



Council Meeting Synopsis

Council met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers on November 26th, 2024.

- ★ All members of Council were present. Mayor Craven presided.
- ★ *Ayala Conditional Use Appeal | Mike Rodolf* | Council acted in a quasi-judicial capacity reviewing Mike Rodolf's appeal of an approval the Planning Commission made on October 14th, 2024. Joe Ayala and Larry Williams spoke in favor of the application. Mike Rodolf spoke in opposition. Council unanimously upheld the Planning Commission's Commission's decision. Councilor Winklepleck stated that Council and the Planning Commission are only responsible for the applicable Brownsville ordinances; other County or State agencies et al. is between the applicant and those governing agencies.
- ★ *Bi-annual TMDL Report* | Staff provided the semi-annual plan review. McDowell covered the history of the U.S. EPA and the origin of these new requirements. The City is doing its best to deal with this unfunded mandate that will carry a heavy future cost. TMDL focuses on regulations and requirements pertaining to stormwater runoff. To learn more about TMDL visit, <https://www.ci.brownsville.or.us/publicworks>.
- ★ *Annual Audit Report* | McDowell shared numbers from the most recent audit completed by SingerLewak. The audit shows a healthy treasury. McDowell showed the indebtedness the City currently holds as well. All funds have been returned from the General Fund to the Cemetery Trust Fund as earlier reported by McDowell. The audit has been filed with all required agencies.
- ★ *Linn County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) Report* | Sergeant Frambes reviewed the stats for September highlighting several items including three arrests, a DUI, a trespass, and an outstanding warrant. Frambes said the Sheriff's Office apprehended a person who had stolen a car in Eugene and ended up in Brownsville under pursuit of the LCSO. The Office was able to apprehend the suspect, but Frambes asked that people stay in their homes when these situations happen. Unfortunately, two additional people were arrested for interfering with the investigation. People were interfering with drones being used by the LCSO. Frambes responded to some criticism he had seen on Facebook about the LCSO not notifying people of this issue. Frambes explained that the only priority of the LCSO is to ensure the safe apprehension of the suspect.
- ★ *Public Works Report* | Superintendent Karl Frink reported that all instruments have been calibrated at the Water & Wastewater Treatment Plants. Frink is preparing the Wastewater Treatment facilities for January discharge. The new GR12 waterline project was put to good use November 1st. Frink is still working on ironing out operational logistics. Public Works closed and winterized the Park on October 31st, 2024. Frink has also been attending to operational details at the Rec Center to allow public rentals.
- ★ *City Administrator Report* | Administrator Scott McDowell discussed the finalization of the cleanup of 517 Averill. The City has an opening on the Planning Commission and one on the Parks & Open Space Advisory Board. The deadline to apply is December 11th. McDowell shared seven major unfunded mandates being pushed on to cities by the State and Federal government. These regulations are only going to add more burden to the taxpayers of every community. McDowell shared how these regulations intersect with the City budget and what future costs could be. McDowell discussed the current goals, and that Council will be reprioritizing the goals in February 2025.



- ★ *Citizen Comments* | Paul Winther was concerned that he was misidentified in a recent Facebook post regarding a political sign. Don Lyon and Sandy Saltzer expressed concern and confusion regarding a document that was placed in the Council Agenda Packet by Councilor Hansen. Shantel White shared her concern about sidewalks throughout the City. White urged Council to make this a priority. McDowell briefly reviewed the City's efforts and requirements to execute a sidewalk program.
- ★ *Resolution 2024.15: Vanderstelt Reimbursement* | Council unanimously passed a resolution reimbursing Yankee Dutch Quilting for sewer related charges. The shop was not reconnected during the Downtown Sanitary Sewer project in March 2022. Public Works quickly repaired the situation once it was brought to the City's attention.
- ★ *Resolution 2024.16: Audit's Division FY 2023.2024* | The City is required to file a resolution with the Secretary of State's Office to address budgetary items noted by the City Auditor. Council unanimously voted to pass this resolution.
- ★ *Resolution 2024.17: FEMA Pre-Implementation Compliance Measures (PICM)* | FEMA was sued in 2009 by several non-profit environmental groups claiming FEMA was violating the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The lawsuits are resulting in major changes to the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) which could have serious implications for private property in the floodplain. Council unanimously passed this resolution to meet the FEMA imposed deadline of December 1st, 2024.
- ★ *717 Kay Abatement Appeal | Virgaela Brewer/Bill Hand* | Council passed a unanimous motion to grant an extension until January 17th, 2025 for the removal of the nuisance vehicles located on the property. McDowell was asked to enter into an agreement with Mr. Hand to gain permission for the City to remove the vehicles if they were not moved prior to the date referenced above.
- ★ Council unanimously passed a motion to install a streetlight on Spaulding Avenue.
- ★ Council retreat is scheduled for Saturday, January 25th, 2025. Council will be taking a tour of City owned facilities and reviewing Council responsibilities.
- ★ Staff reviewed the differences between easements and the right-of-way. The City has been experiencing many concerns and complaints regarding easements and right-of-ways recently.

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@brownsvilleor.org.

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

Upcoming Events

- **Tree Lighting** on Spaulding Avenue | December 6th | 6:00 p.m.
- **Annual Book Sale** starts Thursday, December 5th and runs through Saturday, December 14th during normal Library hours. Please support our local Library by visiting Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 10 – 5; Thursday 1 – 7; Saturday 10 - 2 ; Sunday, Monday Closed
- **Festival of Trees** | December 6th & 7th | Downtown Brownsville | Various Locations & Events
- **Park Lottery Applications** | Due December 16th at City Hall
- **Council Meeting** | December 17th | Council Chambers | 7:00 p.m.



Newly Elected Officials |

Your newly elected City Council members include Felipe Eversull, incumbent Mike Winklepleck, and incumbent Lynda Chambers. New Council member terms begin on January 1st, 2025, and will serve for four years. Felipe will be new to our City government, but has served on the Legislative Advocacy Policy Committee (LAPC) and as a member of the Budget Committee, recently serving as President. Mike Winklepleck was appointed to Council in January 2023, when a vacancy occurred, and has served as the Linn County Sheriff's liaison as well. He will be starting his second term. Lynda Chambers will be serving her 5th term as a City Councilor member. Lynda has served on many committees and led Council by serving as Council President for the last two years. New members will be sworn in at the December 17th meeting.



Congratulations to all incoming members; Staff are excited to work with each one of you!



Fall Fire Safety |

Heating and electrical fires can happen any time and in any room of your home because of overloading electrical outlets or extension cords, or placing combustible materials too close to heating equipment. In winter months, hearing and electrical residential fires spike because of increased use of heating appliances and lights. To lower the risk of a fire caused by heating there are several simple things you can do to make your home more fire safe.



- ❖ Keep things that burn such as paper, curtains, bedding, or furniture, at least three feet away from all heating equipment, including fireplaces, wood stoves, and pellet stoves.
- ❖ Use newer, portable space heaters with an automatic shut-off so if they're tipped over, they will shut off.
- ❖ Clean all portable heaters each year before use, and check for product recalls.
- ❖ Unplug portable space heaters when not in use, before going to bed, or when leaving the room.
- ❖ Make sure fuel-burning heaters are designed for indoor use and are properly ventilated.
- ❖ **ALWAYS** plug appliances, including portable space heaters, directly into a **WALL OUTLET**, and **NEVER INTO A POWER STRIP** or extension cord. Extension cords are for temporary use only.
- ❖ Make sure you have working carbon monoxide alarms on every level of your home, inside each bedroom, and in the hallway outside each bedroom.



Brownsville Senior Center

Senior Center |

The Brownsville Senior Center, located at 339 N. Main Street, would like to invite you to stop in to visit and have a cup of coffee or tea. We are open between the hours of 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

We have several fun events each month that you can enjoy including Bingo every Saturday night, a monthly potluck, and various ongoing card and board games. We usually have a puzzle set up for enjoyment as well. We would love to have you join our group! If you have any questions, or need more information, please call 541.466.5935. We hope to see you soon!



City of Brownsville
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Brownsville, OR 97327

PRSR STD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM RETAIL

LOCAL PATRON



Sign of the Times *by Mayor Adam Craven*



At the November Council meeting, Council heard a concern regarding a political sign that was stolen from its location at the corner of Main Street and Park Avenue. I heard several concerns about political signs being taken during this most recent election cycle. I was ridiculed, by some, for not saying anything about the fate of these signs. Well, I did in fact talk against anyone taking or vandalizing any political signs at the September Council meeting. The Sheriff's Office did follow up on two reports, but the complainant was not interested in pressing the matter.

I have a personal Facebook page where I have made comments about personal things that have happened to me. I have experienced a wide range of emotions from certain members of the community due to opinions I've expressed both personally and as the Mayor. Social media platforms allow for a wide range of content and commentary.

A few years ago, Council and Staff grew weary of the slanted coverage the City was receiving in local newspapers. Council wanted to improve our communications with our citizens and those who live in the Brownsville area. So, the City started publishing the monthly synopsis of Council proceedings and mailed it to everyone in the 97327 zip code. I am happy to report that this communication effort has led to many positive comments while minimizing the negative coverage the City continues to receive.

The City has chosen not to defend Staff, Council members, or myself publicly, but Council sees many tactics that seem to be designed to waste Council time and drag public dialogue into places that either aren't accurate, are fabricated or are not relevant to Council business. Working in the public spotlight comes with many challenges and trying to maintain a certain decorum to discharge the functions of the City has been met with continual disruptions.

Should anyone have any concerns about a post, allegation, or an issue with the City, please feel free to contact any member of Council via email. All email addresses are available on the City website. As always, I wish you all the best during this holiday season. God Bless!

City website address: www.ci.brownsville.or.us