



Council Minutes

January 30th, 2025

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

ABSENT: All members present.

PUBLIC: Arlen Krabill, Steve VanSandt, Betsy Ramshur, Sheriff Michelle Duncan, and Penny Rosenberg (*Democrat-Herald*).

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS: Possible deletion of David Karo, Central Linn School District.

MINUTES: Councilor Solberg made a motion to approve the December 17th, 2024 meeting minutes as presented. Councilor LaCoste seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING | PRESENTATIONS:

1. **Oregon Legislative Information System (OLIS)** McDowell reviewed with Council how to use the system to submit testimony, know when hearings happen, and read related bills. McDowell also shared where folks can sign up for announcements and alerts from State agencies. The website, <https://www.s-mac.org>, also has direct links to the United States Congress.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

1. **Linn County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) Report | Sheriff Michelle Duncan.** Sheriff Duncan reviewed the statistics for December. Duncan shared the personnel challenges the Sheriff's Office continues to face. She said that increases to the city's contract are forthcoming. LCSO is in labor negotiations. She also said the LCSO will be preparing to reintroduce the law enforcement levy this year as it is set to expire. Duncan discussed the multiple challenges the Jail is facing. The LCSO is in the process of expanding the female portion of the Jail by 22 beds. She encouraged all to consider the Citizens Academy this Fall. The Academy takes a deep dive on all things the LCSO does for Linn County from the Jail to SWAT to Search & Rescue and much, much more.
2. **Public Works.** Public Works Superintendent Karl Frink reported on challenges at the Wastewater Treatment Plants sharing a quote for replacement of the gas chlorination equipment for both plants. Frink had hoped to get by until the chemical switch but the associated costs for the new process set those plans back. Council agreed to move forward with the quote from Correct Equipment, Inc. Public Works has been making repairs at the Rec Center. Two of the three pumps failed at the North Plant. All pumps have been repaired.
3. **Administration.** Administrator Scott McDowell reported that the two Town Hall meetings to review the Brownsville Canal Company and Mill Race were well attended and there was good participation. He will be meeting with the Canal Company officials to continue preparations for the Canal Company moving forward. McDowell thanked the Canal Company Board, Mike Neher, Suzanne Wallace, and Ed Isaksen, for serving on the Board and continuing the mission. McDowell also thanked Bob Babcock and John Holbrook for attending and relating historical information for clarification. A mailer will be sent after a path forward is determined. This issue will likely come back to Council in April in agreement form.



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Reports with various State agencies have been filed, or are in progress, including ODOT, OWRD, TMDL, etc.

McDowell reported that members of REAL met last week. The group is splitting out duties, and hoping to move forward with possible university internships, among other projects.

Frink and McDowell are working on filling the Park Caretakers position for this Summer. McDowell reported that the Rec Center continues to have some operational issues, but Staff are working on them.

Staff are preparing for a major website upgrade to the newest version of Drupal, happening soon.

4. **Planning.** No comments.
5. **Library.** No comments.
6. **Office.** No comments.
7. **Council Comments.** Mayor Craven and several Council members attended the League of Oregon Cities Capitol Day, meeting with the City's representative Jami Cate, District 11, and Senator Cedric Hayden, District 6, to express the City's advocacy positions. Craven said the thoughts and insights shared by Representative Cate were all very useful. Councilor Winklepleck said that Governor Kotek was intent on staying the current course, which is a course that must change. Councilor Eversull commented that it was very interesting to see the inner workings of the State government. Councilor Hansen said that it is fascinating to see the resolve of Representative Cate and how she must focus on the small victories due to the super majority of Democratic leadership. Mayor Craven ended with the thought that the City is not interested in handouts as much as major policy shifts aimed at ending unwanted regulation and costs associated with burdensome bureaucracy. Mr. McDowell commented that it has been fantastic to see Council get involved and really try to start pushing our City agenda forward, and advocating for our citizens. Mayor Craven thanked Mr. McDowell for setting up the day and coordinating things so well.
8. **Citizen Comments.** No comments.

LEGISLATIVE:

1. **Resolution 2025.01 | Appoint Judges Pro-Tempore.** Mayor Craven stated that the City will be appointing two judges this year, instead of just one.
Councilor Solberg moved to approve R 2025.01 as presented. Councilor LaCoste seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
2. **Resolution 2025.02 | Commitment to Safety Program.** This is an annual matter of business before Council for approval. McDowell stated that the City has a Safety Committee that meets several times a year for meetings. Employees also engage in Safety Walks quarterly.
Councilor Winklepleck moved to approve R 2025.02 as presented. Councilor Hansen seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
3. **Resolution 2025.03 | Authorize Check Signers.** Mayor Craven read the resolution title into the record. Basically, this resolution is adding a new signer and repealing one signer no longer on Council.



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Councilor Winklepleck moved to approve R 2025.03. Councilor Solberg seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. **Elect Council President.** Mayor Craven opened the floor for discussion, stating that he felt all members are capable of the position of Council President. He suggested retaining Councilor Chambers in the current role. Councilor Winklepleck also stated that he felt that Councilor Hansen would serve Council well in that role. After a vote was taken, Councilor Chambers was retained as Council President for two more years.

2. **Elect Central Linn Recreation Association Representative | Two Year Term.**

Councilor Winklepleck nominated Felipe Eversull for this position. Councilor Chambers seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

3. **Elect Linn County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) Representative | Two Year Term.**

Mayor Craven recommended Councilor Chambers as LCSO representative, with Councilor Solberg as a secondary representative. Councilor Hansen seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

4. **Authorize Advocacy & Policy (LAPC) & Budget Committee Member Advertisements.**

Mr. McDowell stated that due to the discontinuation of the local paper, *The Times*, the City will be utilizing *The New Era* publication out of Sweet Home. McDowell said that he has talked the matter over with Scott Swanson who is the owner and Swanson plans on locating the paper in key spots throughout town while planning to increase coverage of Brownsville happenings.

Councilor Winklepleck moved to authorize advertisements for LAPC and Budget Committee members. Councilor LaCoste seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

5. **Approve Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Annual Report.** Mr. McDowell reviewed the TMDL report from the agenda packet; to say that Council is fatigued with this topic is an understatement. McDowell reviewed the few modifications and status updates of the report. As the City has stated in the past, according to an official study done after the 1997 flood, the City does *not* have a viable or functioning stormwater system. Adopting these TMDL model codes and binding small cities is not a good option. It is unknown how the TMDL requirements will hold up after the Chevron case reversal by the United States Supreme Court back in June 2024. It seems the DEQ and State of Oregon is continuing with these policies and requirements, full speed ahead, which are in direct opposition of President Trump's direction. Mr. McDowell stated that it is fair to say that these regulations could work for larger communities, but don't work well for small cities our size. When this program initiated, it was a voluntary program. When the Clean Water Act was reauthorized in 1996, these regulations were only designed to be applicable to cities greater than 50,000 population. The parameters have been totally changed, where all cities are now expected to comply. DEQ has also designated all cities as DMA's (Designated Management Authorities) and are now able to levy fines and fees to such agencies for noncompliance with their forced rules and regulations.

Councilor Winklepleck moved to approve the TMDL report as presented. Councilor Hansen seconded the motion, and it passed with Mayor Craven voting against the motion. Mayor Craven stated that he wanted to show that the City is not interested in these kinds of forced programming.

6. **Vacate Brownsville Municipal Code Appendices (B & D).** Mr. McDowell stated that these deletions are just a matter of housekeeping. They are agreements for old services no longer relevant to City business and reorder appendices as necessary.



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Councilor Winklepleck moved to approve these code deletions. Councilor Chambers seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

7. **Approve the Annual River's Edge Homeowner's Association Letter.** Mr. McDowell stated that this letter to all residents of the subdivision defines the responsibilities of the Homeowner's Association and the City as it pertains to operation and maintenance of certain items. McDowell reported that a webpage is also dedicated for this purpose.

Councilor Solberg moved to approve disbursement of annual letter to River's Edge homeowners. Councilor LaCoste seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. **Council Goal Setting.** McDowell proposed a two-hour evening session to discuss and review Council Goals. Council set February 19th, at 6:00 p.m. for a Council Retreat and Goal Setting session. Council hopes to finalize the goals at the February 25th, 2025 Council meeting.
2. **Advocacy Positions.** Council reviewed the previously approved advocacy positions.
3. **Budget Advertisements.** Staff indicated appropriate Budget Hearings notices will be published in *The New Era* newspaper.
4. **December Financials.** No comments.

CITIZEN QUESTIONS & COMMENTS. No comments.

COUNCIL COMMENTS. Councilor Chambers stated that she appreciated Mr. McDowell's inclusion of quotes each month in the agenda packet. She particularly liked the Albert Einstein quote this month, "There are only two ways to live your life – one is as though nothing is a miracle, the other is as though everything is a miracle." Chambers encourage everyone to look for a miracle in everything.

Councilor Winklepleck thanked the audience for coming out to a meeting on a Thursday night.

Councilor Eversull stated that he is excited to serve with such a professional, capable Council. He is looking forward to serving the community.

ADJOURNMENT: *Councilor Hansen moved to adjourn at 8:33 p.m. Councilor LaCoste 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