



# Council Meeting Synopsis



Council met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers on June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

- ★ All members of Council were present. Mayor Craven presided.
- ★ *Budget Public Hearing | FY 2024.2025* | McDowell touched on highlights for the upcoming budget adoption including the bonded debt assessments and a proposed 3% utility rate increase that would take effect July 1<sup>st</sup>. He also reviewed the modifications made due to current projects extending into the upcoming fiscal year. No public spoke on the issue.
- ★ *Halsey-Shedd Fire Department | Chief Travis Hewitt* | Hewitt was unable to attend.
- ★ *Citizen Input* | Bill Sattler shared concerns about the proposed agreement between the City and the Canal Company. Sattler highlighted maintenance he has performed on the ditch through the years and potential legal concerns for the model being considered. He also added that everyone will be upset being charged for this purpose. Many attended to discuss incidents that transpired at the Brownsville Saloon between a member of Council, the Councilor's wife, and members of the community. Twenty-three people commented. (*Their comments will be included in the official minutes of the meeting.*) The essence of the comments was to express deep concern for behaviors that are unbecoming of officials of the City. Citizens wanted to ensure that Brownsville's officials represented the values of the community and the values expressed in the City's guidelines. The matter is currently under further investigation.
- ★ *Linn County Sheriff's Office | Lieutenant Brian Hardy* | Hardy reviewed the May statistics. Picnic ran smoothly. The Office will have a heavy presence for the Fourth of July in Pioneer Park. Hardy shared a story about the rescue of a group of kittens.
- ★ *Public Works Report | Public Works Superintendent Karl Frink* reported that Public Works has been experiencing a lot of equipment failures over the last month along with a short-handed crew. Frink asked for patience with some of the usual maintenance items that are completed by this time of the year.
- ★ *City Administrator Report | Administrator Scott McDowell* briefly highlighted concerns with the migration of the City's website to a new platform. The reservation system the City currently uses will be changing soon. The GR12 project and the Rec Center Renovation project are experiencing delays due to a variety of reasons. Staff continue working with contractors. The City would like to thank all property owners for their work in maintaining their properties. Properties that were notified for nuisances and abatements have been very easy to work with in resolving those issues. The cooperation is greatly appreciated by Staff. Thank you!
- ★ Resolution 2024.09: Water Rates Annual Adjustments | Council voted unanimously to pass this resolution increasing water rates by 3% starting July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- ★ Resolution 2024.10: Sewer Rates Annual Adjustments | Council voted unanimously to pass this resolution increasing sewer rates by 3% starting July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- ★ Resolution 2024.11: Adopting FY 2024-2025 Budget & Making Appropriations | Council voted unanimously to pass this resolution that adopts the budget, makes appropriations, and imposes and categorizes taxes.
- ★ Resolution 2024.12: Year End Transfers FY 2023-2024 | Council voted unanimously to pass this resolution that accounts for certain expenses that occurred during the fiscal year. Staff added notes pertaining to the Cemetery Trust Fund, including an adjusting journal entry to properly reflect the status of the fund.

- ★ Ordinance 805: Abandoned Vehicles Modification (Emergency) | Council voted unanimously to pass this ordinance to further streamline towing procedures for abandoned and nuisance vehicles at the request of the Linn County Sheriff's Office.
- ★ *Approve Delinquent Assessments* | Council moved to add these assessments to the tax rolls for outstanding utility account balances.
- ★ *Advertise the November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024 General Election* | Council authorized McDowell to advertise for three Council seats that are up for election.
- ★ *Canal Company Agreement* | Council unanimously authorized McDowell to move forward with public hearings and meetings with the Canal Company. Councilor Humphreys said that the issue will be difficult, but the City needs to press forward to determine the best course of action. The agreement is not final, and the Canal Company will have to hold a vote before anything is officially done by the City.
- ★ McDowell explained the Central Linn School District is planning on considering the IGA between the City, the School District, and the Central Linn Recreation Association at their August Board meeting. McDowell also briefly outlined the Brownsville Municipal Code pertaining to local improvement areas.
- ★ Councilor Chambers expressed her view on the situation involving Council behavior. Councilor Winklepleck said that raising rates is never something Council takes lightly. Everyone knows that everything is going up. Councilor Humphreys added that it is less of an increase than all of his other bills.

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](mailto:admin@ci.brownsville.or.us).

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



## Upcoming Events

**City Wide Garage Sale** | July 20<sup>th</sup> | Chamber of Commerce  
**Rally on the River** | 3<sup>rd</sup> Weekend in July | Pioneer Park  
**Stand By Me Day** | July 23<sup>rd</sup> | Linn County Museum  
**Council Meeting** | July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 | Council Chambers | 7:00 p.m.  
**Antique Faire** | August 3<sup>rd</sup> | Chamber of Commerce  
**Hands on History** | Saturday August 24<sup>th</sup> | Linn County Museum



## 4<sup>th</sup> of July Breakfast & Fireworks Show | Pioneer Park

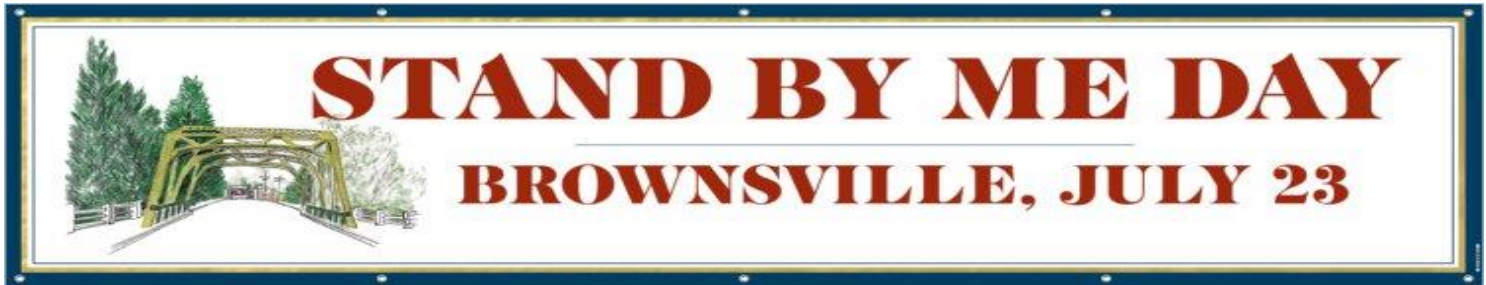


On July 4<sup>th</sup> start your day off right as the Chamber of Commerce serves breakfast (pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, coffee and orange juice) in Pioneer Park. Come on down and socialize with your neighbors! At dusk, the Brownsville Rural Fire District will put on a spectacular fireworks show. If you would like to donate for the fireworks, please reach out to the Fire Department at 541.466.5227 or use the Go Fund Me QR code to the left.



## Rally on the River – Vintage Trailers 3<sup>rd</sup> Weekend in July

Rally on the River is a vintage trailer show held in Pioneer Park during the third weekend of July. The rally has activities for children and adults alike. The rally will host an Open House on Saturday from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. The event will have a limited number of spots for non-vintage trailers. Check out their website <https://www.rallyontherivervintagetrailers.com> for more information.



Stand By Me Day is happening this year on Tuesday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024. There will be guided walking tours, a fan forum with videos, 50's car Cruise In, food trucks, a visit from Ima Blueberry, and of course, a Blueberry Pie Eating Contest. Hours are 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. at Library Park in downtown Brownsville. Check out the Linn County Museum website for more information <https://linnparks.com/>.



## Antique Faire Saturday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024

Brownsville's Antique Faire is happening soon! Over 70 vendors will display their goods in Pioneer Park on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024. Breakfast and lunch will be available and there's plenty of shade and tables to relax for a while. You can enjoy live music in a beautiful park setting and leave with vintage goodies. Free admission! This event is sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. Check out their website for more information <https://www.historicbrownsville.com>.

## Hands on History August 24<sup>th</sup> in Library Park

Step back in time and try your hand at the crafts and activities practiced by the folks who lived here long ago. You can make a cornhusk doll, try cross-cut sawing, candle dipping, gold panning, wash clothes in an old tub and washboard, spin wool and ride in a cart pulled by Belgian Draft mules, Lizzy and Leslie, just to name a few. Returning from years past will be our high wheel bicyclist, apple cider pressing, 1800's woodworking tools and the fascinating presentation on 19th century embalming practices during the Civil War.

All of our delightful musicians will be back with music all day long. Come be a part of this wonderful free event and go home with lasting memories. See you in August! This event is sponsored by the Museum.



**City of Brownsville**  
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**LOCAL PATRON**



**Citywide Yard Sale**  
**July 20<sup>th</sup> in Brownsville**  
**8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

This popular event brings thousands of people to the streets of Brownsville looking for treasures and deals; about 50 sales are to be found throughout town each year. Grab a yard sale map and hit up as many as you can! This event is sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. For more information, please visit their website at <https://www.historicbrownsville.com> for more information.