



# Council Minutes

October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024

**ROLL CALL:** Mayor Craven called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with Council President Chambers, Councilor LaCoste, Councilor Humphreys, Councilor Hansen, Councilor Winklepleck, and Councilor Solberg present. Administrative Assistant Elizabeth Coleman, Administrative Assistant Jannea Deaver, Public Works Superintendent Karl Frink, Administrative Assistant Tammi Morrow, and City Administrator Scott McDowell were also present.

**ABSENT:** None.

**PUBLIC:** Michael & Betty Doren, Don Lyon, Jack Alsman, Wendy Toshitsune, Sharm Anderson, Dan Murphy, Rege Rippee, Kira Hughes, Tricia Thompson, Steve VanSandt, Jenna Stutsman (*Chamber*), Sandra David, Hannah Anderson, Felipe Eversull, John Claasen, Dr. Lori Garcy (*Brownsville Art Association*), Tia Parrish (*The Times*), and Sergeant Steve Frambes (*Linn County Sheriff's Office*).

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

**ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS:** Item 7) D. Planning report from Elizabeth Coleman and Item 7) F. Office report from Jannea Deaver will be deleted tonight.

**MINUTES:** *Councilor Solberg made a motion to approve the September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024, meeting minutes as presented. Councilor Humphreys seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.*

## **PUBLIC HEARING | PRESENTATIONS:**

1. **Brownsville Art Association (BAA) | President Lori Garcy.** Dr. Garcy reported on several changes the Association has made to better spread-out duties necessary for the operation of the Art Center. The Association is starting classes again in full force. They are supporting many artists and events throughout the year. There is currently a waiting list for people to display their work. There are many others who help the Art Center who are not even artists. The Association is often the first point of contact for many of the City's visitors. Please find more information about the Association's activities on their website at <http://brownsvilleart.org/>.
2. **Brownsville Chamber of Commerce | President Jenna Stutsman.** Stutsman reported that the Antique Faire had a banner year for vendors and attendance. Stutsman said the Roger and Alice Tetamore are keeping the Welcome Wagon program working. The Chamber has changed their monthly operation to a Happy Hour meeting that moves from business to business. The Chamber has over sixty members. The two upcoming events are Trick or Treat Street which is scheduled for October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Home for the Holidays preparations are being made. The Women's Study Club and the Blue Notes Choir from the High School will be singing carols during the annual tree lighting this year. To learn more about the Chamber please visit their website at <https://www.historicbrownsville.com/>.

Mayor Craven thanked the BAA and Chamber for their annual reports. Volunteers make this community work and make it special. Craven stated that on behalf of Council, we thank you for your efforts and we foresee a good relationship going forward.

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

1. **Linn County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) Report | Sergeant Steve Frambes.** Frambes reviewed the recent statistics stating that there were five arrests, but four of those arrests were the same



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person, for the month. A window was broken at Dari Mart but nothing was stolen. Recruiting is tough these days for law enforcement. Frambes has been training deputies recently; from the Police Academy, to driving a cruiser, takes over a year due to necessary training for a road-ready deputy.

2. **Public Works.** Public Works Superintendent Karl Frink reported that the GR12 project has finally wrapped up. Contractors and subcontractors have ironed electrical and communication issues.

The Central Linn Recreation Center's landscaping is complete. Public Works made several improvements at the Rec Center in preparations for the public rental opening of the building.

Public Works has been dealing with an unusually high number of water leaks recently.

Frink also completed the 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.

Recently, there was a major leak in Pioneer Park. The water was from the water plant and was all treated water that went back into the Calapooia River.

Frink welcomed Hayden Holbrook as the newest member of the Public Works team.

3. **Administration.** Administrator Scott McDowell reported that the City remains stuck in an email nightmare. City email has been down since September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Our provider is still unable to restore email, likely an old server was apparently decommissioned unbeknownst to the City's email hosting company. McDowell stated roughly 85% of our workload goes through email. The City may need to change email addresses, which will cost Staff a huge amount of time and effort. Stay tuned. Civics + has been a contentious issue as well, but the situation is currently on hold due to the email debacle.

McDowell reported that complaint levels are high right now, currently dealing with easement wars.

McDowell stated that the Legislative Advocacy Policy Committee (LAPC) needs to reenergize to assist the Small Municipalities Advocacy Coalition (SMAC) group.

McDowell reported that the Canal Company town halls are tentatively scheduled for November 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. McDowell will be reaching out to the Canal Company to confirm the dates.

4. **Planning.** No comments.
5. **Library.** Librarian Sherri Lemhouse reviewed the robust programming schedule at the Library including the Book Sale December 5<sup>th</sup> through the 14<sup>th</sup>, Storytime, Book Club, the Stitchery Group, and the Multicultural programs guided by Don Lyon. Lemhouse shared her fascination with the Vanport Exhibition that was a joint project with the Women's Study Club and the Linn County Museum. She went through the onboarding that happens with each new patron. She reported that the e-Books program represents nearly 10% of circulation.
6. **Office.** No comments.

**Council.** Mayor Craven was invited to Cottage Grove to present the Small Municipalities Advocacy Coalition (SMAC) information. Craven was joined by Lobbyist Sean Tate and Legislative Advocacy & Policy Committee (LAPC) member Felipe Eversull. Craven & McDowell attended a media training



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course offered by the League of Oregon Cities. Craven highlighted the shifting priority of media outlets and techniques the City can employ to properly handle situations when and as they arise. He said that materials will be provided to Council during the upcoming training session at the first of the year.

7. **Citizen Comments.** Betty Doren trolled McDowell while explaining definitions of trolling.

Steve Van Sandt asked all parties involved to find common ground and cling to the ideals that make Brownsville great. Please remember that we are all neighbors. Take the time to talk to people on the other side of the aisle and put down social media, media and other “echo chambers” that aim to divide us.

Don Lyon asked Councilors who were running for office to identify where the Marxist ideologues were in town referencing a flier he had recently received in the mail.

Johnny Claasen asked what could be done with the boat sitting at the end of Oak Street. He would like Council to clean up the rights-of-way.

Pioneer Christian Academy Principal Chad Schrock would like to partner with the City on community service projects for his high school students. Pioneer Christian Academy is holding an auction on October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024, starting at 3:00 p.m.

### **LEGISLATIVE:**

1. **Ordinance 806 | Parks & Open Spaces Advisory Board Code Language | (Second Reading).** *Councilor Hansen moved to read by title only. Councilor agreed by consensus. Mayor Craven read by title only. Mr. McDowell stated that this ordinance aims to clean up outdated language. Councilor Hansen moved to approve O 806 as presented. Councilor Winklepleck seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.*

### **ACTION ITEMS:**

1. **Spaulding Avenue Closure | Home for the Holidays.** *Councilor Hansen moved to approve this closure. Councilor LaCoste seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.* The Chamber will be responsible for providing the City with an insurance certificate naming the City as additionally insured and provide signatures from affected businesses as required.
2. **2025 Council Meeting Schedule.** *Councilor Solberg moved to approve the 2025 Council Meeting Schedule as presented. Councilor Chambers seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.*
3. **Appointed Officials | Openings & Reappointments.** Members asking for reappointment include Gary Compton, Planning Commission, Pat MacDermott & Pam Solberg, Parks & Open Space Advisory Board, and Don Andrews & Rick Dominguez, Budget Committee. Openings include a Parks & Open Space Advisory Board, Budget Committee, and a Planning Commission member. *Councilor Hansen moved to approve these appointments and advertisements. Councilor LaCoste seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.*

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

1. **Small Municipalities Advocacy Coalition.** The group is growing membership and pushing a few issues for this upcoming legislative session including keeping a watchful eye on recreational



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immunity, city's rights, home rule, and other interests that could negatively impact our citizens and taxpayers. We are going to see a very busy legislative session; the system is broken on both sides of the aisle. Unfortunately, the taxpayers are the ones that are suffering. Out of 241 cities in Oregon, 39 of those are 'big' cities with populations over 15,000, and over 200 of them are small rural cities. Unfunded mandates are causing severe hardships for Oregon's small communities. The City's LAPC will be meeting in November and bringing recommendations back to Council. The City hopes to make a measurable impact with SMAC and establish some positive outcomes for rural cities and cities in general.

2. **James Lease | North Wastewater Treatment Plant.** On June 6, 1979, the City purchased land from the James family for an expansion to the City's North Wastewater Treatment Plant. The lease needs reviewing. President Chambers, Superintendent Frink, and Mr. McDowell will initiate a meeting, and bring information back to Council in November.
3. **September Financials.** McDowell stated that revisions for July & August financial statements will be posted online. McDowell thanked Morrow for her work on this issue.

**CITIZEN QUESTIONS & COMMENTS.** Jenna Stutsman stated that the Chamber will be hosting a Candidate's Forum this Thursday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024, in Council Chambers. She invited the public to attend.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS.** Councilor Winklepleck shared information from a recent meeting with Linn County District Attorney Doug Marteeny. He presented a slide that showed a typical drug diversion journey. He said it can be a continual circle that is not helpful to the addict or the court system. Marteeny said that they do now have some tools that they didn't have before, so that has helped a little bit. Winklepleck stated that drug addiction is a terrible situation. Mayor Craven stated that the borders are a mess, fentanyl is a powerfully deadly drug harming our country, and that it has killed more people than Covid ever did.

Councilor Humphreys stated that he wanted to clarify what the blue dot discussed last month is all about. Humphreys said the blue dot originated in Nebraska by a Democratic man feeling like he was surrounded by a sea of red. The blue dot stimulated a lot of conversations about issues and encouraged folks to run for office. The gentleman was trying to create a symbol for hope and change for conversations.

Councilor Chambers stated that her favorite quote from the Administrator's Report this month is the Turkish Proverb, "The forest was shrinking but the trees kept voting for the axe, for the axe was clever and convinced the trees that because his handle was made of wood, he was one of them."

**ADJOURNMENT:** Councilor Solberg moved to adjourn at 8:36 p.m. Councilor Hansen seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Handwritten signature of S. Scott McDowell in blue ink.

City Administrator S. Scott McDowell

Handwritten signature of Adam Craven in blue ink.

Mayor Adam Craven