



Council Meeting Synopsis

Council met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers on
February 25th, 2025



- ★ All members of Council were present. Mayor Craven presided.
- ★ *Goals 2025.2026* | Council considered goals for the upcoming two years; continuing from their work on February 19th, 2025. After a brief overview of concerns and pending projects, Council directed McDowell to pare the goals down for consideration at the April meeting. The City is facing many challenges being imposed by the State and Federal governments.
- ★ *Calapooia Riverbank Retrospective* | McDowell reviewed the challenges of the riverbank project. The City has explored every angle of repairing the riverbank. The City is under the regulatory authority of five State & Federal agencies to permit any repair. The bottom line is cost. To repair the riverbank would cost over \$3M. If Council were to borrow the money to execute the project, it would cost the equivalent of \$25 per month for every household in Brownsville.
- ★ *Kirk Avenue Retrospective* | McDowell reviewed the components of the Kirk Avenue project. The surface of the street would need to be lowered considerably to install storm drainage. Moving all utilities including water lines, water service lines, sanitary collection lines, installing curbs & gutters, sidewalks and securing easements to perform the project would be more than \$3M. Council would then assess the costs to abutting property owners. The assessment would be over \$45,000 +/- per property owner from Main Street to Hunter Street. The assessed cost would be levied annually for a period of ten years or \$4,500 per year in this example.
- ★ *Linn County Sheriff's Office Report* | Sergeant Frames warned everyone about fraud. Fraud is through the roof this year with over \$500,000 being stolen from Linn County residents since the first of the year. Please go to the Sheriff's Office website for tips on how to protect yourself and your loved ones from fraud. Inclement weather caused many citations and rescues due to motorists ignoring traffic control devices. One car was burglarized because the doors were left unlocked. Please remember to lock your vehicle. There were two death investigations this past month, both cases were from natural causes. The Office must investigate a death when medical personnel do not accompany deceased persons.
- ★ *City Administrator Report* | Administrator Scott McDowell reported on repairs at the Rec Center that included lighting, the scoreboard controller, and the rigging for the west basketball hoop. Budget season has started. Morrow and McDowell recently attended the annual budget training. Staff continue working on the Brownsville Canal Company agreement. Staff are preparing for the website upgrade to the newest version of Drupal. The Rural Economic Alliance (REAL) is working with LBCC to explore the possibility of creating an internship program to accomplish strategic & marketing goals. McDowell reviewed key bills being considered in Salem. The Recreational Immunity bill is SB 179. McDowell addressed false comments that recently surfaced on social media platforms regarding properties located near North Avenue & N. Main Street. Two properties are considering building a quadplex and a duplex. Staff were accused of making backroom deals among other allegations. McDowell showed those in attendance that the zoning has never changed since the map was adopted in 1981 and that those two property owners have full rights to develop those two properties lawfully.
- ★ Resolution 2025.04: Solid Waste Rates (Annual) | Council unanimously passed this resolution adjusting solid waste rates by 2.61%.
- ★ Resolution 2025.05: Vanderstelt Reimbursement #2 | Council unanimously passed this resolution reimbursing Yankee Dutch Quilts for a sewer connection mishap.
- ★ Proclamation: Willamette Valley Insurance Services | Mayor Craven and Council recognized the significant investment made by Willamette Valley Insurance Services creating their new office in downtown Brownsville and thanked them for investing in Brownsville.
- ★ *Elect Cascade West Council of Governments Representative | Two Year Term* | Council did not appoint anyone to serve in this capacity.



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PRSR STD
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 U.S. POAGE
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LOCAL PATRON

- ★ *Brownsville Senior Center Agreement* | Council approved a three-year partnership agreement with the Senior Center.
- ★ *Brownsville Flower Club Agreement* | Council approved a three-year partnership agreement with the Flower Club to provide beautification efforts throughout town.
- ★ *Brownsville Art Association Agreement* | Council approved a three-year partnership agreement with the Association.
- ★ *Appoint Legislative Advocacy & Policy Committee (LAPC) Member* | Council unanimously appointed Marie Timmons to the LAPC.
- ★ *Budget Committee Member* | Council unanimously appointed Daniel Pearson to the Budget Committee. The Committee still has one opening.
- ★ *Partnership Agreements* | Mayor Craven asked McDowell for a report on all partnership agreements and memberships for Council review next month.
- ★ *Annual OGEC Reminder | Statement of Economic Interest* | McDowell notified Council and Planning Commission members that this task will need to be completed soon.
- ★ *Wildfire Information | Mayor Craven* | Mayor Craven led a brief discussion on wildfire maps.
- ★ *Citizen Comments* | Oregon State Senator Cedric Hayden touched on several bills that pose concern for small communities. Hayden implored the audience to come testify either in person or online. He said that it really makes a difference on whether bills pass or are amended. Hayden talked about the water maps bill that aims to charge Oregonians for well water use or any water catchment on their property.

Mark Crosby continued the importance of testifying in Salem. Crosby shared three ways, 1) in person, 2) sending emails, and 3) sending emails to every representative, not just your representatives. “When we remain silent, we lose.”

Jack Alzman shared his dismay over the State of Oregon putting money aside to fight against the Trump Administration. Alzman encouraged Council to make their voices heard on this issue.

- ★ *Council Comments* | Mayor Craven commented on the concerns of government overreach and its negative impact on all citizens. Government is here to serve the people, not the other way around. Councilor Eversull and Councilor Winklepleck thanked Marie Timmons for getting involved. “It is great to see the next generation stepping up,” Winklepleck said.

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 ★★★

Central Linn Booster Club Auction | March 15th, 2025 | High School | *Doors Open: 5:00 p.m.*

Council Meeting | March 25th, 2025 | Council Chambers | 7:00 p.m.

Library | Keep up with Library events and opportunities by visiting the library’s website, Facebook page or calling! We would love to see you.



City-Wide Clean Up Day is April 5th, 2025!

