLS IN THE FOLLOWING FUNDS:

**General - \$31,056.77 (12682-12708),
Payroll - \$23,824.68 (11586-11600 plus EFT),
Major Streets – \$1194.86 (4195-4196),
Local Streets - \$645.14 (4455),
Sanitary Sewer - \$1,095.29 (4367-4369),
Water - \$2,991.43 (4022-4027),
Storm Sewer - \$0.00,
Lead & Copper - \$ 5,100.00 (178-179),
Equipment - \$2,635.54 (1979-1983),
Park & Recreation - \$1,650.00 (3121).
MOTION CARRIED.**

PUBLIC HEARING: None.

ORDINANCES: None.

RESOLUTIONS: None.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS: None.

PERSONAL APPEARANCES:

1. Michelle Cisilino, 4278 Wood Street – she supports allowing chickens in the City limits of Brown City. She offered a brief report on the health benefits of eggs and chickens. She had chickens at her previous residence.

Mayor Miller asked about the State of Michigan bill going into effect allowing chickens. Mayor Miller asked what is the Council's wishes regarding amending the current ordinance – take action now or wait. CM P. Jacobson said do it now. CM Vaerten and CM Kohler asked questions regarding enforcement. Council asked City Manager Bennett to contact other communities on how they enforce their ordinance and report back at the next meeting.

PERMITS: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Fire Department Water – Mayor Miller suggested that the Water and Sewer Committee meet to discuss the Fire Authority being charged for water used only in the Fire Hall. The Fire Authority Board is not happy with the current situation.
2. Brown City Park Lease – No action taken.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Arsenic Plant Repair – Currently the valves that operate the backwashing function at the arsenic plant are not working properly. Council asked DPW Supervisor Vislosky questions regarding the repair.

MOTION CM Kohler, SECOND by CM Navock, to approve the quote of \$17,574.00 from Northern Pump & Well to replace the valves that operate the backwashing function at the arsenic plant.

ROLL CALL VOTE: P. Jacobson – yes, Vaerten – yes, R. Jacobson – yes, McIvor – yes, Kohler – yes, Navock – yes. 6 – Yeas, 0 – Nays, 0 – Abstain, 0 – Absent.

MOTION CARRIED.

2. Sewer CD – The City has a CD for the Sewer Fund at Thumb Bank at an interest rate of 4% that is set to expire on 5-15-2025. We could move the money to Michigan Class at an average rate of 4.546%.

MOTION by CM Navock, SECOND by CM R. Jacobson, to move the funds from Thumb Bank to Michigan Class for a higher interest rate.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Navock – yes, Kohler – yes, McIvor – yes, R. Jacobson – yes, Vaerten – yes, P. Jacobson – yes. 6 -Yeas, 0 – Nays, 0 – Abstain, 0 – Absent.

MOTION CARRIED.

CLERK’S REPORT: None.

POLICE REPORT:

A written report was provided to the Mayor and Councilmembers by Police Chief Shane McKibben. Chief McKibben reported on the status of the new Blazer police car and the radar speed signs. The Police Committee may want to schedule a meeting to discuss the Explorer police car.

MANAGER’S REPORT:

1. Water Tower – The painting has been completed and the tower is back online.
2. Lift Station – Construction has started and the underground work portion may be done in 4 weeks then the above groundwork will start.
3. Perryman House – The Sanilac County Economic Development Office is soliciting contractors to start the rehab process.
4. Hydrant Flushing – It starts the week of May 12th.
5. Spring Cleanup – GFL has scheduled this for June 12th. with the regular City pick up.
6. Second May Meeting - It has been rescheduled for TUESDAY, May 27th at **5 PM**.
7. Discussion / Approval of the Union Labor Contract -

MOTION BY CM Kohler, SECOND BY CM P. Jacobson, to approve the Union Labor Contract with the correction of removing Pam Willer’s name as City Clerk.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Navock – yes, Kohler – yes, McIvor – yes, R. Jacobson – yes, Vaerten – yes, P. Jacobson – yes. 6 – Yeas, 0 – Nays, 0 – Abstain, 0 – Absent.

MOTION CARRIED.

ATTORNEY’S REPORT: None.

TREASURER’S REPORT: None.

Sanilac County Commissioner Christine Lee presented a report to each Councilmember and gave a brief overview.

MAYOR’S REPORT:

1. Memorial Day Parade – Mayor Miller is asking for food donations for the Veterans’ Dinner after the parade.
2. Proclamations – Mayor Miller will present proclamations honoring students from Brown City Community Schools at the next City Council meeting.
3. Congress Woman Lisa McClain will hold a round table meeting on May 27, 2025 at 1 PM at the Marlette Airport.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS: None.

CLOSED SESSION:

1. Spring Informal City Manager Evaluation and Goal Setting –

MOTION BY CM Navock, SECOND BY CM Kohler, to go into CLOSED SESSION at 6:43 PM to discuss the spring informal City Manager evaluation and goal setting.

ROLL CALL VOTE: P. Jacobson – yes, Vaerten – yes, R. Jacobson – yes, Mclvor – yes, Kohler – yes, Navock – yes. 6 – Yeas, 0 – Nays, 0 – Abstain, 0 – Absent. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY CM Kohler, SECOND BY CM Navock, to come out of CLOSED SESSION at 8:08 PM.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Navock – yes, Kohler – yes, Mclvor – yes, R. Jacobson – yes, Vaerten – yes, P. Jacobson – yes. 6 – Yeas, 0 – Nays, 0 – Abstain, 0 – Absent. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY CM Navock, SECOND BY CM R. Jacobson, to extend the Council Meeting beyond the two hour limit. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY CM Kohler, SECOND BY CM Navock, to establish a new city manager evaluation tool and city manager and city council goals. We plan to complete this over the next month. MOTION CARRIED.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Building and Grounds (Navock) – None.
2. Personnel (P. Jacobson) – None.
3. Police (Mclvor) – None.
4. Streets and Sidewalks (Vaerten) – None.
5. Tax and Finance (Kohler) – None.
6. Water and Sewer (R. Jacobson) – None.

COUNCIL QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

CM Neil Kohler thanked Pam Willer for her service as City Clerk. It was a pleasure working with her. CM Kohler welcomed Sara Muxlow as the new City Clerk.

CM P. Jacobson wanted to know the status of the old pharmacy building.

CM Mclvor asked about a tree on south Cade Road that has roots affecting drainage in the ditch.

Mayor Miller asked if Sanilac County could correct their records to match the City's street names of Corn Drive and Soybean Drive.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION BY CM Vaerten, SECOND BY CM Navock, TO ADJOURN THE MAY 12, 2025 MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL AT 8:18 P.M. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

David R. Van Cura, Administrative Assistant