



The regular council meeting of the City of Browns Valley, MN, was held in the meeting room of the Public Library. Council members present were Mayor Mike Heck, Jan Biewer, Tony Miller, Jerry Johnson, and Devan Dobbs. Also in attendance were Library Director Bernice Piechowski, City Maintenance Supervisor Tony Serocki, and City Administrator Jodi Hook-Hansen.

**Absent:**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Heck.  
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

**Others Present:** Bryan Bye (Widseth engineer), Angela Beacom, Lindsey Duffield, and Karen Heck.

**Agenda:**

- Upon a motion by Biewer, seconded by Miller, the Council unanimously approved the agenda with the following additions:
  - Bryan Bye – Widseth engineer
  - Purchase of a cutting edge from Traverse County Highway Department
  - Lindsey Duffield (EDA)

**Visitors:**

- Bryan Bye – Widseth engineer: Provided a verbal update on the Well Project.
- Lindsey Duffield – EDA President: Reported that the Browns Valley EDA is seeking City Council support to apply for a Minnesota Department of Natural Resources grant to fund a splash pad and new playground equipment at the City Park. These improvements aim to enhance recreation, support community engagement, and increase the park's appeal.  
The Council requested information on insurance liability costs. Administrator Hook-Hansen contacted the League of Minnesota Cities and reported estimated premiums: \$528.00 for playground equipment and \$720.00 for a splash pad.

**Consent Agenda:**

- Upon a motion by Biewer, seconded by Johnson, the Council unanimously approved the November 24, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes.
- Upon a motion by Johnson, seconded by Miller, the Council unanimously approved the claims totaling \$114,575.32, including wages (December 1 = \$13,700.42; claims December 8 = \$100,874.90).
- Upon a motion by Miller, seconded by Dobbs, the Council unanimously approved November's Treasurer's Report.
- Upon a motion by Dobbs, seconded by Johnson, the Council unanimously approved November's Delinquency Report.

**Department Reports:**

- City Administrator Hook-Hansen submitted a written administrative report.
- Library Director Piechowski reported on library activities.
- Code Enforcement Officer Biewer submitted a written code enforcement report.
- City Maintenance Supervisor Serocki reported on public works projects and shared a verbal complaint received from Terry Miller about Hardware Hank pushing parking lot snow onto the street. The Council directed Serocki to verbally request that Hardware Hank discontinue this practice.

**New Business:**

**Review of Deferred Assessment Request – Angela Beacom**

The Council reviewed a request from Angela Beacom to defer her assessment. After discussion, the Council denied the request.

- Upon a motion by Heck, seconded by Johnson, the Council unanimously denied the request for a deferred assessment.
  
- Upon a motion by Biewer, seconded by Johnson, the Council approved Resolution No. 25-25, a Resolution Certifying Unpaid Charges to the County Auditor for collection with property taxes.

**Public Meeting: Truth in Taxation – Final 2026 Budget and Levy**

**1. Call to Order:**

The Truth in Taxation Public Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Heck.

**2. Explanation of Purpose of Truth in Taxation Hearing:**

The purpose of the Truth in Taxation Hearing was explained, including an overview of the process and the opportunity for public input on the proposed 2026 budget and property tax levy.

**3. Presentation of the Proposed 2026 Property Tax Levy and Budget:**

Staff presented the proposed Final 2026 Property Tax Levy and Budget, outlining key changes and budget highlights for the upcoming year.

**4. Public Comment and Questions:**

The floor was opened for public comment and questions.

- No public comments were received.

**5. Council Discussion:**

The Council discussed the proposed 2026 Budget and Property Tax Levy and addressed questions raised during the public comment period.

**6. Approval of Adoption of Final 2026 Property Tax Levy and Budget:**

- Resolution 25-23: A resolution adopting the Final 2026 City Budget was presented. Upon a motion by Miller, seconded by Biewer, the Council approved Resolution 25-23, a Resolution Approving the Final 2026 Operational Budget in the amount of \$1,301,521.00, by a vote of 4–1, with Dobbs dissenting.

**Browns Valley Regular City Council Meeting Approved Minutes  
December 8, 2025**

- Resolution 25-24: A resolution adopting the Final 2026 Property Tax Levy was presented. Upon a motion by Heck, seconded by Johnson, the Council approved Resolution 25-24, A Resolution Ratifying the Adoption of the Fiscal Year 2026 Final Budget with a levy of \$436,000.00, by a vote of 4–1, with Dobbs dissenting.

**Adjournment of Truth in Taxation Hearing**

The Truth in Taxation Hearing was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

At 6:15 p.m., Mayor Heck reconvened the regular meeting.

- Upon a motion by Dobbs, seconded by Johnson, the Council unanimously approved to purchase a cutting edge from Traverse County Highway Department in the amount of \$2,742.98.

**Dates:**

**Next scheduled meeting** Monday December 29<sup>th</sup> 5:30 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Minutes submitted by:

  
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Jodi Hook-Hansen, City Administrator

Approved by:

  
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Mike Heck, Mayor