

City of Brownsville
Minutes of July 1, 2026, Regular Monthly Council Meeting and HRA of Brownsville

Jean Meyer called the regular meeting of the Brownsville City Council to order at 7:00 pm. Council roll call was conducted by the clerk confirming that a quorum was present with Pam Walhovd, Jean Meyer, Bill Fitzpatrick and David Prestby present. Barb Hurley was absent. Others in attendance were Steve Schuldt Clerk, Jenna Knight, Treasurer, Dean Twite, Maintenance Supervisor, Jeff LeJeune, Gary Schulze, Rick Denstad, Roger Doering, Shawn Colsch, Chris Bray, Brent Carlon, Fred Beseler and Rose Korabek.

Mayor Jean Meyer led the meeting attendees in reciting the pledge of allegiance to the US Flag.

Jean Meyer requested approval of the consent agenda which includes the meeting agenda, minutes of June 3, 2026, and claims payable to date. Additionally, the consent agenda is to include the following additions:

Old Business: Line D: Report on the proposed intersection of County Highway 3 and State Highway 26.

New Business: Line B: Consideration of a building permit for Shawn Colsch. **Line C:** Minnesota Transportation Alliance membership.

CITY CLERKS REPORTS: Line B: Ordinance violation extensions.

Pam Walhovd requested a correction to the minutes. She expressed that her comments at the meeting were more elaborate than what is noted in the minutes regarding a sign installed by the Lions Club. She expressed that the council was focusing more on nuisance ordinances and not addressing the sign ordinance violation. She would like a statement that the minutes are condensed and do not include all arguments and conversations leading to a motion and vote by the council. She would like a statement that council meeting recordings are available for review.

David Prestby moved to approve the meeting agenda with the inclusion of remarks by Pam Walhovd to the June 3, 2026, meeting minutes.

FLOOR CORRESPONDENCE: Brent Carlon requested that additional gravel be applied to an unnamed street between his property and that of James Serres east of Houston County 18. The extended gravel surface will improve access to Mr. Carlon's property south of the unnamed street. Jean Meyer explained that the request is a non-agenda item and cannot be voted on at tonight's meeting but will be included on August 5, 2026, meeting agenda. Dean Twite will inspect the area prior to the meeting for any adverse conditions that might prohibit the addition of gravel.

PRESENTATIONS: None

APPOINTMENTS: None

OLD BUSINESS: Jean Meyer provided the council with comments from the city attorney regarding installation of a lighted information sign, donated by the Lions Club and located on The River Station property. The attorney stated that there is no restriction on using the same pole for different signs. The size of signs is restricted but they do not apply to signs used for public welfare. Additionally, the city could be putting itself in jeopardy by denying freedom of speech. In summary the attorney states that the sign is allowable, should be allowable and is in the best interests and welfare of the citizens. Rick Denstad informed the council that the cities of New Albin, Caledonia and Hokah stepped up and advertised Brownsville Days on their city information signs. Jean Meyer called for a motion to approve or deny the permit to install a lighted sign at The River Station. Bill Fitzpatrick moved to approve the sign, seconded by David Prestby and the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS: Jean Meyer presented council with an explanation for charges by Richard's Sanitation for garbage and recycling as follows:

July Utility Rate Explanation & Recommendation Last month, the city absorbed approximately **\$0.44 per residential customer** to cover the cost of garbage and recycling service. The fuel surcharge for June will decrease from **17% to 9%**, reducing the City's cost by approximately **\$0.88 per customer**. This not only recovers last month's **\$0.44 loss** but also results in an estimated **\$0.44 surplus per customer**. In addition, the annual **3% contractual rate increase** takes effect in July, increasing the garbage and recycling costs by approximately **\$0.45 per customer**. The new monthly residential rates for garbage and recycling services are:

- Garbage: **\$8.68**
- Recycling: **\$6.95**

- Environmental Services: \$4.25
- Tax: \$0.96 (This tax applies to garbage and garbage fuel surcharge & will fluctuate until fuel surcharge is removed)

- **Total Garbage & Recycling Charge: \$20.84 per customer**

The monthly Sewer User Fee remains \$49.45.

Total Monthly Utility Bill (July):

- Sewer: \$49.45
- Garbage & Recycling: \$20.84

Total Monthly Charge: \$70.29

For comparison:

- Current monthly bill (without the fuel surcharge): \$69.70
- Current monthly bill (with the 17% fuel surcharge \$2.15): \$71.85
- July monthly bill (3% annual increase): \$70.29

Staff Recommendation is to keep the current monthly utility rate at \$71.85 for the time being rather than immediately reducing it to \$70.29, which applies to the 3% increase. This will allow the city to recover the recent loss for May usage of \$.44 per user. Once the fuel surcharge is removed, staff recommend reducing the monthly utility rate to \$70.29 unless there is a rate adjustment needed in August when the sewer operation report is presented.

David Prestby questioned if there is an alternate such as Waste Management for comparison. Ms. Meyer stated that other sanitation services are also subject to increased costs including fuel surcharge and any rate adjustments should wait until August. There was no objection from the council members.

Jean Meyer reviewed seal coating quotes submitted by Pearson Brothers and Scott's Sealcoating. Scott's Sealcoating is budgeted for 8 streets with hot asphalt using 3/8-inch granite chips and no sweeping to remove excess chips. Experience has been satisfactory. Price quoted: \$74,355.00.

Pearson Brothers is quoting for 13 streets with liquid asphalt and 1/4 inch granite chips. Excess chips are swept. Pearson currently sealcoats for the cities of Harmony, Spring Valley, Stewartville, Chatfield, Preston, Rushford and Rushford Village. Calls to Harmony, Preston and Rushford Village for references indicated that there were no issues. Price quoted: \$42,704.25.

Following discussion, David Prestby moved, seconded by Bill Fitzpatrick and the motion carried to award the sealcoating contract to Pearson Brothers for \$42,704.25.

Jean Meyer reported on the proposed intersection of County Road 3 and State Highway 26. She reported that current plans of joining Adams Street with Second Street remain the same but additional planning to ensure that semi-tractor trailers will be able to exit onto Highway 26 on to Main Street (County 3) and have access to the River Station. Plans for the intersection are due by year end with no indication of a start date.

Jean Meyer provided the council with a proposal to install public access safety cabinets offering AEDs, stop the bleed supplies and nasal naloxone in the community. The proposal is submitted from Houston County Public Health and has funding from opioid settlement funds. Ms. Meyer asked if the council was interested in the project. The council members questioned if there is a recurring cost and who is responsible for maintenance. Bill Fitzpatrick suggested that if there is no cost, it is a good idea. However, if there is a significant cost then no. Bill Fitzpatrick moved to approve the proposed safety cabinet installation with an annual cost limit of \$200.00 if there is an actual cost to the city. The motion was seconded by David Presby and carried unanimously.

Jean Meyer introduced a building permit application submitted by Shawn Colsch to install a storage container at 1660 Cork Hollow Drive. Following discussions, Bill Fitzpatrick moved, seconded by David Prestby and the motion carried to approve the permit.

Jean Meyer provided the council with a Minnesota Transportation Alliance membership application for a cost of \$325.00 annually. The organization is an advocacy to assist municipalities in obtaining state funding for transportation needs. Bill Fitzpatrick moved to decline membership in the alliance, stating that

the city is already under enough strain with improvements needed to the city sewer system as well as other needs. David Prestby seconded and the motion carried.

MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT: Dean Twite reported that lift stations are operating satisfactorily. Recycled blacktop was put down on 210 Adams Street and is ready for sealcoating. HVAC replacement in the Community Center is delayed due to the need for structural engineering prior to any installation. More research is taking place.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: The Friends of the Brownsville Fire Department organization has been approved for charitable gambling license and plans are moving forward to open a site. Riverland provided a burn trailer to train firefighters. An AFG Grant has been submitted for \$100,000.00 to purchase SCBA equipment with results available in perhaps two months. There is to be a fire district meeting in October. Brownsville Fire and Rescue along with Houston County Emergency Services will be assisting with the National Gravel Road Bicycle Road race taking place in the Brownsville Fire District. A date for the race was not provided.

CITY CLERK REPORTS: Jenna Knight informed the council that two anonymous complaints were received regarding weeds on 2 residential properties. The city weed inspector will investigate.

Concrete cast pots have been donated by Sonja Burkhart for summer plantings at the Community Center.

Driftless Vector Region Control provided a year-to-date report with no treatment required at this time. Further action will be taken if required.

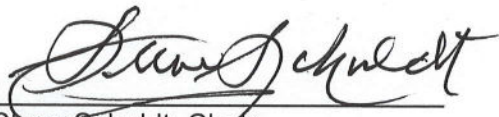
Jenna Knight along with Dean Twite had a walk-through with Dairyland Power Co-operative energy auditors. Inspections were conducted at the Community Center, Bluff View Manor, Fire Station and the wastewater treatment plant. No action was taken.

Jean Meyer reported that three residents had requested extensions for nuisance violations and one which had conformed with the ordinance.

Roger Doering spoke about a problem with rainwater entering the basement of his house. He explained that two years ago he requested the city to take action to remedy the matter. Additionally, he stated that he would haul in fill to fix the problem but was told not to do so and nothing has been done by the city to fix the problem. Jean Meyer stated that an inspection of his property will take place and the problem will be addressed at the August city council meeting. Additionally, she stated that his violation of the nuisance ordinance is still in effect. Mr. Doering requested an extension to come into compliance with the nuisance ordinance. Jean Meyer granted the extension.

Shawn Colsch requested an extension for coming into compliance with the nuisance ordinance. Jean Meyer granted the extension.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, David Prestby moved, seconded by Pam Walhovd and the motion passed to adjourn at 8:15 pm.



Steve Schuldt, Clerk



Jean Meyer, Mayor

Footnote: Pam Walhovd requested at the July 1, 2026, council meeting that the clerk include a footnote stating the June 3, 2026, council meeting minutes are condensed and do not include all arguments and conversations leading up to a motion and vote by the council. She also wanted it known that meeting recordings are available at the clerk's office. Councilmember Walhovd's request was in reference to the following excerpt of the June 3, 2026, meeting minutes.

"NEW BUSINESS: Jean Meyer presented the council with an email from MnDOT informing the Lions Club of approval for their proposed Outdoor Advertising Device. Pam Walhovd expressed that the city is not adhering to the ordinance. Barb Hurley stated that an application was not presented to and approved by the city council. Following discussion, Barb Hurley moved to disable the sign and complete an application to the city for the sign to be approved at the July 1st meeting. The motion was seconded by David Prestby and passed."