

BROWN CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
January 26, 2026

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

There was a moment of silence for Dave VanCura's mom Shirley that passed away a couple weeks ago and for a grandson of Mike that has passed.

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

None

GUESTS:

Chief McKibben, Lt. Perez, Tara Owens, Angel Kreiner, Becky Vislosky, Mike Vislosky, Bill Muxlow, Kevin Miller.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE LED BY MAYOR JULIE MILLER

ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS, AND DELETIONS TO AGENDA: Addition to New Business #2 Strategic Planning.

CORRECTIONS & APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes from January 12, 2026

Motion by CM Navock, Second by CM Vaerten, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from January 12, 2026 as written. MOTION CARRIED

COMMUNICATIONS: Minutes were submitted for Building and grounds, Park Board, Festival Commission, and Fire Authority. No questions.

PAY BILLS:

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

General- 3,965.332 (13028-13039)

Payroll- 24,005.20 (11894-11907)

Sanitary Sewer- 44398 (4452-4453)

Water- 861.01 (4173-4174)

Equipment- 300.00 (2028)

Parks- 116.10 (3172)
MOTION CARRIED.

DPW REPORT: Mayor Miller thanked Mike and the DPW staff for doing a great job keeping the streets clear. She addressed questions about the plow trucks not stopping at stop signs, and stated that all plow trucks have the right of way and do not have to stop at stop signs.

PERMITS: None.

PUBLIC HEARING: None.

ORDINANCES: None.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: Mike Vislosky DPW Supervisor - Addressed his concerns about trying to plow the snow around multiple parked cars on city streets when there is a city ordinance from November 1st till April 1st stating that cars can't be on city streets between the hours of 2AM till 6AM. He questioned why these cars haven't been fined.

The City doesn't have an officer on duty during those hours, during winter months, so it was discussed that the issue could be resolved by the city police having an officer come in early to check for parked cars after a snow storm so the streets are clear for DPW workers.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Pay Request- Regarding the festival accounts due to spending to replace Christmas ornaments that were broken, bingo equipment that was purchased for fundraising, and printing and postage for the festival. Kevin and Julie Miller covered the cost of these items and are asking council to approve for them to be reimbursed for the amount totaling \$1,323.18. Motion by CM Kohler, Second by CM Navock to approve the reimbursement of \$1,323.18 for festival costs.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

CM B. Jacobson- Yes CM Vaerten- Yes CM P. Jacobson- Yes CM Mclvor- Yes CM Kohler- Yes CM Navock- Yes 6-Yes 0-NO 0-Absent 0-Abstaining
MOTION CARRIED

2. Strategic Planning- City Manager Kyle believes that the City would benefit from having some strategic planning meetings. Since it has been quite some time

since any has been done, he'd like to have one planned for the near future. The planning would address any projects that are coming up and have everyone on the same page. Kyle talked to a friend at SVSU that would like to do the strategic planning for no cost. The recommended length for strategic planning is approximately a full day of 6-7 hours or 2 half days. He's looking to have this happen in the next couple months. Questions were asked how it ties into the master plan and the response is that strategic planning is for the next 3-5 years and the master plan is more for long-term goals.

MANAGERS REPORT: The funds for the stolen check for the Fire Authority has been replaced.

The millage language for the Park on the August ballot has been submitted to the city attorney to be reviewed. The deadline to file the millage language is May 14th.

A letter has been submitted to MDOT for the stop sign at the railroad crossing on Maple Valley Road. In order to have the sign changed, there would have to be traffic, train, and safety studies done and submitted.

The water bill increase for the infrastructure charge will be on letters sent to residents stating a \$25 charge instead of the \$22 he originally estimated, believing the charge could possibly be closer to the \$25. The cost needs to account for possible repairs in the future to the system. Letters will be sent out soon. Mayor Miller would like future meetings for the financial side of the water project to include all of the council so everyone is aware of the cost to residents. She can't recall discussing cost at previous council meetings.

Kyle stated that once meters are installed that the usage will be put on residence water bills so they are aware of how much water is being used but will still be charged a flat rate until next year sometime when the water meters are in full usage.

An additional letter will be sent along with the infrastructure charge letter due to the City not reporting the lead and copper lines in a timely manner. The 32 letters to affected properties weren't certified to the State by July 1, 2025. The letter just addresses how the City corrected the situation.

CLERK'S REPORT: None

MAYOR'S REPORT: Thanked the DPW again for keeping the streets clear.

The Park Lease was signed but they can't receive resource grants for the park due to the City not owning the land.

Mayor Miller has asked that police be present at all council meetings. She was expecting more residents to be at the meeting due to a recent Facebook post about one of the officers. It was addressed in a newspaper article recently. The Mayor wanted it to be known that she is not in on the hiring process. Manager Kyle added that in the

future there will be more hands in the hiring processes and that it wouldn't be delegated to any one individual, and any future applications will be brought to council.

The Fire Department got a new electric truck. Stated that Kyle addressed the water issue with the Fire Department and did a great job trying to keep everyone happy.

The Memorial Day Parade in May will be coming fast. The Whisky Jar had a veterans event that had organizations there to support veterans. She showed 2 of the t-shirts that they were selling and Cars for Vets has given 97 cars to vets. There's a meal for after the parade and is asking for donations.

The festival is looking for sponsors for the festival and you don't need a business to sponsor. Another Bingo will probably be held in March. More volunteers are needed, the meetings are the 2nd Wednesday at 6 PM.

People are looking for Soy Bean Drive and the sign is mislabeled as Industrial Drive.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Building and Grounds (Navock)- Met to discuss Police Department Building last Tuesday. Kyle added that he is reaching out to Senator Slotkin. She is doing a lot for public safety buildings and could come from the rural development fund.
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.

CLOSED SESSION: None.

COUNCIL QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by CM Navock, Second by CM Vaerten, to Adjourn the January 26, 2026 Meeting of the City Council at 7:09 P.M.

MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Muxlow
City Clerk