



Council Meeting Synopsis

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



- ★ All members of Council except Councilor Winklepleck were present. Winklepleck was excused. Mayor Craven presided.
- ★ *The Brownsville Times Revival* | Sharon Banks spoke on behalf of a newly formed non-profit organization hoping to restart *The Brownsville Times*. Banks highlighted their plans for getting the paper back in circulation. The paper is a living history of the City with a 136-year tradition. The relaunch will include an on-line aspect but many still like the paper in hand. She highlighted the scope of the paper and policies being considered. Banks said their Board will be holding fundraising efforts to garner enough financial support to begin operations. You can learn more, subscribe or donate to the cause at <https://www.zeffy.com/ticketing/the-brownsville-times-subscription>.
- ★ *Consumer Confidence Report* | *Karl Frink* | Public Works Superintendent Karl Frink reviewed the annual water quality report required by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) highlights included the sources of Brownsville's water supply, the items tested monthly and annually, the importance of the GR12 project and the backflow prevention program. Frink covered the ways the City distributes and manages water throughout the City system. He encouraged anyone interested to view the report on the City website or on the State website at www.oregon.gov/oha/ph/healthyenvironments/drinkingwater.
- ★ *Goals 2025.2026* | Council passed goals as presented. Council met in February twice to consider options for the next two years. The City continues facing many challenges imposed by the State and Federal governments on a variety of issues from addressing homelessness, to housing, to floodplain management, to name a few. Council agreed to work closely with McDowell to accomplish the identified goals. McDowell will provide a strategy and timeline to direct the work at an upcoming session of Council.
- ★ *City Website Reviews* | McDowell reviewed the City websites including the Emergency Preparedness website, the SMAC website, and the REAL website. McDowell shared some operational concerns with the current City website. Operational cost associated with migration to a new platform is reason for concern.
- ★ *Calapooia Riverbank & Kirk Avenue Retrospective* | McDowell said this information was provided for review only. Council & Staff are constantly asked about these two projects. Every year, Staff does a presentation outlining the costs associated with each project. Council has never moved forward with the Kirk Avenue project due to the costs associated with the project and with the assessments that would be placed on abutting property owners. At some point in the future, the City will have to address this issue.

Council decided years ago to retreat from the river due to the associated costs and permitting required to complete a project to make the necessary repairs. Five State & Federal agencies have jurisdiction on any project that happens in any watercourse in the State of Oregon. City officials can face fines and even be jailed if the proper permits and requirements are not met.
- ★ *Linn County Sheriff's Office Report* | Sergeant Frames said that crime has been near zero in Brownsville which has allowed deputies to focus on traffic. A total of forty-six citations were issued last month. Frames reported that coffee shop robberies have been happening throughout Linn County. The Sheriff's Office along with other jurisdictions are working to apprehend the perpetrators. He encouraged folks to consider installing video cameras around their businesses and properties. Cameras are inexpensive and have high quality resolution that can assist law enforcement in apprehending criminals.

- ★ *City Administrator Report* | Administrator Scott McDowell reported outline several upcoming meetings including the Budget Committee meeting schedule for April 24th, 2025. Council will hold a retreat immediately following the Budget Committee meeting in Council Chambers. McDowell shared information regarding the City's advocacy efforts for this legislative session and the efforts made by the Small Municipalities Advocacy Coalition. He encouraged Council to continue their legislative efforts. McDowell said Council should consider weighing in on a Federal proposal to tax municipal bonds. He encouraged everyone to contact our Congress members.
- ★ Councilor Chambers reported on the Sheriff's quarterly meeting. Sheriff Duncan warned that the upcoming contract will be over eight percent or higher. The Office has been busy hiring and training deputies. Many are now ready for the road. Solberg reported that Duncan had a few bills that should be opposed to keep our communities safe. McDowell was asked to obtain the bill numbers from the Sheriff. Solberg said the fraud issue cost Linn County victims \$500,000 in January alone.
- ★ Resolution 2025.06: Workers' Compensation (Annual) | Council unanimously passed this resolution covering volunteers serving the City.
- ★ Ordinance 807: City Administrator Nonelective Appointments (First Reading) | Council considered an ordinance that will modify how nonelective positions are filled by the City to match actual practice. The second reading of this ordinance will be held in April.
- ★ Proclamation: Child Abuse & Prevention Month Proclamation | Mayor Craven and Council recognized April as awareness month for this serious issue.
- ★ *Appoint Budget Committee Member* | Council appointed Julie Fisher to the Budget Committee.
- ★ *Explore City Website RFP* | Council approved McDowell investigating vendors for the City website. McDowell will be negotiating with the current provider first. Fees are becoming absorbent as mentioned above.
- ★ *Meals on Wheels Request* | Council continued support of the annual partnership with Cascades West Council of Governments in the amount of \$1,200. Councilor Hansen abstained.
- ★ *Linn County Pioneer Association | Road Closure Request (Annual)* | Council unanimously approved the parade route for this year's 183rd Annual Picnic which will be held June 20th, 21st & 22nd. Picnic theme is Pioneer Logging Camps.
- ★ *Partnership Agreements & Memberships* | Council reviewed civic non-profit partnerships and memberships. Mayor Craven shared that three agreements will be reviewed later this year. He stated that it is important for everyone to understand how City funds are being used and how important it is to spend taxpayer dollars responsibly.
- ★ *Cleanup Day | April 5th, 2025* | May Craven said Sweet Home Sanitation will host the annual Cleanup Day in the Rec Center parking lot. See website for more details.
- ★ *Vineyard Wind Machines | Semi-Annual Reminder* | Mayor Craven reminded everyone that the fans may be turning on soon, and they can be heard over most of Brownsville.
- ★ *Citizen Comments* | Jared Sweezey relayed a garbage collection issue being requested by Sweet Home Sanitation that is causing a logistics concern with garbage cans being placed on only one side of the street. Sweezey pointed out that based on the size of his lot, and the requirement of cans being placed three feet apart, it severely hampers his ability to use his driveway. Sweezey asked two questions of Public Works Superintendent Frink. The City has had no results when testing for PFAs. Water testing for individual homes is done by the homeowner and not the City.
- ★ *Council Comments* | Councilor Chambers reminded everyone that the Real ID requirement was going into effect May 7th. Any travel will require this new form of ID. Councilor Hansen said that a passport will also work. She also thanked Frink for his light-hearted approach to this year's Consumer Confidence Report presentation.

Councilor Hansen recounted a personal story about the sophisticated nature of these fraud crimes being committed in Linn County.

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

Cleanup Day | April 5th, 2025 | Rec Center Parking Lot | 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Easter Egg Hunt | April 19th, 2025 | Pioneer Park | 1:00 p.m.

Budget Committee | April 24th, 2025 | Community Room | 7:00 p.m.

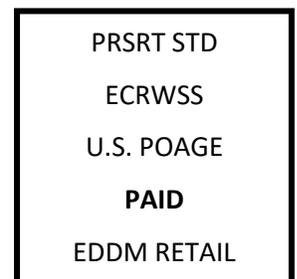
Council Meeting | April 29th, 2025 | Council Chambers | 7:00 p.m.

Library | April 17th, 2025 | Estate Planning | Kirk Room | 7:00 p.m.

Did you know you can check out a Free (Cultural) Pass to the Oregon Gardens, *Oregon State Parks*, Central Cascades Wilderness Permit or the *University of Oregon Museum of Natural and Cultural History*? Your Library has more than books!



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