



## Council Meeting Synopsis

Council met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers on March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024.



- ★ All Council members were present except Councilor Hansen. Mayor Craven presided.
- ★ *Linn County Clerk's Office* | Marcie Richey & Derrick Sterling gave a detailed overview of the elections processes they execute each election. Ballot security is the primary focus. Ballots are made in-house. Computers used for counting ballots cannot count ballots twice. The Office uses chain-of-custody protocols to ensure ballots are collected and delivered to the courthouse in accordance with State law and County administrative rules. Each ballot is verified by the signature on the ballot against the voter registration card. Cameras, motion detectors and a host of other security measures are employed throughout every step of the process. The State also randomly audits each election requiring hand counting to ensure election integrity. In 1981, Linn County Clerk's Office became the national pioneer in mail-in voting.
- ★ *Chamber of Commerce* | Chamber President Jenna Stutsman provided Council with a report on Chamber activity for 2023 and a look forward to 2024 Chamber events such as Picnic Breakfasts, City Wide Garage Sale, Antique Faire, Trick or Treat Street, and Home for the Holidays. The 2024 Chamber Board returns the same seven members from 2023. Member meetings have changed. The Chamber's next meeting will be held at Armando's on April 12<sup>th</sup>, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Wine and beer will be available during these "Happy Hour" social meetings. Stutsman reported the Chamber currently has 69 members.
- ★ *Consumer Confidence Report* | Public Works Superintendent Karl Frink reviewed the 2023 report. The City publishes the report annually as required by Federal and State law. Frink gave a detailed report on the chemicals and compounds the City tests for weekly, annually, and at other intervals as required by law. He reviewed the processes the City uses to ensure water quality standards are met including the source of our water, the benefits the GR12 waterline & pump station improvements have made to the City's water distribution capabilities, cross connection, backflow prevention, and other operational measures employed by Staff. Brownsville residents will receive the annual report as part of the Spring newsletter to be released this week. To learn more, please visit the City website or [www.oregon.gov/oha/ph/healthyenvironments/drinkingwater](http://www.oregon.gov/oha/ph/healthyenvironments/drinkingwater).
- ★ *Public Works Report* | Public Works Superintendent Karl Frink reported on the many items Public Works completed including finishing leaf collection in Pioneer Park, upgrades to the City's SCADA system that helps run the Water Treatment Plant, mowing the cemetery, and tending to final details at the Rec Center. The GR12 water pipe has been successfully installed. The City is now waiting for the subcontractor, Reese Electric, to complete the electrical upgrades required to pump the water to the Water Treatment Plant. The City is experiencing delays related to critical components not being readily available.
- ★ *City Administrator Report* | Administrator Scott McDowell touched on the final items needing attention by the contractor at the Rec Center. Once these critical details have been finalized, the Rec Center will open for public rental. McDowell is preparing the FY 2024.2025 budget. The Committee will meet on April 25<sup>th</sup> to review the budget and make recommendations to Council. McDowell shared concerning details learned at the annual insurance conference. Property & Liability costs continue to soar at unprecedented rates. Health care, auto, and other insurance carried by the City are steadily rising. The Canal Company met to elect officers. Soon, the newly elected Board members will meet with the City to discuss a possible agreement to address operational issues of the canal.
- ★ Resolution 2024.05: Workers' Compensation (Annual) | Council unanimously passed this resolution that provides coverage for elected & appointed officials who may be injured during their service with the City.

- ★ Proclamation: Child Abuse Prevention & Awareness Month | Mayor Craven proclaimed the month of April Child Abuse Prevention & Awareness Month. Blue ribbons and pin wheels will be placed around town as a visual reminder of the importance of this issue.
- ★ Linn County Pioneer Association | Road Closure Request (Annual) | Council unanimously approved the road closures requested for the 137<sup>th</sup> Pioneer Picnic which included the Picnic parades which will be held on June 21<sup>st</sup> & June 22<sup>nd</sup> and the Dam Run which will be held on June 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- ★ Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (*NHMP*) | Council unanimously withdrew from participation in the State driven plan required of counties by consensus. Members were concerned about the future requirements and costs associated with such an endeavor.
- ★ Council President Lynda Chambers and Mayor Craven expressed concern over the State's enforcement against Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) and this program's recent permitting practices. Mayor Craven also mentioned that the United States Supreme Court may be reaching a decision on the *Chevron v. Natural Resources Defense Council (1984)* soon. The case is important as it addresses the constitutionality of bureaucratic overreach of programs like CAFO and Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL).

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>.

