

BROWN CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
MARCH 10, 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, Mark Vaerten, Neil Kohler, Eugene Navock, City Manager Charles Bennett, City Clerk Pamela Willer.

ABSENT: None.

GUESTS: Commissioner Chris Lee, Mike Vislosky, Denise Jones, Dan Jones, Tara Owens, BCPD Mark Perez, Sharon Tebo, Bill Muxlow, Sara Muxlow, Angel Kreiner, Beck Visloskey, Danny Loutzenhiser, David Engle, Howie Thompson, Todd VanDewarker, Barb Linck, Louis Meeks, Jay Berry, Nichole Curtis, Eileen Meeks, Robert Meeks, Angel Kreiner, Larry Mael.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE LED BY MAYOR JULIE MILLER.

ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS AND DELETIONS TO AGENDA:

CORRECTION & APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Roll Call Vote correction: CM – Ross McIvor Yes, CM – Neil Kohler Yes, CM- Robert Jacobson Yes, CM- Patricia Jacobson Yes, CM – Mark Vaerten Yes.

Correction: EV charger in the police garage has been installed.

Correction: DPW is doing a good job with the snow removal.

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

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

02/25/2025 TO 03/10/25.

Following Funds: General - \$12,508.58 (12592– 12615), Payroll - 02/19/2025 / TO 03/04/2025, \$24,097.10 (11505 – 11519), Includes EFT Tri-County Bank - \$5,126.99, State of Michigan - \$.00, Operating Engineers Dues - \$139.50, Major Streets - \$.00, Local Street - \$.00, Sanitary Sewer - \$6,165.93 (4344 – 4350), Water - \$7,974.29 (3986 - 3995) , Arsenic – \$.00, Storm Sewer - \$.00, Lead & Copper – \$3,380.00 (172), Equipment - \$2,892.42 (1964 - 1968).

PERSONAL APPEARANCES: None.

POLICE REPORT: Speed Signs have a problem can't reset them.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: New Website: SanilacCounty.org. Asked Council to go online and see if Brown City info is correct. See Attached Report.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICE: None.

PUBLIC HEARING: Hearing opened at 6:05PM.

Denise Jones doesn't agree with the Dispensary due to elderly can't afford to live now, and she feels a Dispensary would increase prices.

Public Hearing closed at 6:08PM.

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.

Sharon Tebo stated her concern about the Marijuana Dispensary. Sharon had signed petition from several business owners in Brown City objecting to the Dispensary. Sharon feels Dispensary should be 1000 ft from residential area's.

Dan Loutzenhiser question ordinance and said no ordinance no drama.

Nicole Curtis feels Brown City is not set up for a Dispensary. Will bring in the wrong people into Brown City.

William Muxlow question if a person is pulled over due to marijuana will they be arrested, and is it a Federal Offense.

Chief McKibben said Yes, but there would have to be a reason to pull someone over.

PARK BOARD:

Tara Owens had concerns to bills that were paid between 12/16/24 to 12/27/24. She feels checks were wrote and sent out without approval. She questions amount differences for surge protectors. No bills have been approved since December 2024.

The 1/13/25 minutes she feels were very vague. Park & Rec should be online.

The 5/1/24 Rec donation of \$300.92 she doesn't know where it went. There is a difference in balance.

An Ordinance To Amend Appendix 1 And Appendix 2 of Chapter 52 Of The Brown City Code to Reflect A Necessary Increase In The Monthly Utility Fees and Subsequently Adjust Rates Annually For Inflation (CPI) Published By The United States Government; And Adjust To The Whole Dollar Amount.

**Motion by CM-Neil Kohler to approve Ordinance To Amend Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 of Chapter 52 Of The Brown City Code to reflect a necessary increase in the Monthly Utility Fees.
Second by CM-Robert Jacobson.**

Roll Call Vote:

**CM-Ross McIvor – Yes CM-Neil Kohler -Yes CM-Eugene Navock – Yes
CM-Robert Jacobson – Yes CM-Mark Vaerten – Yes CM- Patricia Jacobson – Yes**

**Yay's 6 Nay's 0 Abstaining 0 Absent 0
Motion Carried.**

MERGER OF WATER & ARSENIC FUNDS: Tax & Finance Committee had made a motion to recommend to Council to Merge the Water & Arsenic funds.

Motion by CM-Robert Jacobson to merge Water & Arsenic Funds. Second by CM-Eugene Navock. Motion Carried.

Annual Budget- Council needs to set a date and time for the Annual Budget Public Hearing.

CM – Neil Kohler made a motion to set a time and date for Annual Budget Meeting Hearing on 3/24/25 at 6:05PM. Second by CM – Mark Vaerten. Motion Carried.

ORDINANCES: A violation letter was sent to 4308 Main Street for having chickens. This is in violation of ordinance 92.06. Property owners were given until March 28th to correct this issue.

No contact as yet! Mgr Chuck Bennett drove by property.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

PERMITS- 6825 St. Mary's Street

A permit request from a contractor to build a Sunroom at 6825 St. Mary's Street was approved as it met the setback. A building permit was issued, the contractor was directed to go to the County as well.

NEW BUSINESS: Approval of Annual Wage Increase.

Motion by CM-Eugene Navock to approve the Annual Wage Increase. Second by CM-Neil Kohler.

Roll Call Vote:

**CM-Ross Mclvor – Yes, CM-Neil Kohler – Yes, CM-Eugene Navock- Yes
CM-Robert Jacobson – Yes, CM-Mark Vaerten- Yes, CM-Patricia Jacobson – Yes. Motion Carried.**

Yay's – 6 Nay's – 0 Abstaining – 0 Absent - 0

Health Insurance billing changes:

Motion by CM-Neil Kohler to approve Health Insurance billing changes. Second by CM-Mark Vaerten,

Roll Call Vote:

**CM-Ross Mclvor – Yes, CM-Neil Kohler – Yes, CM-Eugene Navock- Yes,
CM-Robert Jacobson – Yes, CM-Mark Vaerten – Yes, CM-Patricia Jacobson – Yes. Motion Carried.**

Yay's 6 Nay's 0 Abstaining – 0 Absent- 0.

Fireworks: General Conversation was held at the Tax & Finance Committee meeting on the topic of having the Festival Commission pay the full amount for the fireworks instead of half coming out of the general fund.

Motion by CM-Robert Jacobson for City to pay half of the Fire Works up to \$2500.00. Second by CM-Ross Mclvor.

Roll Call Vote:

**CM-Ross Mclvor – Yes, CM-Neil Kohler – Yes, CM-Eugene Navock – Yes,
CM-Robert Jacobson – Yes, CM-Mark Vaerten – Yes, CM-Patricia Jacobson – Yes. Motion Carried.**

PARK APPOINTMENT- Ray Dupie has applied to the Brown City Park Board for one of the open positions that requires the person to be a Brown City resident.

Motion by CM-Neil Kohler to approve Ray Dupie to the Brown City Park Board. Second by CM-Patricia Jacobson. Motion Carried.

Park Board Accounts: The Park Board would like to move \$7,723.00 in the savings/pool pavilion fund and \$5,000.00 out of the Park checking account and move to MI Class to increase the amount of interest that can be made.

Motion by CM-Ross Mclvor to amend the Pavilion Fund and move \$5,000.00 into the MI Class. 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-Mark Vaerten – Yes, CM-Patricia Jacobson – Yes. Motion Carried.

PARK BOARD EMERGENCY COMMITTEE: The Park Board has elected Roger Burgess, Louie Martus, and Ross Mclvor to be the Park Emergency Committee. They are looking for approval to spend up to \$400.00 in case of an emergency.

Motion by CM-Eugene Navock to approve elected Park Board members, Roger Burgess, Louie Martus, and Ross Mclvor to spend up to \$400.00 in case of an emergency. Second by CM-Neil Kohler. Ross Mclvor Abstained from the vote. Motion Carried.

PAVILLION RENTALS: The Park Board is recommending that the Park South Pavillion be closed, and available for rentals, while the Park North Pavillion be open all season with the doors chained open.

Motion by CM-Neil Kohler to approve the Park South Pavillion be available for rental, and the Park North Pavillion be open all season with doors chained open. Second by CM Eugene Navock. Motion Carried.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Wellhead Protection Program: The Wellhead protection committee got together to continue to go over potential sites that would be a good spot for a new well in case the City's needs replacing. The group has narrowed it down to four, our grant administrator is going to get with EGLE on what they think about these potential sites.

Part of the grant is community involvement. Ethan is working on this with the school. Some of the ideas we are working on is taking the science class to the well pump station so they can see where their water comes from. Getting a ground water diorama and doing a presentation in the science class. Potentially painting some Storm Sewer Manholes with water conservation art.
Site approval good for long term.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Memorial Day Parade: Contact Julie Miller if you want to put something in parade.

Proclamation for Steve Murray, Mayor Julie Miller read the Proclamation for Steve Murray. Steve donated land to the City.

Motion by CM-Ross Mclvor to approve Mike Frey on the Planning Commission Board. Second by CM-Neil Kohler. Motion Carried.

Mayor Julie Miller stated it seems no one wants the Marijuana Dispensary. Would Council like to discontinue with ordinance?

This will need to go to the Planning Commission before a decision can be made.

Mayor Julie Miller asked about the housing on Maple Valley Rd. They are still waiting for tax evaluation forms.

Audit need to bid out for next year.

Motion by CM-Neil Kohler to keep present auditor, and bid out for next year.

Second by CM-Robert Jacobson. Motion Carried.

DPW REPORT: None.

COMMITTEE REPORT'S:

- 1. Building and Grounds (Navock): None.**
- 2. Personnel (P.Jacobson): Union, Insurance, Pension meeting 3/17/25 at 10 AM at City Hall.**
- 3. Streets and Sidewalks (Vaerten): None.**
- 4. Tax and Finance (Kohler): Had meeting for Utility & pay increase.**
- 5. Water & Sewer (R.Jacobson): None.**
- 6. Police & Park (McIvor): None.**

PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS: None.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT: None.

TREASURER'S REPORT: None.

CLERK'S REPORT: None.

GENERAL CONCERNS OF THE COUNCIL:

Garbage can in ditch still need picking up.

Fire Board: An agreement was set back when the Fire Dept was built that if they did in the City they would not be charged for water. Last year they started to be charged. Gene Burgess asked if that could be removed.

Need legal agreement to correct/amend ordinance to remove meter.

Motion by CM-Ross McIvor to have a new ordinance drawn up to remove the water meter. Second by CM-Neil Kohler. Motion Carried.

CLOSED SESSION: None Scheduled.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by CM-Eugene Navock to Adjourn the March 10, 2025, Regular Meeting of the City Council at 7:11 PM. Second by CM-Neil Kohler. Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pamela Willer
City Clerk