

BROWN CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

August 27, 2025

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY MAYOR JULIE MILLER AT 6:52 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:

GUESTS:

Earl Parker, Bill Muxlow, Mike Vislosky, Becky Vislosky, Kevin Miller, Dan Jones, Denise Jones, Todd Vandewarker, Sara McPherson, Dave VanCura, Officer Mark Perez.

ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS, AND DELETIONS TO AGENDA: New Business- Fleis & Vandenbrink bid for Buby Street. Managers Report- Lunch with Lisa McClain.

CORRECTIONS & APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by CM Navock, Second by CM P. Jacobson, to approve minutes as written for August 11, 2025. MOTION CARRIED.

PAY BILLS:

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

General- 10,551.46 (12844-12863)

Local Streets- 36.01 (4464)

Sanitary Sewer- 25,220.81 (4399-4407)

Water- 4,438.42 (4093-4096)

Equipment- 3,032.49 (1999-2000)

Parks- 128.57 (3149)

MOTION CARRIED.

DPW Report- Fire Hydrant on Cade Road is fixed.

PERMITS: None.

PUBLIC HEARING: None.

ORDINANCES: None.

RESOLUTIONS: None.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Fleis & Vandenbrink- Astec Asphalt was the low bid for the Buby Street Improvements. The City will pay for half and the State will pay for the other half. After Council approves, the bid will go to MDOT for approval.

Motion by CM Navock, Second by B. Jacobson to approve Astec Asphalt for the amount of \$71,555.00.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Pat Jacobson- Yes, Mark Vaerten- Yes, Bob Jacobson- Yes, Ross McIvor- Yes, Neil Kohler- Yes, Gino Navock- Yes

6 - Yes 0 - No 0 - Abstain 0 - Absent

MOTION CARRIED

Maple Street Storm Water- There was one bid on the Maple Street Ditching project from Daws Excavating for \$12,600.00.

Motion By CM Kohler, Second by CM Vaerten to approve the bid of \$12,600 from Daws Excavating for the Maple Street Ditching Project.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Pat Jacobson- Yes, Mark Vaerten- Yes, Bob Jacobson- Yes, Ross McIvor- Yes, Neil Kohler- Yes, Gino Navock- Yes

6 - Yes 0 - No 0 - Abstain 0 - Absent

MOTION CARRIED

Ford Explorer Bid- Three bids were placed for the decommissioned Ford Explorer.

1. Mike Ayoub for \$5,000.00
2. Tom Orton for \$5,195.00
3. Ringwood Motors for \$555.00

Motion by CM Kohler, Second by CM Vaerten to award the bid of \$5,195.00 to Tom Orton for the Ford Explorer.

MOTION CARRIED

Equipment- Three quotes for a new DPW truck.

1. Milnes Ford- 2026 F-250 Service Body- \$54,069
2. Milnes Chevrolet- 2025 Chevrolet 2500 HD Service Body- \$59,800

3. Tubbs Brothers- 2024 Ram 2500 Tradesman Service Body- \$55,000
Tri-County Bank offered a 5 year loan at 5% interest for a once a year payment.
The new truck would be the primary DPW truck, the 2015 truck will transition to a secondary truck, and the 2008 truck will become a dedicated salt / plow truck. Each truck would have a similar look and service box. The Chevy would be preferred due to a better suspension. A plan was discussed to undercoat the new truck.
Motion by CM Vaerten, Second by B. Jacobson to approve the Milnes Chevrolet 2025 Chevrolet 2500 HD Service Body for \$59,800
ROLL CALL VOTE: Pat Jacobson- Yes, Mark Vaerten- Yes, Bob Jacobson- Yes, Ross McIvor- Yes, Neil Kohler- Yes, Gino Navock- Yes
6 - Yes 0 - No 0 - Abstain 0 - Absent
MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

Denise Jones 4288 Main Street addressed her concerns for the Master Plan Survey and feeling like many of the questions were too personal. Asked about a referendum for the water meters because there were enough signatures. Still worries for the health concerns with the Smart Water Meters.

MANAGERS REPORT:

Lunch with Lisa McClain- The grant has made it past the federal appropriations committee. They approve the amount the City can receive. Brown City asked for 2 million, and it has made it past the next round.

Police- A new part time officer has been hired. Officer Robert Arnold, also working in Capac, will be starting this week to cover shifts that Officer Ron Smith isn't here for.

City Hall- Ethan Workman has decided to work for the EMS on nights and weekends and is going to take over Dave VanCura's position when he retires starting January 1st. Dave will be working 2 hours per day starting January 1st. The school will be contacted then to see if there's any student interested in an intern position.

CM McIvor would have liked to see the position posted.

CM P. Jacobson would like to see Ethan have the position.

CM Navock thinks it's fine to hire him.

CM Kohler would like to see the job posted at least internally but believes Ethan will be a good fit.

CM Vaerten thinks Ethan is a good pick but would also like to see the position posted.

CM B. Jacobson thinks the same. He's a good fit.

Motion by CM Vaerten, Second by CM Navock to hire Ethan Workman to take over Dave VanCura's position starting January 1, 2026.

MOTION CARRIED

Training- The MSU Extension Online Training Course for, Zoning Board of Appeals, is halfway covered by the Insurance Company. They'll be paying a small grant of \$62.50.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

A Proclamation from the City of Brown City and City Council, was given to Sara McPherson for the 60 backpacks and supplies that she presented to City Council and donated to Brown City Elementary School.

There is a new tobacco store in town. It's believed that there will only be tobacco and vaping products sold there.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Building and Grounds (Navock)- None
2. Personnel (P. Jacobson)- None
3. Streets and Sidewalks (Vaerten)- The Sidewalk on George Street is completed and looks nice.
4. Tax and Finance (Kohler)- None
5. Water and Sewer (B. Jacobson)- None
6. Police and Park (McIvor)- Ray Dupuie's passing and he will be missed.

Closed Session- None

COUNCIL QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

CM Kohler commented welcome to Ethan and prayers to Ray's family.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

Earl Parker from The Whisky Jar on Main Street would like to see how to get a mailbox out front of their establishment. There's a mailbox on either side of them but are told there is a circle that can't get a mailbox.

Julie Miller wants to know how big she can get a culvert on a property she owns on Buby Street. Disappointed about a water bill that had been paid but she received a shutoff notice. She called the City Manager and would have appreciated a call back but instead received an email addressed to Mayor Miller. Would like respect as a citizen

and would have preferred to have a personal phone call, not an email sent to everyone on council.

Earl Parker commented that communication seems to be an issue that is brought up most during this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by CM Vaerten, Second by CM P. Jacobson, to Adjourn the August 27, 2025 Meeting of the City Council at 7:46 P.M.

MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Muxlow
City Clerk