

SPECIAL MEETING
BROWN CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
August 27, 2025

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY MAYOR JULIE MILLER AT 6:02 P.M.

PRESENT:

Mayor Julie Miller, Council Members: Patricia Jacobson, Mark Vaerten, Robert Jacobson, Ross McIvor, Neil Kohler, Eugene Navock, City Clerk Sara Muxlow, City Manager Charles Bennett.

ABSENT: None

GUESTS:

Rick Mitchell, Tom Ellenson, Earl Parker, Phil Bartle, Janic Bartle, Bill Muxlow, Steve Kalbfleisch, Tim Eagle, Travis Blatt, Mike Vislosky, Becky Vislosky, Grant Burgess, Robert Vinande, Kevin Miller, Dan Jones, Denise Jones, Todd Vandewarker, Sara McPherson, Chad Dempsey.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE LED BY MAYOR JULIE MILLER

A moment of silence was held for the passing of Park Board member Ray Dupuie.

OLD BUSINESS: Joint Meeting with the Brown City Area Fire Authority to discuss the agreement where the Authority would flush City Fire Hydrants as payment for their water bill.

An agreement in years past was that if the Fire Building was built within the city limits that the Fire Authority wouldn't be charged a water bill. Flushing the hydrants may be something the Fire Authority may want to do to cover the cost of their water bill.

There are 92 Hydrants in the city limits. The hydrants are usually scheduled to be flushed throughout a week. Mike Vislosky commented that he didn't know how to make the Fire Authority helping with this task work, due to the issues in other areas that may come up during the day. He wouldn't want someone from the Fire Authority to come to help but have to send them home after only a couple hours. Chairman Dempsey isn't sure they want to flush hydrants for the fact it's hard to get volunteers during the day. It comes down to the legality of the situation. The water can't be a free service from the City. The Mandate precedes the verbal agreement of free water. An in kind service would have to be used in place of the water bill payment.

Sara McPherson asked the definition of water services. She wonders if they can provide other services such as cleaning ditches, planting native plants, removing invasive species, stabilizing erosion, clean storm drains, paint/chemical disposal, education programs of water contamination, watershed management policies, wetland protection, and snow removal. That all helps provide water quality. The answer was that the service has to be directly affiliated with the water system.

There's no charge to residents in City limits for a run from the Fire Department. CM Kohler asked since Brown City doesn't get charged for runs, can the City pay the water bill just to cover the original agreement. The attorney would like to see the original agreement in order to make an answer.

They have agreed to table the issue so everyone has more time to have discussions with their lawyers before a decision is made to resolve the issue.

The Fire Building has always had a water meter but only started receiving a water bill around a year ago. The meter doesn't count for filling the fire trucks.

Resolving the water bill issue needs to make sure it doesn't become an issue years down the road.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by CM Kohler, Second by CM Vaerten, to Adjourn the August 27, 2025 Special Meeting of the City Council at 6:51 P.M.

MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Muxlow
City Clerk