



Council Meeting Synopsis



Council met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers on October 22nd, 2024.

- ★ Everyone was present. Mayor Craven presided.
- ★ *Brownsville Art Association Annual Report* | *President Dr. Garcy* | Lori Garcy reported on several changes the Association has made to better spread-out duties necessary for the operation of the Art Center. The Association is starting classes again in full force. They are supporting many artists and events throughout the year. There is currently a waiting list for people to display their work. There are many others who help the Art Center who are not even artists. Please find more information about the Association's activities on their website a <http://brownsvilleart.org/>.
- ★ *Chamber of Commerce Annual Report* | *President Jenna Stutsman* | Stutsman reported that the Antique Faire had a banner year for vendors and attendance. Stutsman said the Tetamore's are keeping the Welcome Wagon program working. The Chamber has changed their monthly operation to a Happy Hour meeting that moves from business to business. So far, it has been well received. The Chamber has over sixty members. The two upcoming events are Trick or Treat Street which is scheduled for October 31st, 2024 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Home for the Holidays preparations are being made. The Women's Study Club and the Blue Notes Choir from the High School will be singing carols during the annual tree lighting this year. To learn more about the Chamber please visit their website at <https://www.historicbrownsville.com/>.
- ★ *Linn County Sheriff's Office* | *Sergeant Steve Frambes* | Frambes reviewed the recent statistics stating that there were five arrests, but four of those arrests were the same person, for the month. A window was broken at Dari Mart but nothing was stolen. Recruiting is tough these days for law enforcement. Frambes has been training deputies recently; from the Police Academy, to driving a cruiser, takes over a year due to the necessary training.
- ★ *Public Works Report* | *Public Works Superintendent Karl Frink* reported that the GR12 project has finally wrapped up. Contractors and subcontractors are ironing electrical and communication issues. Rec Center landscaping is complete. Public Works made several improvements at the Rec Center in preparations for the public rental opening of the building. Public Works has been dealing with an unusually high number of water leaks recently. Frink also completed the reporting on service connections as required by the Lead & Copper Rule enforced by the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) on all 876 connections the City operates. Recently, there was a major leak in Pioneer Park. The water was from the water plant and was all treated water that went back into the Calapooia River. Frink welcomed Hayden Holbrook as the newest member of the Public Works team.
- ★ *City Administrator Report* | *Administrator Scott McDowell* briefly highlighted concerns with the migration of the City's website to a new platform and continuing problems with the City's email hosting service. Frink and McDowell are working on reporting to the Oregon Water Resources Department and the Department of Environmental Quality for required reporting due at the beginning of the year. Staff have been dealing with neighborhood disputes in many areas throughout town. McDowell said Staff is putting the finishing touches on the Canal Company Mill Race information that will be presented publicly soon. The City audit has been completed and will be submitted to the appropriate reporting agencies soon.
- ★ *Library* | *Sherri Lemhouse* | Lemhouse reviewed the robust programming schedule at the Library including the Book Sale December 5th through the 14th, Storytime, Book Club, the Stitchery Group, and the Multicultural programs guided by Don Lyon. Lemhouse shared her fascination with the Vanport Exhibition that was a joint project with the Women's Study Club and the Linn County Museum. She went through the onboarding that happens with each new patron. She reported that the e-Books program represents nearly 10% of circulation.

- ★ *Council Comments | Mayor Craven* | Mayor Craven was invited to Cottage Grove to present the Small Municipalities Advocacy Coalition (SMAC) information. Craven was joined by Lobbyist Sean Tate and Legislative Advocacy & Policy Committee (LAPC) member Felipe Eversull. Craven & McDowell attended a media training course offered by the League of Oregon Cities. Craven highlighted the shifting priority of media outlets and techniques the City can employ to properly handle situations when and as they arise. He said that materials will be provided to Council during the upcoming training session at the first of the year.
- ★ *Ordinance 806: Parks & Open Space Advisory Board Code Language (Second Reading)* | Council unanimously passed language changes. Park Board requested cleaning up old language to keep the Code current.
- ★ *Spaulding Avenue Closure | Home for the Holidays* | Council unanimously closed Spaulding Avenue for the Home for the Holidays event. Chamber will meet the necessary requirements for this closure.
- ★ *Approve Council Meeting Schedule | 2025* | Council approved the regular session meeting schedule along with Budget Committee meeting(s).
- ★ *Appointed Officials | Openings & Reappointments* | Council reappointed Gary Compton to the Planning Commission, Pat MacDermott & Pam Solberg to the Parks & Open Space Advisory Board, and Don Andrews & Rick Dominguez to the Budget Committee. Council also authorized advertisements for openings on Boards and Committees. The City has an opening on the Planning Commission, the Parks & Open Space Advisory Board, and the Budget Committee.
- ★ *Small Municipalities Advocacy Coalition (SMAC) Session Updates* | The group is growing membership and pushing a few issues for this upcoming legislative session including keeping a watchful eye on recreational immunity, city's rights, home rule and other interests that could negatively impact our citizens and taxpayers.
- ★ *Citizen Comments* | Betty Doren trolled McDowell while explaining definitions of trolling. Steve Van Sandt asked all parties involved to find common ground and cling to the ideals that make Brownsville great. Please remember that we are all neighbors. Take the time to talk to people on the other side of the aisle and put down social media, media and other “echo chambers” that aim to divide us. Don Lyon asked Councilors who were running for office to identify where the Marxist ideologues were in town referencing a flier he had recently received in the mail. Johnny Claasen asked what could be done with the boat sitting at the end of Oak Street. He would like Council to clean up the right-of-way. Chad Schrock would like to partner with the City on community service projects. The Pioneer Christian Academy auction starts at 3:00 p.m. on October 26th, 2024.

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

Trick or Treat Street | October 31st, 2024 | 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

American Legion Haunted House | October 29th – 31st, 2024 | 4:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Veteran's Day Breakfast | November 11th, 2024 | 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. | American Legion

Council Meeting | November 26th, 2024 | 7:00 p.m. | City Hall