



Council Meeting Synopsis

Council met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers on May 23rd, 2023.

- ★ All members of Council were present, except for Sean LaCoste who was excused. Mayor Craven presided.
- ★ Mayor Craven opened the floor to Citizen comments. Dr. Mike Rodia of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association provided written materials and a presentation reviewing the importance of residential beekeeping and addressing concerns about human interactions. Don Lyon, President of the Calapooia Food Alliance, Anita Pilkenton, Kathleen Swayze, Joni Nelson, Nan Van Sandt, Steve Van Sandt, Jeanna Graham, and Bill Sattler all presented information on the importance and impact of bees and made suggestions for alternative ways to address adverse human interaction with bees. Gary Shepherd shared a concern about a friend who nearly died due to a bee sting.

Council moved to suspend the ordinance and consider a different ordinance at a future meeting. Councilor Solberg will head up the effort.

- ★ Yolonda Tauzer, Anne Clarke, and Barbara Andersen spoke to a recent Facebook post that was in The Times. Tauzer, Clarke and Andersen shared concerns over the tone and impact of the post, highlighted that all citizens are constituents of the City, and was concerned about trusting that the City would listen and hear concerns from people who did not share the same political views. Clarke asked how Council intends to handle this situation and what are the rules around policing this kind of action. Andersen asked Mayor Craven to resign.
- ★ Bill Sattler cautioned Council on the use of emergency ordinances. Sattler said that several emergency ordinances are not valid because they do not meet the requirements for passage contained in the City Charter. Sattler was concerned about the lack of public records regarding the beekeeping ordinance. Sattler suggested that McDowell is colluding with Council members to pass ordinances that have not been properly vetted at a Council meeting. Sattler encouraged Council to review this matter immediately as it brings a significant liability concern for the City.
- ★ Mayor Craven opened the floor to discussion on the City's proposed budget and to discuss State Revenue Sharing. No members of the public commented on the proposed budget or the use of State Revenues.
- ★ Public Works Superintendent Karl Frink reported progress on several projects including preparations being made for the Rec Center Renovation project, switching the water treatment plant over to the infiltration gallery, turning on the pumps for the Mill Race, catching up on mowing, preparing the cemetery for Memorial Day and training the new Park Caretakers.
- ★ Sergeant Frambes reviewed the stats for April. Frambes reported that Mayor Craven's truck and trailer was stolen along with several other issues involving traffic out of town that have taken a lot of time. Councilor Humphreys appreciated the way the LCSO handles traffic stops. Councilor Winklepleck touched on the ride along program and Councilor Hansen mentioned the Citizen's Academy program.
- ★ Administrator Scott McDowell discussed details and logistics for the Rec Center Renovation project. The project is slated to begin on June 5th, 2023 with a projected completion date of September 30th, 2023. The Rural Economic Alliance (REAL) is rolling out their five-year strategic plan. McDowell was recently invited to Halsey to review the details. Disaster Preparedness efforts are stalling a bit due to budgetary constraints of the entities involved with



this effort. McDowell said the group is moving forward with the development of an intergovernmental agreement and the development of standard operating procedures for setting up an Emergency Operations Center. Tammi Morrow reviewed continuing efforts of the Emergency Preparedness Committee highlighting some upcoming events the group will participate in to spread the word about emergency preparedness. Morrow also encouraged everyone to check out the resources page on the www.clcepc.org website.

- ★ Resolution 2023.10: Election to Receive State Revenue Sharing: Council unanimously passed this resolution to receive funding from the State for street lighting.
- ★ Resolution 2023.11: Government Capital Loan Terms: Council unanimously passed this resolution that details the requirements of the \$600,000 gap financing needed for the Rec Center Renovation project and authorized the Mayor and City Administrator to execute the necessary documents.
- ★ Ordinance 801: Memorials (First Reading): Council gave this ordinance as recommended by the Parks & Open Space Advisory Board a first reading. Council will consider passage at the next Council meeting.
- ★ Proclamation: National Military Appreciation Month – Mayor Craven recognized May & June as National Military Appreciation Month.
- ★ Council discussed the recommendations from the Legislative Advocacy & Policy Committee (LAPC) regarding how the City would create position papers on issues impacting City services and operations. The recommendations also included suggestions for Council agenda and the City’s use of social media to name a few. Council agreed with the recommendations made by the Committee and requested the Committee begin developing those recommendations for adoption by Council.
- ★ Council authorized the closure of Park Avenue for a Chamber of Commerce event to be held on September 23rd, 2023 provided the organizers meet all necessary requirements.
- ★ Council authorized Mayor Craven and Administrator McDowell to execute all necessary documents for the pending GR12 Waterline project.
- ★ Council & Staff are happy to announce and welcome Walter & Marta Lynch as Park Caretakers.
- ★ Please take a look at the City website where you can find useful information and helpful links.

Upcoming Events



- ✿ Chamber of Commerce Meeting | June 14th | Community Room | 6:00 p.m.
- ✿ Council Meeting | June 27th | Council Chambers | 7:00 p.m.
- ✿ Farmer’s Market | Every Thursday | Library Park on Park Avenue | 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

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

Weeds & Nuisances

The City will begin inspecting properties for tall weeds and nuisances very soon. Properties must keep weeds below 12” by June 1st each year.

The City also checks properties for other nuisances such as abandoned vehicles, trash, tires, appliances, and furniture to ensure compliance with Brownsville Municipal Code Chapter 8.





Pioneer Picnic – June 16th, 17th, & 18th, 2023

Please join the Linn County Pioneer Association (LCPA) for the 136th annual Pioneer Picnic held in Pioneer Park on the 3rd weekend in June. The theme this year is *Fun and Games Through the Years*. This event features tons of activities including a quilt

show, a flower show, food, arts and crafts, activity booths, the kiddie parade on Friday, the Grand Parade on Saturday, horseshoe tournament, talent show, many other events, and this year there will also be a live band, ***Pendleton Highway***, performing in the Dance Hall Saturday night from 9-11 p.m. For more information, check out the LCPA website at pioneerpicnic.com. You will find a schedule of events as well as vendor information and volunteer opportunities! For questions, contact LCPA at (541)466-5656 or by email lcpa.1887@gmail.com.



Pioneer Park

Camping is allowed in Pioneer Park from April 1st to October 31st on Friday, Saturday, and Sundays. Some mid-week exceptions apply around holidays such as the 4th of July. The park is open to the public from 7:00 a.m. to dusk. Fires are allowed in designated areas only and are subject to fire restrictions enacted by the State, Linn County, or the Brownsville Fire District. Overnight camping fees are \$15 for RV's and \$10 for tents. Park caretakers will collect fees and impose park rules throughout the summer. If park hosts are not available, fees should be paid at City Hall to obtain a camping permit. All picnic areas and tables are on a first-come,



first-serve basis. The pavilion, kitchen, dance hall and their adjacent areas are to be reserved in advance through the City website at www.ci.brownsville.or.us. Pets must be kept under control at all times, on a leash, confined to a vehicle, or in the designated off-leash area. Please clean up after your animals. Police protection is handled by the Linn County Sheriff's Office. Call 9-1-1 for emergency response, and 541.967.3911 for non-emergency situations.

Facility Rentals

Did you know that the City has three rooms available for public use? Available facilities include two rooms above City Hall, Fisher Hall (\$10) and the Community Room (\$25, may be subject to a \$50 deposit), and the Kirk Room (\$15) adjacent to the library.

Pioneer Park also has facilities to rent throughout the summertime. The standard package (\$300 plus a \$150 deposit) includes the kitchen, pavilion, and dance hall. There are also different packages to choose from which include the grandstand and/or the community arts building.



To reserve a room, go to the City website, check the calendar for availability, and make your reservation there. There is also a tab that will take you to the rental rates.



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Exciting News

The Central Linn Recreation Center remodel project will be happening this summer! Bids have been accepted, Council has approved the project and awarded the contract. The project will start around the beginning of June 2023, with completion expected around the end of the summer. The building will be closed for public use during the construction phase.

This major remodel will ensure that our beloved Rec Center will serve our community for decades to come!



Protect Your Home from Wildfires

As temperatures rise, and weather conditions change to summer, now is the time to think about steps to protect yourself and your home. Embers and small flames are the main way homes ignite in a wildfire. Be sure to clear off pine needles, dead leaves and anything that can burn from your roof, gutters, porch, deck, patio, and fence line. Rake out landscaping mulch

to at least 5 feet away from your home. Don't give embers a place to land/grow.