

**BROWN CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS**  
**APRIL 14, 2025**

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

PRESENT: Mayor: Julie Miller; Councilmembers: Robert Jacobson, Patricia Jacobson, Ross McIvor, Neil Kohler, Eugene Navock, City Manager Charles Bennett, City Clerk Pamela Willer.

ABSENT: Mark Vaerten.

GUESTS: Mike Vislosky, Denise Jones, Dan Jones, Tara Owens, BCPD Mark Perez, Sharron Tebo, Angel Kreiner, John Kreiner, Todd VanDewarker, Rae Ann Kreiner, Tyne Kreiner, Milton Proctor, Courtney Todorovski, Deb Artuch, Craig Archer, Ron Krick, Pam Sutton, Kevin Miller, Earl Parker, Charles Martin, Carly Walters, Trisha Celani, Sreane Skaff, Tabitha VanAssche.

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

**ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS AND DELETIONS TO AGENDA: Manager Report 3 additions.**

**CORRECTION & APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**CM-Eugene Navock to approve the Regular Council Meeting Minutes on March 24, 2025. Second by CM-Ross McIvor. Motion Carried.**

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

**03/25/2025 TO 04/14/25.**

**Following Funds: General - \$36,293.04 (12636 – 12667), Payroll - \$0.00, Includes EFT Tri-County Bank - \$0.00 State of Michigan - \$.00, Operating Engineers Dues - \$0.00, Major Streets - \$48.00 (4193), Local Street - \$.00, Sanitary Sewer - \$54,092.02 (4354 – 4361), Water - \$49,465.87 (3999 - 4010) , Arsenic – \$.00, Storm Sewer - \$3,100.00 (1395 - 1396), Lead & Copper – \$43,156.00 (173-176), Equipment - \$22,019.07 (1971 - 1976), Park - \$332.00 (3116 - 3117).**

**PUBLIC HEARING: None.**

**RESOLUTIONS:**

25-05; Resolution Adopting the Mutual Law Enforcement Assistance Agreement Between Sanilac County Sheriff's Office and the City of Brown City Police Department.

**Motion by CM-Neil Kohler to approve Resolution 25-05; Adopting the Mutual Law Enforcement Assistance Agreement Between Sanilac County Sheriff's Office and the City of Brown City Police Department. Second by CM-Eugene Navock.**

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**CM-Ross McIvor – Yes, CM-Neil Kohler – Yes, CM-Eugene Navock – Yes, CM-Robert Jacobson – Yes, CM-Patricia Jacobson – Yes.**

**Yay's 5, Nay's 0, Absent 1, Abstaining 0.  
Motion Carried.**

**PERSONAL APPEARANCES: None.**

**POLICE REPORT: Chief Shane McKibben wants to know if there is anything specific Council would like to see from the signs.**

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: See Attached Report.**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICE:** City of Brown City and Brown City School held a contest with the Brown City students regarding a new motto for the water tower. They came up with two responses:

**"Brown City: Rooted in Tradition, Growing with Heart" - Emma McClintic, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade.**

**"Home of the Green Devils" – Della Schumacher, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade.**

**Motion by CM-Patricia Jacobson to have the water tower painted green & white with Brown City printed on the tower, and have the Motto: "Rooted in Tradition, Growing with Heart" placed under the City of Brown City Logo. Second by CM-Eugene Navock.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**CM-Ross McIvor – Yes, CM-Neil Kohler – Yes, CM-Eugene Navock – Yes, CM-Robert Jacobson – Yes, CM-Patricia Jacobson – Yes.**

**Yay's 5, Nay's 0, Absent 1, Abstaining 0.  
Motion Carried.**

**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.

**Sharron Tebo stated her concern about the Marijuana Dispensary. Sharron gave a copy of the signed petition objecting to the Dispensary to Council. Sharron also put an article in the paper.**

**Pam Sutton questioned why the Dispensary could not be away from down town area?**

**Criag Archer feels location of Dispensary is not good for the town. Asked if it could be put to a vote.**

**Kevin Miller doesn't feel Dispensary would not be a good financially for the town.**

**Courtney Todorovski turned in a petition to Council to amend the ordinance to have chickens in the City Limits. Courtney asked for the council to consider the true thoughts and concerns regarding housing chickens.**

**Denise Jones voiced her concerns about Smart Water Meters. Denise stated if the meter doesn't heat up then it is ok for the skin. She gave hand outs to Council on the cons to having water meters.**

**Carley Waters is also against having water meters.**

Tara Ownes asked if Council had any questions regarding the questions she gave Council at the March 24, 2025 meeting. No Reply.

### **Marijuana Ordinance:**

At the last Planning Commission meeting the decision on the Zoning was tabled. A recommendation was made by Chairman Todd Vandewarker to ask City Council to set a joint working meeting with Council, Planning Commission and City Attorney, Allen Francis.

CM Neil Kohler questioned what is the gain for the working meeting?  
Todd Vandewarker questioned what the Planning Commission should do, and needs direction from Council and Attorney Allen Francis. Todd said he had no recommendation to give to Council. City needs to be protected from any liability that the Dispensary could cause. Ja

**CM-Ross Mclvor moved that the Planning Commission cease it's review of the zoning ordinance regarding the zoning of certain marijuana facilities unless directed in the future by City Council. Second by CM-Patricia Jacobson to stop the zoning for the marijuana dispensary.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**CM-Ross Mclvor Yes, CM-Neil Kohler Yes, CM-Eugene Navock Yes, CM-Robert Jacobson Yes, CM-Patricia Jacobson Yes.**

**Yay's 5, Nay's 0, Absent 1, Abstaining 0.  
Motion Carried.**

#### **PARK BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

Jared McPhail of the Park Board of Directors had requested that Chuck let Council know that they received back the information on who from the original members would still like to be on the Park Board of Directors. Currently they have BC School's, Rotary, City Council, Burnside Twp. Jeff Liebler is currently working with their attorney to make the changes to the Articles of Organization.

**CM-Neil Kohler asked when the lease is up and that will be the end of 2026.  
CM-Neil Kohler requested a copy of the lease to look at.**

#### **BC PARK BOARD recommendations from last meeting:**

1. Carl's Septic Service to provide 3 regular porta-let units and 1 Handicapped unit at a cost of \$530.00.

**Motion by CM-Eugene Navock to approve Carl's Septic to provide the porta-let units for the park. Second by CM-Ross Mclvor. Motion Carried.**

2. Park Lawn Mowing: Park Board recommends having Rapid Lawn Maintenance for 2025 contract.

**Motion by CM-Robert Jacobson to approve the contract with Rapid Lawn Maintenance at \$625.00 per mowing, \$200.00 per trim, and \$100.00 for special field mowing maximum at \$22,000.00. Second by CM-Neil Kohler.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**CM-Ross Mclvor -Abstained, CM-Neil Kohler- Yes, CM-Eugene Navock - Yes, CM-Robert Jacobson- Yes, CM-Patricia Jacobson – Yes.**

**Yay's 4, Nay's 0, Abstaining 1, Absent 1.  
Motion Carried.**

3. Park Board recommends having Ross Mclvor brush hog the Lincoln Street area of the park for 3 cuts at \$200.00 a cut for the 2025 Season.

**Motion by CM-Neil Kohler to approve Ross Mclvor to brush hog the Lincoln Street area of the park for 3 cuts at \$200.00 each cut for the 2025 Season.  
Second by CM-Eugene Navock.  
Motion Carried.**

**CLERK'S REPORT: None.**

**ORDINANCES: None.**

**OLD BUSINESS: None.**

**NEW BUSINESS: None.**

**MANAGER'S REPORT:**

**PARK GRANT:**

Park Chairwomen Tara Owens was notified on the Sanilac County Community Foundation opening for submitting Spring Grant requests. It was suggested that the grant request be for some high quality trash cans for the park. Manager Chuck Bennett will be working with Tara Ownes and Ethan Workman to submit the grant request.

**Council would like the grant submitted for the trash cans.**

**STORM SEWER:**

Manager Chuck Bennett met with Committee Chair Robert Jacobson after the heavy rains, and drove around town and identified storm sewer problem areas. Welles and Maple Streets were identified as those streets that need work first. Currently Welles Street south of Maple Street does not work at all due to tree roots and a broken jetter bit in the pipe. Maple Street does not flow very well due to the various heights of culverts. Chuck spoke to F&V and gave them a map of the area to start the process on investigating our options.

**REPAIRS TO EXPLORER:**

The repairs for the Explorer will total \$1,600.00. Would Council like to see the repairs completed?

**Motion by CM-Ross Mclvor to approve the repairs for the Explorer at \$1,600.00.  
Second by CM-Robert Jacobson.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**CM-Ross Mclvor Yes, CM-Neil Kohler Yes, CM-Eugene Navock Yes,  
CM-Robert Jacobson Yes, CM-Patricia Jacobson Yes.**

**Yay's 5, Nay's 0, Abstaining 0, Absent 1.  
Motion Carried.**

#### **UTILITY SOFTWARE UPGRADE:**

Currently the City uses EI Dorado for the utility software. Over the past 2 years the City has received overwhelming response from Citizens that they could pay their utility bills online.

The City currently pays \$750.00 a year for annual support with EI Dorado.  
The upgrade would be \$1,800.00 a year. One time portal setup fee of \$420.00.  
The City keeps 100% of each sale, and if we process over \$5,000.00 a month the cost to the City is free. Under \$5,000.00 the cost would be \$30.00.  
Residents would be charged a fee on the portal for using their credit card. The charge would be 3.5% or a minimum of \$2.95.

**Motion by CM-Neil Kohler to upgrade the Utility Software with a 1 time set up fee of \$420.00, and \$1,800.00 upgrade for the year. Second by CM-Eugene Navock.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**CM-Ross Mclvor Yes, CM-Neil Kohler Yes, CM-Eugene Navock Yes,  
CM-Robert Jacobson Yes, CM-Patricia Jacobson Yes.**

**Yay's 5, Nay's 0, Abstaining 0, Absent 1.  
Motion Carried.**

#### **VET'S PARK MISSILE"**

Manager Chuck Bennett would like to thank the BC Schools Shop Students Colin Hurley and Robert Browning for repairing the fins on the Missile at Vets Park. Thank you to the Shop Teachers, Aren Cooper, Brett Metzger and Shop Aid Ron Bennett.

#### **LIFT STATION:**

According to the project Engineer the lift station is slated to begin construction at the end of April or early May 2025.

**POLICE:**

BCPD is starting the annual pool inspections, and they are also taking notes of any undriveable cars and contacting owners.

**BC REC:**

Neil Kohler would like to replace fencing and add fencing to the baseball fields. There is a problem with field #4. It went through Council 4/25/23 to make field #4 a parking lot. This will need to be rectified before continuing.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Memorial Day Parade: Contact Julie Miller if you want to put something in parade.  
Proclamation to honor students: Aidlyn Pasco/Wrestling, Connor Burgess/Power Lift and Rebecca Rickman.

**DPW REPORT:** None.

**COMMITTEE REPORT'S:**

1. **Building and Grounds (Navock):** None.
2. **Personnel (P.Jacobson):** Chris with local 324 Meeting 4/23/25 at 10 AM at City Hall.
3. **Streets and Sidewalks (Vaerten):** Traffic flow ask MDOT.
4. **Tax and Finance (Kohler):** Question number of hours PD and have no coverage.
5. **Water & Sewer (R.Jacobson):** Meeting 4/17/25 @ 1:00 PM to discuss Fire Authority Water Bill.
6. **Police & Park (Mclvor):** None.

**PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS:** None.

**ATTORNEY'S REPORT:** None.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** None.

**CLERK'S REPORT:** None.

**GENERAL CONCERNS OF THE COUNCIL:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by CM-Neil Kohler to Adjourn the April 14, 2025, Regular Meeting of the City Council at 7:28 PM. Second by CM-Ross Mclvor. Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pamela Willer  
City Clerk