

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

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

None

GUESTS:

Frank Cox, Susan Cox, Bill Muxlow, Kevin Miller, Dan Jones, Denise Jones, Chris Lee, Geric Rose, Wesley Messing, Tim Heiden, Mike Vislosky, Eric McGlothlin, Marc Perez, Shane McKibben.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE LED BY MAYOR JULIE MILLER

ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS, AND DELETIONS TO AGENDA: None

CORRECTIONS & APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by CM Navock, Second by CM McIvor to approve minutes as written for June 23, 2025. MOTION CARRIED.

PAY BILLS:

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

General- 49,962.84 (12775-12810)

Major Streets- 600.00 (4204)

Local Streets- 600.00 (4461)

Sanitary Sewer- 2,010.07 (4384-4389)

Water- 31,720.17 (4055-4076)

Lead and Copper- 8,700.00 (185)

Equipment- 16,454.56 (1991-1995)

Parks- 8,112.83 (3134-3141)

MOTION CARRIED.

Police Report: Chief McKibbon commented that everything has been quiet.

PERMITS: None

PUBLIC HEARING: A Public Hearing began at 6:05pm to discuss changing Ordinance 52.07 to allow for the annual Utility Rate Increase by official Resolution as opposed to an Ordinance change.

Denise Jones, 4288 Main Street, Brown City, questioned how the public will know when utility rates change if it's not posted in the paper. City Manager Bennett addressed that it will be on the agenda.

Public Hearing Closed at 6:07pm

Motion by CM Kohler, Second by CM Navock to approve the change of Ordinance 52.07

ROLL CALL VOTE:

CM P. Jacobson- Yes, CM Vaerten- Yes, CM B. Jacobson- Yes, CM McIvor- Yes, CM Kohler- Yes, CM Navock- Yes

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

MOTION CARRIED.

ORDINANCES: 25-01 Bond Authorizing Ordinance for the City's DWSRF Financing. Eric McGlothlin, from Dickenson and Wright, discussed that the bond is a Water System Revenue Fund that helps distribute the funds to pay for and maintain the Water System. Motion by CM P. Jacobson, Second by CM Kohler to approve Ordinance 25-01.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

CM P. Jacobson- Yes, CM Vaerten- Yes, CM B. Jacobson- Yes, CM McIvor- Yes, CM Kohler- Yes, CM Navock- Yes

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

MOTION CARRIED.

RESOLUTIONS:

1. Resolution 25-07 sets an Alternative date for the July Board of Review to July 16th 2025 at 10am. Motion by CM Kohler, Second by CM Navock, to approve to move the July Board of Review to July 16th at 10 am. MOTION CARRIED
2. Resolution 25-08 Tentatively awards a Construction Contract for Water System Improvements to Nicol & Sons, Inc, with a low bid of \$4,245,829.00. Motion by CM P. Jacobson, Second by CM Navock to approve Resolution 25-08 to Tentatively award a Construction Contract for Water System Improvements, Water Distribution and Treatment.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

CM P. Jacobson- Yes, CM Vaerten- Yes, CM B. Jacobson- Yes, CM McIvor- Yes, CM Kohler- Yes, CM Navock- Yes

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

MOTION CARRIED.

3. Resolution 25-09 Tentatively awards a Construction Contract for Water System Improvements to Waldorf and Sons, Inc, for Meters and Meter Reading Systems. The revised bid of \$1,372,350.00 was submitted. City Manager Bennett stated that it was difficult to obtain bids due to so few towns not having meters and the price could be the same or more if the City had to install them. Would like to have a meeting with Water Sewer & Finance to discuss the meter project in more detail and to address the residents who would not like to have a Smart Meter. Motion by CM Vaerten, Second by CM B. Jacobson to approve the Revised Version of Resolution 25-09 to Tentatively award a Construction Contract for Water Meters and Meter Reading System to Waldorf and Sons, Inc.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

CM P. Jacobson- Yes, CM Vaerten- Yes, CM B. Jacobson- Yes, CM McIvor- Yes, CM Kohler- Yes, CM Navock- Yes

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

MOTION CARRIED.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Audit-

Wes Messing from King and Messing gave an overview of the City Audit. Gave a general overview in a few of the City's Accounts. The General Fund has had a steady increase over the last few years, which helps to cover the costs. Major Street fund has increased due to not much spending in the last year but with the upcoming water projects, the fund can help with repaving roads. Local Street Fund has a small drop in the balance due to a project on George Street but is recovering. Arsenic Fund was closed out this year and added to the Water Fund. Sewer Fund had a large expense used for the initial engineering for the Water Project. Water Fund grew by a large amount due to the Arsenic Fund being combined. Spending was up a little more due to the engineering costs. Equipment Fund continues to grow. The City purchased some equipment but didn't have to finance the equipment.

CM Kohler asked if Wes could explain how the City charges less than what they are allowed to charge for taxes and how it affects revenue.

Wes explained that the property taxes can only be raised by 2% per year and that taxes plummeted in 2007-2008 and we're still recovering from that time.

2. Bank Cards-

Motion by CM P. Jacobson, Second by CM Vaerten, to remove former Clerk Pam Willer from the Banking Cards at Tri-County Bank. MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

1. Susan Cox 3495 Wagner Road in Croswell and 4233 Bentley in Brown City addressed her concerns of the Brownfield Development. Would like the City to put the development on hold. Believes most of the tax revenue will go to the developer and not the city. Doesn't believe the homes are affordable.
2. Denise Jones addressed her concern with the Smart Meters being produced by China and having China having access to the meters and the grid that they can control, and the health issues due to the meters.

MANAGERS REPORT:

1. Council Questionnaire- Asks that the Council Members fill out the questionnaire from the MSU Extension and turn it in soon to help him communicate with everyone better.
2. Water Project- Would like to have a meeting with the Water, Sewer and Finance to talk about the Water Project to make a plan for progressing for the project within the next couple weeks.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

1. Angel Kreiner would like to resign from the Planning Commission.  
Motion by CM McIvor, Second by CM Navock to accept the resignation of Angel Kreiner from the Planning Commission.  
MOTION CARRIED
2. An application is accepted to appoint Bill Muxlow to the Planning Commission.  
Motion by CM McIvor, Second by CM B. Jacobson to appoint Bill Muxlow to the Planning Commission.  
MOTION CARRIED
3. Would like the September 8th meeting moved to Wednesday September 10th at 6pm.  
Motion by CM Navock, Second by CM Vaerten to move the September 8th meeting to September 10th at 6pm.  
MOTION CARRIED

4. Troy Gilbert has been on the Festival Committee for at least 10 years and was diagnosed with stage 4 colon cancer. There's going to be a spaghetti dinner fundraiser August 10th at the Fire Hall.
5. Brown City Days for 2026 is set for June 11-14. It's the Sesquicentennial and the dates haven't been decided yet to mimic the Centennial. A meeting is set for July 21st at 5pm to go over the festival details.
6. Chili Cookoff time to be determined is set for October 18th.
7. Trunk or Treat Friday October 31st set up will begin at 3:15 to 4. Trunk or Treat will begin at 4 till 5.  
Motion by CM Navock, Second by CM Mclvor to set Trick or Treating in Brown City from 5 to 7.  
MOTION CARRIED
8. December 5th Tree Lighting. Time to be determined.

Commissioner Chris Lee talked about the ribbon cutting ceremony at Evergreen Park and the amenities at the park. Especially if you are a camper. Attended the Elk Township Side by Side Run. They had 81 participants.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Building and Grounds (Navock)- The Park Board will never give the park to the city. There are 3 Committees for the park and they would like to eliminate one and only have 2 Committees for the park.
2. Personnel (P. Jacobson)- None
3. Streets and Sidewalks (Vaerten)-Looking to extend a section of sidewalk that is being repaired to another damaged section by a tree on George Street.
4. Tax and Finance (Kohler)- None
5. Water and Sewer (B. Jacobson)- None
6. Police and Park (Mclvor)- The Fire Department is upset because it's taking so long to resolve the water bill issue. They would like the times they block the streets and help with the festival to be deducted from the water bill. City Manager Bennett replied that they can only deduct from the water bill if the work is a direct benefit for the water fund. A State Statute says they have to pay for the water but an in kind service can be used to reduce the bill. The suggestion was for the Fire Department to help with the flushing of the fire hydrants.  
A meeting for the Water and Sewer is set for next Tuesday July 22nd at 6pm.

#### COUNCIL QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

CM Kohler thanked the Brown City Summer Rec. volunteers for the work on the dugouts at the park for the tournament this past weekend, they looked great.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by CM Navock, Second by CM Vaerten to Adjourn the July 14, 2025 Meeting of the City Council at 7:12 P.M.

MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Muxlow  
City Clerk