

# **BROWN CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS**

**April 27, 2026**

City Hall, 4205 Main St. Brown City

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

**PRESENT:**

Mayor Julie Miller, Council Members: Patricia Jacobson, Robert Jacobson, Mark Vaerten, Ross McIvor, Neil Kohler, Gino Navock, City Clerk Sara Muxlow, City Manager Kyle Harris.

**ABSENT:**

**GUESTS:**

Lt. Perez BCPD, Chief Gorski BCPD, Mike Vislosky DPW, Denise Jones, Dan Jones, Tara Owens, Kevin Miller, Angel Kreiner, Larry Steigerwald, Ron Kile Jr., Bonnie Bonesteel, Ruth O'Malley.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE LED BY MAYOR JULIE MILLER

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

Add #4 to New Business- \$750 for the Garden Club

**CORRECTIONS & APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

1. Regular Meeting of April 13, 2026- Motion by CM Navock, Second by CM McIvor to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from April 13, 2026 as written. MOTION CARRIED

**PUBLIC HEARING:** None.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** Council received committee minutes from Park and Recreation, Festival Commission, Cemetery Board and Fire Authority.

**PAY BILLS:**

Motion by CM Kohler, Second by CM Vaerten, to pay the bills as presented in the following funds:

General- 22,298.01 (13142-13157)

Payroll- 24,162.34 (11993-12003)

Sanitary Sewer- 11,964.09 (4478-4480)

Water- 12,279.56 (4214-4216)  
Storm Sewer- 735.50 (1411-1412)  
Equipment- 8,409.70 (2048-2049)  
Parks- 1,261.97 (3179-3181)  
Major Streets- 469.74 (4217)  
Local Streets- 451.45 (4474)  
MOTION CARRIED.

DPW REPORT: No questions were asked about the DPW report.

POLICE REPORT: The new Police Chief Gary Gorski introduced himself. CM McIvor welcomed him to the community. Lt. Perez announced that his last working day will be Thursday and stated that it was a pleasure working with everyone.

PERMITS: None.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: Denise Jones 4288 Main St. discussed her concern for the FCC's safety standards for cell antennas and EMF sensitivities. Has concerns for citizens having the new smart water meters installed and causing health issues. She also has concerns that with having the meters inside homes it becomes the residence responsibility for repairs if the water meter leaks. She gave Mayor Miller a packet that went over her concerns.

Ruth O'Malley has a concern that she doesn't have a crawl space and worries about the crew cutting into her house for the water meter install, and she as the homeowner having to cover repairs if something goes wrong. Mayor Miller reassured that the City would not make it the homeowners responsibility for the meter install. DPW Mike said that where the line comes into the house is more than likely where the meter will be and that he doesn't foresee having to cut into anyone's homes. City Manager Harris added that ideally the meters will go into crawl spaces or basements unless you don't have one. Mayor Miller added that the water meters are a necessity for Brown City. City Manager Harris stated that the data from the meters will be collected and the billing on the meters won't take effect till April of 2027.

Larry Steigerwald questioned the grant of 2 million that he believes can only go toward the sewer issues and not the water. CM B. Jacobson assured that there are different grants for the water project and the sewer lines.

Denise questioned about the 2030 agenda and if the water meter project has anything to do with that. Mayor Miller answered no.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Earned sick and safe time language- February 21, 2025 this language wasn't added to the draft. It needs to be added to the personnel policies. Motion by CM Kohler, Second by CM Mclvor to approve the language to be put in the Sick Leave handbook.

ROLL CALL VOTE: CM Navock- Yes CM P. Jacobson- Yes CM Vaerten- Yes  
CM Kohler- Yes CM Mclvor- Yes CM B. Jacobson- Yes  
6- Yes 0- No 0- Abstaining 0- Absent

MOTION CARRIED

2. New Website - Civic Plus- Civic Plus gave the best product for the price. The initial cost is \$8,787.93 with an annual cost of \$9,017.35.

Motion By Cm Kohler, Second by CM P. Jacobson to approve the system from Civic Plus to make the system ADA Compliant.

ROLL CALL VOTE: CM B. Jacobson- Yes CM Kohler- Yes CM P. Jacobson-  
Yes CM Mclvor- Yes CM Vaerten- Yes CM Navock- Yes  
6- Yes 0- No 0- Abstaining 0- Absent

MOTION CARRIED

3. Chapters 50 and 52 in the General Provisions updates- Chapter 53 is Water and Sewer Systems, Meters, and Utility Rates. These should have been added when the meters were discussed over a year ago. This will be sent into the paper now that it's been presented. It will be approved at a future meeting. A Public hearing had been scheduled for the next meeting May 12, 2026 at 6:05 pm.

Motion by CM Kohler, Second by CM B. Jacobson to have a public for chapters 50 & 52 on May 12, 2026 at 6:05 pm.

MOTION CARRIED

4. CM P. Jacobson presented a request for \$750 to the garden club to offset the cost of the flowers and containers for the downtown area.

Motion by CM. P Jacobson, Second by CM Mclvor to give the Garden Club \$750 to offset the cost of the flowers and replacement of containers.

ROLL CALL VOTE: CM Navock- Yes CM Vaerten- Yes CM Mclvor- Yes CM  
P. Jacobson- Yes CM Kohler- Yes CM B. Jacobson- Yes  
6- Yes 0- No 0- Abstaining 0- Absent

MOTION CARRIED

MANAGERS REPORT: Subcontractors were out boring into the streets this week. That had to be done before the project could get started. Over 100 residents have scheduled to get their houses inspected for meters.

The Eastern Michigan Council of Governments is working with the City to re-do the 5 year plan for the parks with funds they had leftover from the DNR.

Chief Gorski started full time today. With Lt. Perez leaving soon, we will be promoting officer Kahn to full time. The Perryman house was set to be taken down tomorrow.

CLERKS REPORT: None.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Memorial Day is coming quickly with a parade and a dinner to follow afterward. There's a fireworks permit for Tuesday during the festival. Motion by CM P. Jacobson, Second by CM B. Jacobson to approve Mayor Miller to sign the permit for the Tuesday Fireworks during the festival.

MOTION CARRIED

The festival will take place on June 7 - 14. The time capsule will be dug up on Sunday the 7th and if anyone would like to put anything in the new time capsule citizens can get an envelope at Tri-County Bank or the Library.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Building and Grounds (Navock)- None.
2. Personnel (P. Jacobson)- None.
3. Streets and Sidewalks (Vaerten)- None.
4. Tax and Finance (Kohler)- None.
5. Water and Sewer (B. Jacobson)- None.
6. Police and Park (Mclvor)- None. City Manager Harris added that officer Kahn will be upgraded to full time, and it was discussed to the other officers about becoming Sargent.

CLOSED SESSION: None.

COUNCIL QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: CM P. Jacobson asked about the 2nd meeting in May being Memorial Day if the meeting can be moved to Tuesday May 26th. Motion by CM P. Jacobson, Second by CM Kohler to move the May 25th meeting to Tuesday May 26th at 6:00 pm. MOTION CARRIED

CM Vaerten added thank you to Lt. Perez for the years he's serviced Brown City and welcome to Chief Gorski.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by CM Vaerten, Second by CM Navock, to Adjourn the April 27, 2026 Meeting of the City Council at 6:37 P.M.

MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Muxlow  
City Clerk