



2025 Council Goals Attaché

Summary: Council asked Staff to make decisions regarding the goals as presented at the Goal Setting Session held February 19th, 2025, and the Council meeting held February 25th, 2025, which aimed to finalize 2025.2026 Council goals. To complete all the goals listed, or at least to try to complete all goals, Staff will actively employ Council on several items.

Purpose: Below are brief explanations of concepts and ideas that Council considered for 2025. The numbered items are the adopted goals; however, the numbers are for reference purposes **not** priority rankings.

Symbols:



| Item is an ongoing priority.



| Item is subject to State & Federal deadline demands.



| Item means Council will play an active role.

Color Bar Legend

<i>Planning</i>
<i>General</i>
<i>Utilities</i>
<i>Advocacy</i>
<i>Capital Improvements</i>
<i>Organizational</i>

1. *Planning* | *Storage Containers*

- ★ The City does not have any rules in place for metal storage containers. People are using them not only as accessory structures for storage, but also as primary residences. Does Council want to address rules that shape the use of storage containers? Do storage containers as primary or secondary structures match the historic image Brownsville attempts to project?

Council recommended this issue to the Planning Commission for review.

2. *Planning* | *Building Standards (Architectural Aesthetic)*

- ★ Staff presented this issue to the Historic Review Board before the Dollar General started building. No recommendations were made by the HRB, so the City had no applicable standards for the Dollar General to follow. The City requested certain aesthetic items be completed but had zero force of law. The Dollar General honored a few of the City’s requests.

The City could pass ordinances that would require private building projects to adhere to a set of rules and requirements for building appearance. Without any standards, builders do not have to do anything other than meet the civil Public Works Standards.

3. *Planning* | *Land Use Inventory (Kinney)*



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- ★ The City is attempting to redefine city limits and the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) with work currently being performed by Dave Kinney and Staff. Council authorized language for RV usage and some right-of-way usage modifications as well.

4. **Planning** | *Private Property & Private Development*

- ★ Understanding the nuances Staff deals with in attempting to locate anything from a retail store to a housing development. Knowing the inner workings of the process can help keep peace in the City when Council and other non-elective officials know the dynamics.
- ★ Council & Staff training that leads to understanding project scope and the City's role in developments in town. Staff needs support from Council. Staff began compiling the Policy & FYI series that is updated monthly in the Council agenda packet to help with general understandings of City operations.

5. **Planning** | *System Development Charges*

- ★ The State of Oregon is looking at eliminating these local system charges. These charges were implemented by the State for cities to generate revenue toward future capital improvements projects. Now the State is trying to take these away while not eliminating any of the State's regulatory practices. The City has not increased these charges since they were implemented.

6. **General** | *Election Signs*

- ★ The City could consider better definitions for the sign ordinance to incorporate elections signs and other temporary signs utilized throughout the City. Nearly every election year there is conflict over political sign placement. The City has always viewed these signs as temporary. In the past, political opponents have dragged the City into fights regarding placement that has included Linn County.

7. **General** | *Internet Service Provider*

- ★ Alyrica continues installing a fiber optic system throughout town.

8. **General** | *Economic Development*

- ★ Council should consider their role and purpose toward this effort. All the new developments have been a source of concern and frustration for citizens. Council should consider a public education piece around development and key issues. Council should start by educating themselves better on key issues as they happen in Brownsville and the surrounding area. Council must be intentional on this issue if it is to improve.

9. **General** | *Street Address Campaign*

- ★ Many homes in Brownsville are not properly addressed. It is the responsibility of the property owner, but the City's efforts to inform residents have not made any difference. Proper addresses are a critical component of public safety.

10. **General** | *Recycling Modernization Act (RMA)*



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- ★ The State Legislature passed this terrible Act that will drive up the costs of Solid Waste in the coming years. The City is working with Sweet Home Sanitation to ensure that the State regulatory nonsense is met.

11. **General** | *Honor Veterans*

- ★ Create a Committee to work with the American Legion to display banners of Brownsville citizens who have served in the Armed Forces.

12. **Utilities** | *TMDL*

- ★ The City could be forced to create a storm water utility. Changes were made to the five-year plan since the City has been deemed a Designated Management Agency (DMA). The total costs to implement the EPA's end-goal scenario could be upwards of \$20,000,000.

Findings & orders are binding requirements on governmental entities such as municipalities and counties to complete specified utility work. The City was under findings & orders to repair the City's sanitary sewer system in 2005 which led to the massive Public Works project in 2007. If the City did not comply, the Federal and State government could fine up to a certain amount per day the issue was not addressed.

13. **Advocacy** | *Charter & Home Rule*

- ★ Advocacy is needed to ensure local policy bodies such as Council have control over their local jurisdictions. Every legislative session the State presses forward on unfunded mandates and dictates what cities shall do in nearly all facets.

14. **Advocacy** | *Policy Advocacy Committee*

- ★ Council should consider bolstering the Legislative Advocacy & Policy Committee (LAPC) to assist with the task of tracking key bills through LOC that are being presented in Salem and Washington D.C. The City would then be ready to comment on issues relating to specific policies that impact on the City, the taxpayers, and the ratepayers.

15. **Advocacy** | *Camping* | *H.B 3115 Repeal*

- ★ Monitoring the latest developments at the State to keep H.B. 3115 even though the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of Grant Pass in their review in June 2024.

16. **Advocacy** | *Recreational Immunity*

- ★ The City must be ever vigilant advocating for recreational immunity.

17. **Advocacy** | *Tort Limits*

- ★ The City must be ever vigilant watching for changes to tort limits that affect the City's insurance and exposure.

18. **Advocacy** | *Unfunded Mandates*

- ★ The City could determine what their legal rights are in fighting back against these moves by the State and the Feds.



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19. **Advocacy** | SMAC

- ★ The City should continue to develop and grow this grass-roots organization.

20. **Capital Improvements** | Water & Sewer Projects

- ★ The City is investing the addition of a Sewer Lagoon due to capacity issues. The project also includes a new treatment process switching to calcium thiosulfate for Dechlorination.
- ★ The City needs to begin planning for the upgrade to the WTP. The project includes adding more slow-sand filtration, UV or Ozone Disinfection System, a 1.8M gallon reservoir, and replacing several major waterlines. Projected cost is between \$6M and \$8.

21. **Capital Improvements** | Future Park Improvements

- ★ The City has been planning to build a new playground but complication with the Rec Center Renovation project delayed the completion of the project. Total estimated cost is \$250,000.

22. **Organizational** | Partnerships

- ★ Council has many agreements with various organizations including many local civic organizations who do a lot for Brownsville. Evaluate and review agreements as needed.

23. **Organizational** | Personnel

- ★ Continuing to develop Council and Staff relations through a variety of methods including special subcommittees, one-on-one meetings, organization meetings, regional meetings & involvement, League of Oregon Cities training courses, and other opportunities as they arise.

24. **Organizational** | Communication Plan

- ★ Develop a plan that allows for Council expression over the course of the year on a variety of topics and develop a process that honors and respects other members. Start a speaker's bureau to attend civic organizations annually as a check-in.

25. **Organizational** | Adopt New Official's Handbook

- ★ Council could review the Handbook to address Council meeting efficiency and changes that would help foster a better interactive process with the public. Redefine behavioral issues for membership and accountability to the organization.

26. **Organizational** | Social Media

- ★ Council should examine how to best deal with Social Media interactions.

Notes

State & Federal Unresolved Items | These items could be forced at any time on the City.



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Planning | FEMA Pre-Implementation Correction Measures (PICM)

- ★ The DLCD and Feds are going to implement compliance deadlines for cities.

Utilities | Per- & Polyfluoroalkyl Substances

- ★ The Feds continue to push this effort, which will soon become yet another unfunded mandate. The EPA contends that forever substances have leached into the public water supply causing human health concerns. The regulations forced a switch to plastic PVC water lines in the 1970's while still allowing cast iron pipes.

Utilities | Lead & Copper Rule

- ★ The Feds continue to require cities to remove pipes to comply with this EPA rule.

General | Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (NHMP)

- ★ The Feds and State have teamed up to force municipalities to adopt a mitigation plan that will be impossible to afford or else lose their disaster relief. The only hope here is the U.S. Supreme Court's *Chevron* ruling in June 2024.

General | Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)

- ★ The State Legislature passed nonsensical regulations attempting to force individuals to 'fireproof' private properties with heavy handed regulations. Council initially passed on this unfunded mandate but with the fires in California, the State will more than likely respond more forcefully soon. Did the ridiculous regulations save California? No. No they did not.

Council Decision Items | Projects that have been thoroughly discussed and must be continually communicated to the citizens.

Capital Improvements | Sidewalk Program

- ★ Sidewalks throughout town are in poor condition to non-existent. Council could consider what it would take to implement and complete a sidewalk program.

Capital Improvements | Kirk Avenue Paving (Main Street to Hunter Street)

- ★ Many have requested that the City make repairs to Kirk Avenue. Kirk Avenue is in poor shape and needs major work including the installation of proper storm drainage and moving existing utilities. Linn County Road Department provided the City with an estimate of \$2.2M in 2011 to complete the work; adjusted for inflation the cost is over \$3.1M. Creating a Local Improvement District (LID) would cost abutting property owners thousands of dollars extra each year on their taxes; at last calculation it would cost an average of \$48,000 per abutting property owner spread over ten years. The City could also choose to do a grind & overlay project, but this would be a temporary improvement. The estimated cost of a grind & overlay



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project would be \$700,000 to \$900,000. Self-funding this project would take years. Council could grind & overlay the pavement, but drainage and other issues would not be addressed.

Capital Improvements | *Calapooia Riverbank Repair*

- ★ The City has been through every scenario with the State & Feds on this project. The adjusted cost based on inflation is over \$3.1M.

State of Oregon

Governor Kotek's four pillars are, 1) Climate Change, 2) the Housing Crisis, 3) Homelessness, and 4) DEI. Recent United States Supreme Court decisions including a reversal of the Grants Pass ruling and the Chevron reversal should cause the State to reprioritize their efforts in at least two of these areas, but the State maintains defiant ambivalence to these and other Federal actions including the Trump's Administration's actions to remove DEI. The State has set aside \$15M to fight the Trump Administration.

Climate Change | The State has implemented many climate goals that have done nothing more than created more unnecessary bureaucracy. Creating tax credits are just ways to move money to programs and agencies that are going to have no meaningful impact on this crisis.

Housing Crisis | The City has added over 120 homes without any public assistance. Most seem to be leaning into the idea that the public must build homes to 'solve' the housing crisis. The State is doing nothing about their regulations or requirements that drive up costs and stymie private investments in housing.

Homelessness Crisis | The State continues to 'solve' Homelessness while ignoring underlying causes and are aiding & perpetuating the underlying causes by willfully legalizing every illegal drug known to humankind. Mental Health has been ignored by the government at every level since the mid-1980's. In a recent speech, Representative Bonham said the State has \$3B on 3,300 citizens.

DEI | The State and most ancillary governmental agencies push DEI into their policies. The State will more than likely consider adopting language to codify these practices.

Ancillary Organizations | Ancillary organizations such as the Cascade West Council of Governments, League of Oregon Cities, and City/County Insurance Services all rush to obtain funding for these efforts and/or ally with the State on these and other policies. By taking this approach, they are knowingly and continually aiding and abetting in usurping local authority.

These organizations know certain bills will be disastrous for cities, taxpayers, and ratepayers. Everyone has seen and experienced the terrible implementation of harmful laws for years. Unfortunately, these organizations do little to nothing to protect cities who pay their dues and use their services, moreover, these organizations have the audacity to force and ensure compliance on behalf of the State.

I have been quoted in the League of Oregon Cities survey's as saying, "Too many assets to take of and not enough resources to adequately keep pace. State & Federal regulations drive the cost of



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operating higher, while resources stay the same.” I think it also important to note that many of the laws that are being passed and implemented are proven failures.

Council should be aware that the State is attempting to create a committee to study local revenue streams. It is easy to predict that this will be an absolute failure. They promise to look at Measure 5 and Measure 50 with the implied guise of changing it for the better. The State should look at repealing laws and programs that have proven to be ineffective along with other measures to cut spending. Sometimes the answer is not more money. It is important to note that the State never considers current debt levels of cities. They act like taxpayers and ratepayers are a never-ending source of money for whatever ideas they choose to make law.