



Council Meeting Synopsis

Council met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers on January 30th, 2025



- ★ All members of Council were present. Mayor Craven presided.
- ★ *Oregon Legislative Information System (OLIS)* | McDowell reviewed with Council how to use the system to submit testimony, know when hearings are happening 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.
- ★ *Linn County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) Report* | 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 look into 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.
- ★ *Public Works Report* | 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.
- ★ *City Administrator Report* | 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 meeting. Reports with various State agencies have been filed. Frink and McDowell are working on filling the Park Caretakers position for this Summer. Staff is preparing for the website upgrade to the newest version of Drupal.
- ★ *Capitol Day* | 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 innerworkings 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.
- ★ Resolution 2025.01: Judges Pro-Tempore (Annual) | Council unanimously passed this resolution that appoints substitute judges for City court matters.
- ★ Resolution 2025.02: Commitment to Safety Program (Annual) | Council unanimously passed this resolution that commits the City to ensure a safe work environment for employees. The City has received the highest safety rating for five of the last six years.
- ★ Resolution 2025.03: Authorize Check Signers | Council unanimously passed the resolution that reassigns check signs for City financial transactions.
- ★ *Elect Council President | Two Year Term* | Council appointed Councilor Chambers as Council President.



- ★ *Elect Central Linn Recreation Association Representative | Two Year Term | Council appointed Councilor Eversull as the Central Linn Recreation Association liaison.*
- ★ *Elect Linn County Sheriff's Office Representative | Two Year Term | Council appointed Councilor Chambers as the LCSO representative with Councilor Solberg as backup.*
- ★ *Authorize Legislative Advocacy & Policy Committee (LAPC) Member Advertisement | Council unanimously authorized advertising for new a member.*
- ★ *Authorize Budget Committee Members (2) Advertisement | Council unanimously authorized advertising for two new members.*
- ★ *Approve Annual TMDL Report (2024) | Council approved the submitted report as written. Vote: Chambers, Solberg, Winklepleck, LaCoste, Hansen, Eversull in favor; and Craven against. Craven wanted to show that the City is not interested in these kinds of forced programming.*
- ★ *Vacate Brownsville Municipal Code Appendices (B & D) | Council directed McDowell to vacate two franchise agreements that were no longer relevant to City business and reorder the appendices as necessary. The motion unanimously passed.*
- ★ *Approve River's Edge Homeowners Association Annual Letter | Council unanimously passed a motion to send a letter to all residents of the subdivision to define the responsibilities of the Homeowner's Association and the City as it pertains to operation and maintenance of certain facilities. McDowell reported that a webpage is also dedicated for this purpose.*
- ★ *Annual Goal Setting Session | Council set February 19th, 6:00 p.m., for a Council Retreat & Goal Setting review session. Council hopes to finalize the goals at the February 25th, 2025 meeting.*
- ★ *Advocacy Positions | Council reviewed the previously approved advocacy positions.*
- ★ *Staff will publish required notices for the annual Budget Hearings and notices in *The New Era* newspaper.*

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.

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



Upcoming Events: Council Meeting | February 25th, 2025 | Council Chambers | 7:00 p.m.



Drinking Water Preparations. Emergency preparedness experts recommend having at least 4 days worth of water on hand in the event of an emergency. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends storing at least one gallon of water per person, per day. **Icy Weather.** Large sections of the United States are currently experiencing extreme cold, snow, ice, and high winds. These winter storms can create a higher risk of car accidents, hypothermia, frostbite, carbon monoxide poisoning, and heart attacks from overexertion.

If you are under a winter storm warning, find shelter right away. Bring your pets inside before the storm begins. If possible, stay off roads and limit your time outdoors. Reduce the risk of heart attack by taking breaks when shoveling heavy snow, pushing a vehicle, or walking in deep snow. Walk carefully on snowy, icy sidewalks. Our local emergency rooms and urgent care centers can be overrun with fall injuries during winter storms.



Brownsville School History | Central Linn Recreation Center Project

Brownsville is designated to have built the first school in Linn County (compiled by Workers of the Writer's Program published about 1945). The first teacher was Rev. H. H. Spaulding, and he taught in this log house on a hill above the town, now referred to as School Hill, in the summer of 1849. This was a subscription school, financed in the first few years by voluntary subscriptions by the patrons of the school.



Around 1870 there were three original villages that composed what is now the City of Brownsville. Around 1874 the villages had grown enough that the borders finally touched, and the village of Amelia was incorporated into the town of North Brownsville. Bitter rivalry existed between these adjacent villages, but finally all differences were ironed out and on April 8th, 1895, North and South Brownsville were incorporated into one town. However, this incorporation did not unite the school districts. For many years two separate schools were maintained. Research shows that the North Brownsville School was built and opened in 1910. Around 1918 there was a cooperative agreement that united the schools into

the Brownsville Joint School District No. 52-74.

In 1957 the communities of Brownsville, Halsey, and Shedd consolidated their schools into the Central Linn School District, and the community high school was established about 5 miles west of Brownsville. The last class to graduate from Brownsville High School was the class of 1958. The beautiful Brownsville High School building is long gone (rumored to have been torn down 2 weeks after the 1958 class graduation), but the Rec Center building remains to this day (you can see it in the picture to the right).

North Brownsville School with Rec Center early 1900's



The Rec Center officially became City property in 2018 after the Central Linn School Board agreed to convey the property to City ownership at the request of City Council. The Central Linn Recreation Association has been operating youth sports programming for over fifty years for the Central Linn community. Since 1981, the City has maintained the building with the help of the Association.

The recent renovation project has been a “head-to-toe” update of the facility. Fire and Life Safety are driving many of the decisions. The gymnasium has been redone with a new scoreboard, backboards, an updated stage area, storage rooms, restrooms, upgraded kitchen, and a large meeting room. Accessibility is improved with ADA ramps and entrances for the facility. New HVAC, electrical, and plumbing are included. Other upgrades include small seismic modifications, replacement of all the windows and doors, and paint for the entire building, inside and out.



The City of Brownsville held an open house on February 22nd, 2024 at the Rec Center to celebrate the recent remodeling of the building, and invited the community in to see all the upgrades. The event was attended by over 100 people.

A few of the folks had attended school in the building, and were so excited to see the refurbishment. Mary Lou Neher told stories of attending school in the Brownsville High School building.

The renovation project has been a mix of preserving the old, and embracing new modifications and upgrades with the hope that the building will serve the community for decades to come!



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LOCAL PATRON



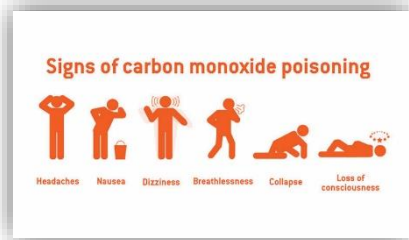
Board Committee Openings



Legislative Advocacy & Policy Committee (LAPC). The City is seeking a member for LAPC. Meetings are on an as-needed basis, and advises Council on policy positions. Members may also be asked to testify at the State Legislature, provide written testimony, or other administrative functions as directed by the Administrator and Council.

Budget Committee Member. The City would like to fill two (2) openings on the Budget Committee. The Committee consists of all seven (7) Council members and seven (7) citizens. Members serve a three (3) year term. Deliberations are set to begin April 24th, 2025 to plan for the upcoming fiscal year. The Committee will meet on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. for no more than three (3) weeks. (The Committee has completed the entire process in one evening the last few years.)

Any citizen interested in serving should complete the Boards & Committees Application found on the City website at <https://www.ci.brownsville.or.us/bc/page/boards-committee-application> by Thursday, February 20th, 2025 by 4:00 p.m. You may also pick up an application at City Hall. If you have any questions, contact S. Scott McDowell at 541.466.5880. Please submit your application to admin@ci.brownsville.or.us, or by dropping your application by City Hall.



Carbon Monoxide Poisoning. Carbon monoxide poisoning has unfortunately caused deaths during extended power outages. NEVER use a generator inside a home, basement, shed or garage, even if doors and windows are open. Follow a local station on a battery-powered radio for updated emergency information. Close blinds or curtains to retain as much heat as possible. Close off unused rooms to avoid wasting heat, and stuff towels or rags in cracks under doors. Layers of loose-fitting, lightweight, warm clothing will keep

you warmer than a bulky sweater. Eat regularly, as food provides the body with energy for producing its own heat. Drink liquids such as warm broth or juice. Avoid caffeine or alcohol. If appropriate, check on neighbors who may need assistance – older adults, people with disabilities, and young children are more at risk in extreme cold.