



Council Meeting Synopsis

Council met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers on
September 23rd, 2025



- ★ All members of Council present. Mayor Craven presided.
- ★ *Linn County Sheriff's Office Report* | Sergeant Frambes reported that the numbers for July & August remained low, which is great. No major crimes, no fights. One couple had broken into the Christian Church, and there was a hit & run involving a parked car which was solved. The Sheriff's Office has fifty-one deputies split into four teams for patrol. He said that it is getting harder to find people who can pass the background check, the physical aspects required, and the extensive training required to become a deputy. Councilor Winklepleck asked for tips for Fall. Frambes recommended locking your car, leaving no valuables in your car, being aware of scams, consider installing a Ring doorbell or other security cameras, and consider leaving your porchlight on because it helps with patrols.
- ★ *Public Works Report* | Superintendent Frink shared that several waterlines were repaired over the summer, two in the last two weeks. Staff have been juggling pumps to ensure that water continues to flow. Frink briefly explained the State's 811 program. The City is responsible for marking the City's utilities in the right-of-way, not on private property. If the City does not have utilities, then no marks are made. The City is required by law to mark in the time frames allowed by law. Frink encouraged everyone to call 811 when digging anywhere on their property, explaining that you can call 811 or generate a ticket at the 811 website: <https://digsafelyoregon.com/>. If you have an emergency, you must call the phone number for service. Frink is the President of the local chapter for 811.
- ★ *City Administrator Report* | Administrator Scott McDowell reported the City's Standard & Poor's rating is A+ after this last review. State policies lowered ratings across Oregon. Work continues with the Rural Economic Alliance (REAL). REAL is putting on an intern and a consultant to assist with the implementation of the strategic plan and the marketing plan. The annual audit is scheduled to begin October 6th. Staff are working on reviewing the new website for potential launch in mid-October. He encouraged Council to review the FEMA EIS rules. Public comment ends October 6th, 2025. The Linn County Clerk's Office is no longer located in the Court House; their new address is 421 Water Avenue NE, Suite 1300, Albany. The LCSO will place a renewal levy request on the November ballot. The TMDL Shade Study is estimated to cost around \$14,500 according to City Engineer Ryan Quigley. McDowell shared his concern about several Federal and State requirements that are going to seriously impact our citizens. He is also disturbed over the lack of coverage around these issues. These are not political issues; these are requirements that will greatly impact every taxpayer and rate payer in the State and make it more difficult for small cities to meet service needs. McDowell called out the irresponsible reporting by the Albany Democrat-Herald over the last few years.
- ★ *Resolution 2025.13: Update Machinery, Materials & Human Resource Rates* | Council voted unanimously to update the rates as recommended by Staff. Rates are reviewed annually to keep pace with rising costs.
- ★ *Resolution 2025.14: Planning Fees* | Council annually reviews the fee schedule associated with planning. Staff made a few modifications for clarity. Council voted unanimously to approve the updated fee schedule.
- ★ *City Hall Painting Project* | Council authorized Staff to move forward with reissuing the City's RFP as soon as possible.
- ★ *Pioneer Park Playground Project* | Council authorized Staff to move forward with the Park Board to initiate an RFP for replacement equipment as provided for by the Budget Committee.

- ★ *Rural Economic Alliance Intern* | Council authorized the City Administrator to serve as the fiduciary agent for REAL and to serve as the Intern Administrator with LBCC.
- ★ *Chamber of Commerce Agreement* | Council voted unanimously to meet with representatives of the Chamber of Commerce to review their partnership agreement and exercise the one-year option if agreement can be reached on a couple of items.
- ★ *Calapooia Food Alliance Agreement* | Council voted unanimously to discontinue the partnership agreement with the Calapooia Food Alliance. Council feels the CFA is doing a good job with their mission and are fully self-sustaining.
- ★ *Proposed Ordinance 809: Public Streetlight Application* | Council reviewed an application process for streetlights as recommended by Staff. Council will entertain a first reading next month.
- ★ *Proposed Ordinance 810: Public Street Closure Application* | Council reviewed an application process for the closure of public streets. Council will have a first reading next month.
- ★ *Pacific Power Outages Report* | Council reviewed the information provided by Regional Manager Scott Salazar looking into why the City has been experiencing power outages. Councilor Winklepleck urged Council to reach out to Pacific Power to get some better answers about these power interruptions. Council agreed by consensus.
- ★ *Vineyard Machines Warning* | Mayor Craven reminded everyone that the machines will start again as morning temperatures fall under 38° F to protect the grapes.
- ★ *Citizen Comments* | Sharon Banks, from the new *Brownsville Times*, reported that the newspaper had been resurrected on June 5th, 2025, as a vital part of Brownsville's heart and history. She encouraged everyone to continue to support the paper by subscribing, donating, contributing stories, and encouraging businesses to donate. Their website is brownsvilletimes.org.
- ★ *Council Comments* | Councilor Hansen said that Council unanimously endorsed Jami Cate's bid for the State Senate. Councilor Winklepleck said that considering recent tragedies it is important to remember that we all have far more in common than not. Mayor Craven recalled high school debate class when students were required to argue both sides of issues. Craven hoped that people would choose to enter into meaningful dialogue about issues facing Oregon and the nation.

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

Trunk or Treat by Connect Linn County | October 26th, 2025 | 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. | Pioneer Park
Council | Next Meeting | October 28th, 2025 | Council Chambers at 7:00 p.m.

Library Happenings:

- Wednesdays 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Stitchery Group
- Fridays 11:00 a.m. – Noon Story Time with Craft
- Wednesday, 10/15/25 at 7:00 p.m. The Page Turners Book Club
- Thursday 10/16/25 at 7:00 p.m. World Cultures & Travel – India Rajasthan





Check out their website for more information: www.connectlinncounty.net

Chickens at Large



The City has been receiving numerous complaints regarding chickens at large and roosters in the City. Brownsville Municipal Code (BMC) 6.10.060 Farm Animals states that fowl, poultry, and rabbits must be properly penned and/or contained within the City limits. Please make sure that your animals are penned or behind fences.

Appliances

The City has been receiving numerous complaints regarding old appliances that have been left outside. BMC states that at a residence, no person shall store an appliance (operable or inoperable) or plumbing fixture in view of a public street.



City of Brownsville



255 North Main Street
P.O. Box 188
Brownsville, OR 97327

PRSRT STD

ECRWSS

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

EDDM RETAIL

LOCAL PATRON

NATIONAL DRUG TAKE BACK DAY

Saturday, October 25th, 2025



State and local law enforcement agencies, in conjunction with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), will be hosting a drug take back event. This is a free event for citizens to dispose of their unused/unwanted medications (including pet meds). Linn County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) will be participating by doing a mobile drug take back event and will be traveling between:

*** Mill City | City Hall | 9:00 -10:00 a.m., * Scio | Fire Station | 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.,
* Halsey | City Hall | 1:00 -2:00 p.m., & * Harrisburg | City Hall | 2:30-3:30 p.m.**

There is also a prescription drop box in the lobby of the LCSO for people to drop off their unwanted medications at any time. Sharps (needles) of any kind are not allowed.



www.ci.brownsville.or.us



Want to know what is going on with the City of Brownsville? The City has a very robust website that can supply you with tons of information. Current and past City Council minutes and agendas can be found on the website. There are also hot links to reach other state agency websites such as the State of Oregon and Linn County, and local civic

organizations. There is a link to Emergency Preparedness information as well. You can find the Park Master Plan under the Boards & Committees. Under the City Council tab, you can find information on the Pioneer Park Riverbank, the most current Capital Improvements Plan, Brownsville Taxes overview, the Kirk Avenue project status, and more.

In times of emergency, or heightened awareness, such as imminent wildfires, Staff has put a "ribbon" on the top of the home page with information from local and State authorities pertinent to Brownsville and our surrounding area. Go check it out, there is a lot of valuable information, all in one place!