



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, and Jerry Johnson.. Also in attendance were Library Director Bernice Piechowski, City Maintenance Supervisor Tony Serocki, City Administrator Jodi Hook-Hansen, and Code Enforcement Officer Terry Biewer.

Absent: Devan Dobbs

Others Present: Edith Foren and Fire Chief Dave Kuschel

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

Agenda:

- Upon a motion by Johnson, seconded by Miller, the Council unanimously approved the agenda with the following additions:
 - 322 Oak St. SE – Building Permit (Jesse Biel)
 - 112 2nd St. N – Property Sale to Wheaton Dumont
 - Discussion of Splash Park
 - Discussion/Consideration of Continued Use of the Former Minnesota State Flag

Consent Agenda:

- Upon a motion by Biewer, seconded by Johnson, the Council unanimously approved the March 23, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes.
- Upon a motion by Miller, seconded by Biewer, the Council unanimously approved the April 6, 2026, Board of Appeal and Equalization Meeting Minutes.
- Upon a motion by Biewer, seconded by Miller, the Council unanimously approved the claims totaling \$138,316.96, including wages (April 1st = \$13,102.98; claims April 13th = \$125,213.98).
- Upon a motion by Johnson, seconded by Biewer, the Council unanimously approved March's Treasurer Report.
- Upon a motion by Miller, seconded by Johnson, the Council unanimously approved March's Delinquency Report.

Department Reports:

- City Administrator Hook-Hansen reported on administrative activities.
- Library Director Piechowski reported on library activities.
- City Maintenance Supervisor Tony Serocki reported on ongoing public works projects, including seasonal equipment maintenance and necessary repairs to ensure continued operation of city vehicles and equipment. Serocki discussed the need for replacement tires for the Bobcat to accommodate



seasonal rotation, as well as diagnostic and repair work needed for the plow truck due to sensor and lighting issues.

- Upon a motion by Biewer, seconded by Miller, the Council gave unanimous approval for City Maintenance Supervisor Tony Serocki to purchase Bobcat tires for seasonal rotation, in an amount not to exceed \$2,000.00.
- Upon a motion by Biewer, seconded by Miller, the Council gave unanimous approval for City Maintenance Supervisor Tony Serocki to take the plow truck to the international dealership in Watertown, South Dakota, for necessary sensor diagnostics and lighting repairs.
- Code Enforcement Officer Biewer reported on actions taken to enforce City ordinances and items completed in the office.
- Fire Chief Dave Kuschel was present to discuss the three-year fire contracts the City has with surrounding townships. The consensus of the Council was that it is not in favor of lowering contract rates in order to cover more areas.

Unfinished Business:

- Discussion was held regarding the City-Wide Clean-Up. Following discussion, the Council unanimously approved holding the City-Wide Clean-Up on Monday, May 18 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Dumpsters will be located at the new city shop and are requested to be removed by 4:00 p.m. No formal motion was made.

New Business:

- Upon a motion by Miller, seconded by Johnson, the Council approved the fence permit for 307 West Broadway (Kenneth Hansen) by a vote of 3–1, with Mayor Heck voting nay. Mayor Heck stated he opposed it because he believed that engineering may be required.
- Upon a motion by Miller, seconded by Johnson, the Council unanimously approved the building permit for 115 Jefferson Street North (Bradley Raw).
- Upon a motion by Miller, seconded by Biewer, the Council unanimously approved the building permit for 322 Oak Street SE (Jesse Biel).

Consideration was given to a quote from Eggers Furniture & Flooring for flooring improvements in the Browns Valley Library meeting room including installing flooring in the kitchenette area and entry walkway.

- Upon a motion by Johnson, seconded by Biewer, the Council unanimously approved Option 2 - 30 mil vinyl plank flooring with Exo scratch-resistant surface.



**Browns Valley Regular City Council Meeting Approved Minutes
April 13, 2026**

- Upon a motion by Biewer, seconded by Johnson, the Council unanimously approved hiring an employee for Sam Brown Cabin for the season of Memorial Day through Labor Day weekend, working Saturdays and Sundays from 1:00–5:00 p.m. at \$11.41 per hour.
- Upon a motion by Johnson, seconded by Biewer, the Council approved of Resolution 26-12 a Resolution Establishing a Fire Escrow Account Pursuant to Minnesota State Statute 65A.50.
- Upon a motion by Heck, seconded by Biewer, the Council unanimously agreed that it wanted to continue to fly the former official Minnesota State Flag. A request was made for a formal resolution to be prepared for consideration at the next meeting.
- Upon a motion by Biewer, seconded by Miller, the Council unanimously approved Resolution 26-13, a Resolution Selling Real Property Parcel No, 20-012400 to Wheaton-Dumont Coop Elevator for the sum of \$200 plus recording fees.
- Splash Pad and Playground Project – Public Response and Discussion. Mayor Heck addressed the recent article published in the Traverse County Gazette regarding the proposed splash pad and playground project at City Park. He reported receiving calls and concerns from community members following the publication, with several residents’ expressing confusion about whether the proposed project and its associated costs were connected to recent or potential increases in property taxes.
Mayor Heck also shared concerns regarding the inclusion of financial figures in the article. As a result, the publication of those figures has contributed to misunderstanding within the community. In addition, he described considerations related to the long-term maintenance and operational costs associated with splash pad facilities. He indicated that some communities are evaluating these ongoing expenses when making decisions about similar projects.
Finally, he emphasized that the City is continuing to assess the feasibility of the splash pad and playground project. Further discussion and clarification are expected as Mayor Heck will be attending the next EDA meeting.

April 24th - Board of Equalization at 10:00 AM

April 30th Deed compliance to visit in office on Redevelopment Grant

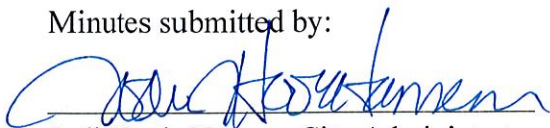
Items for council to consider for future: Sales Tax / Tier Pricing / Strategic Planning

Next scheduled meeting:

Monday April 27th at 5:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Minutes submitted by:


Jodi Hook-Hansen, City Administrator

Approved by:


Mike Heck, Mayor