



# Council Meeting Synopsis



Council met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers on September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

- ★ Everyone was present. Mayor Craven presided.
- ★ *Central Linn School District (CLSD)* | Representatives from the Community Bond Advisory Committee (CBAC), CLSD Board Chair David Karo and Halsey Mayor Jerry Lachenbruch, reviewed the committee's findings and proposals. Karo & Lachenbruch highlighted many concerns about both Elementary School and the High School including electrical, HVAC, ADA, security, among a host of others. Mayor Lachenbruch pointed out that both facilities are well past their intended, useful life. The CBAC has developed three proposals, the Foundation proposal, the Heritage proposal, and the Legacy proposal. Please find more information on the District's website at <https://www.centrallinn.k12.or.us/about-us/community-bond-advisory-committee-proposals>. The website shows background information, associated costs, and an assessment calculator to verify the annual cost to you, the taxpayer. The CLSD is asking for public comment on these proposals. Please review the information at the link above and make your voice heard.
- ★ *Planning Commission | Variance Appeal | Mike Lake* | Council heard an appeal by Mike Lake for a variance to retain the location of a RV cover on the southside of his property. Council approved the variance. Councilors Solberg, Hansen, LaCoste, and Winklepleck voted in favor of the variance with conditions. Councilors Chambers and Humphreys opposed the variance.
- ★ *Linn County Sheriff's Office | Sergeant Steve Frambes* | Frambes shared the Office is juggling personnel challenges. He reviewed the recent statistics stating that a 21-year old was ticketed for doing 71 mph on a 35 mph roadway. Frambes was happy to note that crime numbers are extremely low in Brownsville. With the start of the school year, the deputies have been spending a lot of time in area schools for both good and not so good reasons.
- ★ *Public Works Report | Public Works Superintendent Karl Frink* reported that the GR12 project was wrapping up. Contractors and subcontractors are ironing out electrical and communication issues. Rec Center landscaping is slated to start as early as this Friday. Public Works has fixed lighting issues, security issues, and has secured furniture that is compatible with the new flooring surface. McDowell added there are still a few outstanding issues the City continues to finalize with J. E. John Construction. The gym floor warranty was extended for one year at the request of the City. Public Works has taken over duties in Pioneer Park. There have been two new water services installed over the last few weeks. Frink is also reporting on service connections as required by the Lead & Copper Rule enforced by the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) on all 876 connections the City operates. Public Works has replaced a few trees around town recently.
- ★ *City Administrator Report | Administrator Scott McDowell* briefly highlighted concerns with the migration of the City's website to a new platform. The reservation system the City currently uses will be changing soon. He provided Council with an updated schedule for the Canal Company partnership currently being explored. The Chamber of Commerce will host a Candidates Forum in Council Chambers at 7:00 p.m. on October 24<sup>th</sup>. The City will be a Linn County Official Ballot Drop site for the upcoming election. City Hall will be open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. on November 5<sup>th</sup>. McDowell reviewed the responsibilities of the City and the HOA in River's Edge subdivision, the riverbank erosion concern in Pioneer Park, and the current condition of the main playground unit. McDowell shared a host of concerns about the importance of advocacy. He shared many examples of regulations and rules being forced on local governments and the public that go by unnoticed. He encouraged everyone to pay attention to these rule changes and public comment periods. All these regulations cost each and every taxpayer. The State Legislature will shortly consider over 4,000 bills during their upcoming legislative session.

- ★ *Council Report* | Councilor Winklepleck gave a brief report on the recent meeting with the Linn County Sheriff's Office underscoring personnel challenges. Winklepleck reported that Linn County District Attorney Doug Marteeny presented several issues impacting Linn County. Winklepleck said that it was refreshing to hear Marteeny's approach and efforts in keeping Linn County a safe place to live and work.
- ★ *Citizen Input* | Mike Rodolf shared concerns over a recent auto-shop application that has been tabled by the Planning Commission. Rodolf feels the City should put a stop order on these activities immediately because he claims that the electrical is not up to current Code requirements along with other issues. Rodolf claimed that Staff stopped Linn County from inspecting the building. Allen Buzzard passed out copies of the U.S. Constitution courtesy of the American Legion highlighting September 17<sup>th</sup> as the official ratification date of the Constitution 237 years ago.
- ★ *Resolution 2024.13: Public Works Rates* | Council unanimously passed a rate increase to match current market rates for the use of the Public Works Department.
- ★ *Resolution 2024.14: Planning Fees* | Council unanimously passed changes to the rate schedule as presented.
- ★ *Ordinance 806: Parks & Open Space Advisory Board Code Language (First Reading)* | Council reviewed presented language changes. Park Board is simply cleaning up old language to keep the Code current.
- ★ *Kaye Fox Proclamation* | Mayor Craven read a proclamation of appreciation for Kaye Fox's service to the City in the capacity of a Budget Committee member and a Planning Commission member. Fox recently passed away in August.
- ★ *Arbor Day Proclamation* | Mayor Craven read a proclamation highlighting Arbor Day.
- ★ *Central Linn School District (CLSD) & Central Linn Recreation Association (CLRA) Agreement* | The City, CLSD & CLRA are working together to create a reciprocating agreement for the use of public property for youth sports programming. Council sent McDowell back to the CLSD to negotiate about the new turf field.
- ★ *Friends of Gap Road | Troy Jones* | Jones asked Council to support their efforts in opposition of the Muddy Creek Solar Farm. Jones made it clear that the Friends are in favor of solar energy, but the proposed location and size of the installation have too many environmental concerns. Council voted unanimously to support their effort.
- ★ *Authorize Advertisement - Planning Commission Member* | Council authorized advertising for an opening on the City's Planning Commission.
- ★ *Streetlight Request* | Council asked McDowell to further investigate the installation of a new streetlight in the 300 block of Spaulding Avenue.
- ★ *League of Oregon Cities Priorities* | Council reviewed the League's priorities.
- ★ *Council Comments* | Mayor Craven shared his concern about community division that has been endured by Council and Brownsville. Craven said that Brownsville seems to be a microcosm of the national political scene. He cited several attacks that he has endured during his tenure on Council and as Mayor. Craven was seriously concerned about the threatening letter the City recently received and condemned these kinds of tactics. Mayor Craven cited recent assassination attempts on former President Trump that show a serious and troubling development in America's political scene. Threats, violence, and attempted violence is not the way to handle political differences and should not be tolerated in America.

All information the Mayor & Council received for the meeting can be found on-line prior to every meeting and afterwards at <https://www.ci.brownsville.or.us/meetings>. Please contact City Administrator Scott McDowell with questions at 541.466.5880 or email at [admin@ci.brownsville.or.us](mailto:admin@ci.brownsville.or.us).

For more information, please visit <https://ci.brownsville.or.us>.

# Upcoming Events

**Council Meeting** | October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 | 7:00 p.m. | City Hall

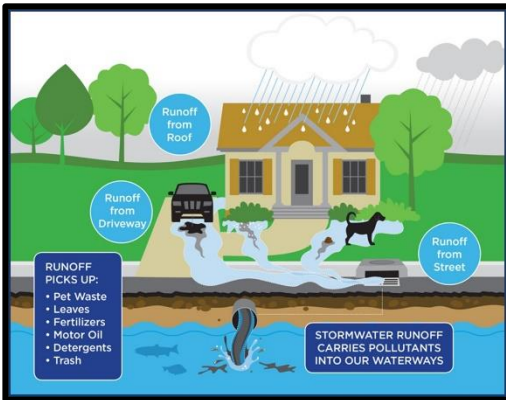
**Chamber of Commerce's Candidates Forum** | October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024 | 7:00 p.m. | City Hall

**Chamber of Commerce's Trick or Treat Street** | October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024 | Downtown Businesses



## Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), under the direction and requirement of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), are concerned about what is known as non-point source pollution. Pollutants such as herbicides, pesticides, and other residues runoff into water sources such as the Calapooia River. Pollutants are harmful to the watershed and river system. The DEQ requires cities to monitor certain parameters to ensure a healthy river system.



The City of Brownsville's Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requires the City to monitor activities that would potentially cause harm. Activities include monitoring bacteria, temperature, mercury and illegal discharges.



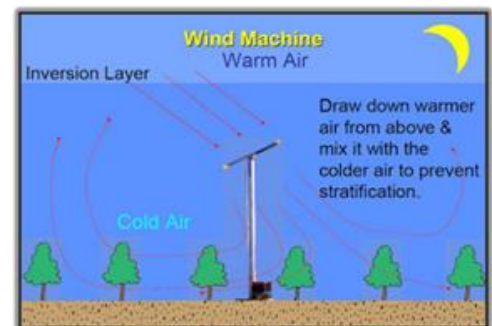
There are ways you can positively affect river quality. You can use one of the several pet waste stations in the park to clean up after your pet. You can plant trees and other types of native species that help remove unwanted pollutants. You can make sure that any erosion on your property is repaired and/or contained to limit the amount of sedimentation that would potentially get into

the river system. You can report any illegal dumping into ditches or sewer manholes.

Make sure that your downspouts are attached properly to your home and your internal storm drainage system. Homeowners are encouraged to keep storm water on site, either through retention or detention ponds or swales. The City requires new construction to eliminate practices that would cause excess runoff, sedimentation, and other unwanted effects from directly entering waterways. Remember, all drains go to the river.

## VINEYARD WIND MACHINES

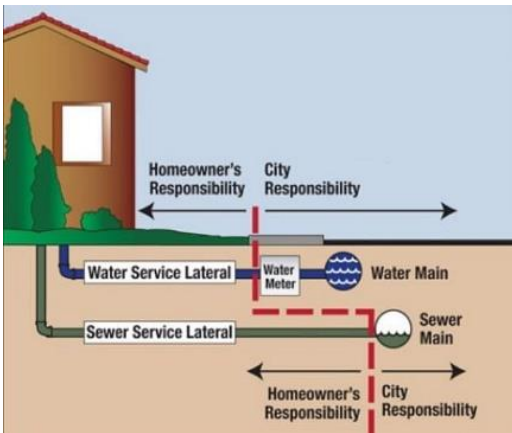
The machines may turn on soon depending on cooler temperatures. Due to low overnight temperatures, the wind machines are used to prevent 'cold injury' to the grape vines which could negatively impact harvest. The wind machines are very noisy due to the engines used. Basically, the machines are programmed to turn on at certain temperature levels, generally around 36° F and can only be ran during certain wind speeds. The site has numerous wind machines, and they generate a very noticeable sound throughout town. The motors sound like an old farm tractor and the blades have a high-pitched sound. A low frequency hum can be heard throughout town when all the wind machines are operating.



**City of Brownsville**  
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EDDM RETAIL

## LOCAL PATRON



## Water Leaks

Extreme weather, either hot or cold, can cause water line breaks or leaks. In the summer months, sprinkler systems can also be a source of high-water usage if they experience a sprinkler line break or leak. (Sprinkler line breaks are most often found at the beginning of the season, but can occur at any time.)

The diagram at the left explains the homeowner's responsibility and the City's responsibility for the water lines and sewer lines.

If you believe the leak is on the City side of the meter, please contact City Hall.

## Pacific Power Information



The City recently received information from Pacific Power stating that due to elevated wildfire risk in our area this summer, they were taking additional safety measures. Some of the measures included safety settings and protective devices that

will deenergize power lines when there is a fault detected. Power outages are more likely to occur when these settings are in place.

Pacific Power recommends the following:

- Plan ahead for power outages and be prepared year-round.
- Create a plan with your medical provider for appropriate backup power for medical devices.
- If an outage occurs, you can find restoration information on the Pacific Power outage map.

To find out more about backup power (generators), and how to use them safely, check out their website at [PacificPower.net/Ready](http://PacificPower.net/Ready) or call 1.888.221.7070. Customers may be eligible for rebates.

