

Council Agenda Packet

Tuesday, January 27th, 2026 | 7:00 p.m. | Council Chambers

Table of Contents

1	Agenda
3	<i>Minutes: December 16th, 2025</i>
7	Administrator
14	Public Works
16	Planning
17	Sheriff
18	Library
19	Resolution 2026.01: Judges Pro-Tempore
20	Resolution 2026.02: Commitment to Safety Program
22	Facility Fees <i>Park Board Recommendation</i>
23	2025 Annual TMDL Report <i>Full Report On-line</i>
31	EPA Letter <i>Provided by Superintendent Frink</i>
34	RAIN Annual Report
37	Linn County <i>Articles of Interest</i>
45	State of Oregon <i>Articles of Interest</i>
54	Federal Report <i>Articles of Interest</i>
71	Municipal Market Bulletin <i>Government Capital</i>
72	2025.2026 Council Goals & Values
77	Financials
✱	Please visit: https://www.ci.brownsville.or.us/citycouncil to review additional documents: 1) ETA 911 IGA, 2) Write Congress Report (01.12.2026), 3) Full 2025 TMDL Report, and 4) Dyer Partnership's TMDL Shade Study estimate.

Next Meeting: February 24th, 2026



Council Meeting

Tuesday, January 27th, 2026

Location: City Hall in Council Chambers

AGENDA

Regular Session

7:00 p.m.

- 1) CALL TO ORDER
- 2) ROLL CALL
- 3) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- 4) ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA
- 5) MINUTES: December 16th, 2025
- 6) PUBLIC HEARINGS OR PRESENTATIONS:
 - A. State of the City | *Mayor Craven*
 - B. 2025.2026 Goals Review | *Progress & Modifications*
- 7) DEPARTMENT REPORTS:
 - A. Sheriff
 - B. Public Works
 - C. Administrator
 - D. Planning
 - E. Library
 - F. Office
 - G. Council
- 8) CITIZEN COMMENTS (Non-agenda & Agenda items)
 - ★ Council asks that comments be limited to three minutes per audience member. Please state your name and address prior to commenting on the public record.
- 9) LEGISLATIVE:
 - A. **Resolution 2026.01:** Judges Pro-Tempore
 - B. **Resolution 2026.02:** Commitment to Safety Program



10) ACTION ITEMS:

- A. Annual TMDL Report | *Approval*
- B. Fireworks | *250th Celebration*
- C. River's Edge Homeowner's Association Annual Letter | *Approval*
- D. Park Facilities & Rules | *Park Board Recommendation*

11) DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- A. Canal Company Agreement | *Proposal*
- B. Budget Meetings, Advertisements & Members | *One Opening*
- C. Linn County Emergency Telephone Agency Dissolution
- D. Officials Terms Review
- E. Bond Payment | *End of January*
- F. December Financials

12) EXECUTIVE SESSION

- To consider the employment of a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent.
- Oregon Revised Statutes, Chapter 192.660 governs the conditions for a public body to convene in an Executive Session. The City will invoke Section (a) to consider the employment of a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent.
- Representatives of the news media are specifically directed not to report on any of the deliberations during the executive session, except to state the general subject of the session as previously announced. No decision may be made in executive session.
- A final decision may be made after this Session.

13) COUNCIL QUESTIONS & COMMENTS

14) ADJOURN

Please visit www.ci.brownsville.or.us for the meeting agenda, agenda packet and other City information.



December 16th, 2025

ROLL CALL: Mayor Craven called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with Councilor Chambers, Councilor Winklepleck, and Councilor Solberg present. Administrative Assistant Tammi Morrow, Administrative Assistant Elizabeth Coleman, and City Administrator Scott McDowell were also present.

ABSENT: Councilor LaCoste, Councilor Eversull, and Councilor Hansen were excused.

PUBLIC: Steve Van Sandt, Lori Garcy, Chenoweth Robertson, Sharon Banks (*The Brownsville Times*), Penny Rosenberg (*Democrat-Herald*), and Steve Frambes (*Linn County Sheriff's Office*).

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS: None tonight.

NEW CITIZEN'S COMMENT PROCEDURE: Mayor Craven reviewed the newly implemented procedure for Citizen's Comments, and the signup sheets were distributed.

MINUTES: Councilor Solberg made a motion to approve the November 18th, 2025 meeting minutes as presented. Councilor Chambers seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING | PRESENTATIONS:

1. **Central Linn Community Foundation (CLCF) | Chenoweth Robertson.** Mrs. Robertson highlighted efforts supported by the Foundation. Councilor Chambers thanked the Foundation for the role they play in Brownsville and the greater Central Linn community.

Councilor Chambers made a motion to approve the CLCF partnership and increase the amount to \$2,000. Councilor Solberg seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

2. **Brownsville Art Association (BAA) | Dr. Lori Garcy.** Dr. Garcy shared many shows that happened at the Art Center this past year. The Association has forty-three artists on display with a waiting list. The Association has many more members. Garcy shared that the recent one-day holiday event yielded \$3,500 for those involved, which shows great support from the community. The Art Center offers classes throughout the year and plans to host a writer's conference in 2026. Garcy thanked Council for their continued support and partnership. Garcy also complimented Council on the town's festivities last Friday night including the parade and the tree lighting. The public comments she heard were outstanding, positive and very supportive of all of Council's hard work.

3. **Annual Audit Review | FY 2024-2025.** McDowell reviewed the audit as provided by City Auditor SingerLewak. The City continues enjoying solid financial health while completing major infrastructure projects. Inflationary factors continue to pose concern. McDowell reviewed the bond and debt schedule along with the month end report that is included in every agenda packet. McDowell also expressed appreciation for the audit lead, Michael Kinsey, for a job well done. The SingerLewak team was great to work with again this year!

4. **Cybersecurity | Bi-Annual Review.** McDowell shared the numbers and impacts of cybercrime nationally and worldwide. Cybercrime is equivalent to the third largest economy in the world according to Cybersecurity Ventures research. Artificial Intelligence (AI) continues to be a major force in computing technology and, so far, it hasn't been for the better. Technology keeps running ahead, leaving most behind. The City takes necessary precautions, but there are many pitfalls. Councilor Winklepleck and Councilor Solberg shared personal experiences as a warning to be extremely careful while interacting with technology.



DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

1. **Linn County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) Report | Sergeant Steve Frambes.** Sergeant Frambes reported on a few crashes around Brownsville, noting one just outside of town on Seven Mile Lane. No thefts to report. Someone vandalized the Park; LCSO continues their investigation. Administrator Scott McDowell pointed out how the destruction of the prairie in Pioneer Park will have a negative impact on many of the community events if the weather doesn't allow for the damage to be rectified.
2. **Public Works (PW).** Frink reported on a few key repairs along with the acquisition of a piece of equipment that will help maintain gravel roads. Frink said Public Works is catching up on tasks due to the tractor being out of commission for longer than anticipated and now the weather isn't cooperating. The crew continues working on leaf collection. The wells were activated on December 1st, 2025. Frink is in the process of discharging at the South Wastewater Treatment Plant. He said the task is much less stressful thanks to the new controls that were recently installed.
3. **Administration.** Administrator Scott McDowell continues working on transitioning the website from Drupal to a different platform. The City ended the relationship with CivicsPlus due to limitations with their new platform and the high associated costs. Staff hope to have a new website ready for launch in February 2026.

The City continues their role in the Rural Economic Alliance (REAL) which is working on economic and community development within nine cities and two counties here in the mid-valley. Intern Ellie McConnell is working out well. Nate Conroy, STEMhero, has been actively working with various Chamber organizations and businesses promoting REAL's effort.

Staff installed security cameras at the Rec Center and the Library along with new computers at the Library. Carbon monoxide monitors are scheduled to be installed at City Hall.

Administrator Scott McDowell reported the City calendar for 2026 was in the packet.

McDowell reported that the Calapooia Food Alliance did a great job vacating space in the red barn. The space will be modified and tables and chairs for rental will now be housed in the building.

4. **Planning.** No comments.
5. **Library.** No comments.
6. **Office.** No comments.
7. **Council Comments.** Mayor Craven asked McDowell to share a video of the first annual Christmas parade and tree lighting. Craven thanked Connect Linn County who did an amazing job organizing the parade. He thanked the Council for donating their time and money for the procurement of the tree and decorations. Cascade Timber donated the tree. Craven welded and donated the stainless-steel stand and personally decorated the tree. A big thank you goes out to all who were in the parade. They made the night magical. Councilor Chambers thanked Randy's Main Street Coffee for opening to serve visitors. Councilor Winklepleck said it was one of his highlights of the year.

LEGISLATIVE:

1. **Resolution 2025.19 | Acknowledging Oregon State Treasury Fund Transfers.** Mayor Craven read the resolution into the record.



Councilor Winklepleck made a motion to approve R 2025.19 as presented. Councilor Solberg seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

2. **Resolution 2025.20 | Audit Division.** Mayor Craven read the resolution into the record.

Councilor Solberg made a motion to approve R 2025.20 as presented. Councilor Chambers seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

3. **Resolution 2025.21 | Authorize Geider Building Permit & SDC Refund.** Mayor Craven read the resolution into the record.

Councilor Winklepleck thanked Staff for all their hard work on this situation. McDowell reminded Council that going forward challenges remain with developing this property. McDowell also stated that when the City refunds this amount of funds, it is crucial to have documentation for the auditor; this resolution is just for Council's approval tonight. Staff fast tracked this refund as best they could.

Councilor Solberg made a motion to approve R 2025.21 as presented. Councilor Winklepleck seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mr. McDowell noted that Staff will execute a check for the Geider's tomorrow.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. **Canal Company Agreement | Authorize Letter.** McDowell asked for Council authorize a letter to be sent to the leadership of the Company to determine if they are interested in pursuing the maintenance agreement forwarded to the Company earlier this year.

Councilor Winklepleck made a motion to authorize Mr. McDowell to send proposed letter. Councilor Solberg seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

2. **Schedule Annual Goal Review Retreat.** Council asked McDowell to send out a scheduler for this event due to low attendance this evening. The meeting is for Council's annual review of the 2026 goals and priorities.

3. **Authorize Funding Sponsorship | Central Linn School District (CLSD).** McDowell reported that the CLSD has requested that the City operate as a pass-through entity for grant funding for a project for the CTE (Career and Technical Education) building.

Councilor Winklepleck moved to approve this sponsorship. Councilor Solberg seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Craven stated that the CLSD board has been making a lot of progress with repair and maintenance. A lot of good things are happening.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. **Fourth of July | Fireworks Display Assistance.** Mr. McDowell reported that Fire Chief Kevin Rogers stated that the fireworks display this year will be substantially larger than years past due to the 250th Independence Day celebration. Staff will be supporting this effort by featuring a QR code in the synopsis for folks to donate towards the \$10,000 - \$12,000 cost of the fireworks display.
2. **November Financials.** No comments.



COUNCIL COMMENTS. Councilor Chambers pointed out concerns with the new OGEC requirements, hope that the Endangered Species Act will be modified by Congress, and urged members to continue to watch the continuing developments on the Waters of the United States (WOTUS) efforts being made by the Federal government. These policy decisions will greatly impact Brownsville.

ADJOURNMENT: *Councilor Winklepleck moved to adjourn at 8:12 p.m. Councilor Chambers seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.*

City Administrator S. Scott McDowell

Mayor Adam Craven



City Administrator Report

7 of 77

January 27th, 2026

From: S. Scott McDowell
To: Mayor & Council
Re: General Business

Note: The first section of this report follows the Council meeting agenda and provides an overview of topics to be discussed the night of Council. If an item title is **highlighted in green**, that means the item is part of Council Goals. When you see this symbol, ☒, it means more information will be provided at the meeting.

“Your windshield is bigger than your rearview mirror because your future is bigger than your past.”

~ *Unkown*

**“To offend a strong man, tell him a lie.
To offend a weak man, tell him the truth.”**

~ *Elbert Hubbard*

“Vision without execution is hallucination.”

~ *Thomas Edison, Inventor*



AGENDA ITEMS DISCUSSION

The following items follow the order of the Agenda

6) PUBLIC HEARINGS OR PRESENTATIONS

- A. **State of the City** | Mayor Craven will provide an address for Council and the public record.
- B. **Goal Review** | Review committee assignments and approve any modifications as presented.

What is Council being asked to do?

Determine if there are any changes to make the 2026 goals.

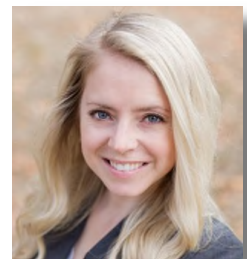
9) LEGISLATIVE:

- A. **Resolution 2026.01: Appoint Judges Pro-Tempore (Annual)** | Annually, Council passes this legislation to provide substitute judge(s) for Judge Jessica Meyer as may be needed for vacations, personal emergencies, conflicts of interest and such that could arise during the year.

What is Council being asked to do?

Pass the resolution to provide pro tempore coverage for Judge Meyer.

- B. **Resolution 2026.02: Commitment to Safety Program (Annual)** | Council passes this annual legislation to recognize the importance and priority of the City's employee safety program as required by the State of Oregon and





City/County Insurance Services (CIS). CIS requires this resolution from all cities and counties to extend applicable insurance coverages.

What is Council being asked to do?

Pass the resolution to continue supporting employee safety.

10) ACTION ITEMS:

- A. Approval Annual TMDL Report** | Council reviews and approves the annual report for the TMDL plan as required by Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Staff's letter and report are included for your review and approval. I have included all the information that I normally include as a web link, however, with the new website launching over this time frame I wanted to ensure the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) could have adequate proof of the City's continuing efforts or the City could face fines.



What is Council being asked to do?

Review and authorize Staff to submit the annual report. The report is due February 5th each year.

- B. Fireworks | 250th Celebration** | Council authorized Staff to place the Brownsville Rural Fire District's QR code for the fireworks display planned for our country's 250th birthday in the monthly Council synopsis. Council wanted to consider partnering with the District on this display.
- C. Annual River's Edge HOA Letter** | The River's Edge Subdivision plans, Phases I-III, were approved by the Planning Commission in 2017 as a Planned Unit Development (PUD). The Planning Commission placed several perpetual conditions on the PUD. The City Staff were charged with the responsibility of ensuring residents were advised of these requirements and responsibilities. Council decided to send all residents an annual letter including the pertinent maps.

This letter marks the third annual letter as the City officially accepted all improvements at the April 23rd, 2024, Council meeting. Staff have also created a webpage on the City website to ensure everyone knows the responsibilities entailed. It is important to note that the City only enforces City rules and requirements.

To review the information on the River's Edge webpage, <https://www.ci.brownsville.or.us/planning/page/rivers-edge-subdivision>. There you will find the general body of the annual letter along with the maps that clarify responsibilities. You can find it under the HOW DO I tab, the under the heading DOCUMENTS. The annual letter is included in the agenda packet for your review. The maps from the webpage will be included with the letter when mailing to all residents of the River's Edge Subdivision. Ashleigh Lobaugh is the new president of the HOA.



What is Council being asked to do?

Approve the letter and authorize Staff to mail it to the current residents of the River's Edge Subdivision.



- D. Park Facilities & Rules | Park Board Recommendation** | The Parks & Open Space Advisory Board recommends the amendments to the Park Facilities & Rules as presented. The Board reviews this document annually at the request of Staff. Changes were necessary to streamline the new reservations process. Staff will also be adding language to the facility use paperwork that ensures the applicant knows that any resulting physical damage to the facility or property will be the responsibility of the applicant. The deposit amounts are intended to cover cleanup costs associated with a rental, not potential damages.

What is Council being asked to do?

Review the document for any other changes and move to accept the document.

11) DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- A. Canal Company Agreement | Proposal** | Staff was contacted by President Mike Neher who indicated that they cannot meet until March. Staff will engage with the Canal Company as soon as possible.
- B. Budget Meetings, Advertisements & Members** – Staff will be advertising all budget requirements as was done last year. The Budget Committee & Council decided to post a QR code in the synopsis which is sent to all households in the 97327 zip code. So far, there is one opening on the Budget Committee that will be advertised in the synopsis.
- C. Linn County Emergency Telephone Agency Dissolution** – In 1987, several entities including the City of Brownsville entered an intergovernmental agreement to be the joint custodian of excise tax funds used for the purpose of funding a 911 system. Every year the group convenes to pass a budget that is administered by the Linn County Sheriff's Office. Recently, a meeting was held to consider dissolution of this IGA. The Sheriff's Office will serve in this role; the only change will be that there will be no more budget meetings on this solitary purpose. The members at the meeting voted unanimously for the dissolution. The Sheriff's Office must get official documents from the parties involved. Eventually, the City will be asked for a motion or resolution for this dissolution. I have included more information on the City website for your review should you be interested in learning more.



- E. Schedule Bond Payment | *End of January***
- F. December Financials**



UPDATES, INFORMATION & HAPPENINGS

Linn County Sheriff's Office Monthly Report | [G1] | The City is under contract for 200 hours per month. The eighteen-month average looks like this:

LCSO Month-to-Month Comparison (18 months)

Year	Month	Traffic Citations	Traffic Warnings	Hours
2025	December	15	31	201.75
2025	November	7	13	201.5
2025	October	3	10	203.75
2025	September	5	3	200
2025	August	12	12	202.75
2025	July	22	5	231.5
2025	June	1	11	185
2025	May	6	12	217
2025	April	16	16	229
2025	March	16	13	204.75
2025	February	46	32	208.5
2025	January	30	45	203.25
2024	December	7	17	201.75
2024	November	13	23	200
2024	October	17	16	204.75
2024	September	15	17	202
2024	August	17	17	201.75
2024	July	15	23	296.75
<i>Subtotal</i>		263	316	3795.8
Total Average		14.61	17.56	210.88
		<i>Cites</i>	<i>Warnings</i>	<i>Hours</i>

LCSO Quarterly Meeting | The quarterly meeting was held December 18th, 2025, in Millerburg. The group passed their annual calendar for 2026. Meetings are scheduled for March 5th, June 4th, September 10th, and December 17th. Linn County's new Road Master, Amy Ramsdale, will be the group's guest for March. Sheriff Duncan discussed the levy passage rates and challenges faced on social media. She announced that she would see re-election in 2026. The Office recently put three new deputies on the road and have another 9 in training. Duncan announced a project that will update the women's portion of the county jail. Plans include adding 22 beds to the female side of the jail. The Office warned Brownsville and Scio about proper notification for Christmas parades. Organizers failed to make proper arrangements with SO. Fortunately, the SO had enough coverage for these events.

Pioneer Park Parking Lot | The City experienced a recent much-a-do moment on social media. A "semi-emergency" was created throwing shade on the City for not properly maintaining the parking lot. Public Works was delayed in doing maintenance on the gravel roads and properties this year due to a tractor repair issue that Superintendent Frink has chronicled on public record over the past several



months. It just so happened that Frink had already scheduled the parking lot repair the week after this “hubbub” happened on Facebook making it appear that the City jumped at the generated hysteria.

The City’s response had nothing to do with the Facebook posts about this subject. Staff is acutely aware of how to maintain and operate City facilities and has been doing for over two decades. While the City appreciated the concerns, it would have been more appropriate if any one would have emailed or called the City prior to the throwing a ‘social media party’ on the issue they knew very little about.

Chamber of Commerce Agreement | Councilor Chambers, Administrative Assistant Elizabeth Coleman, and I met with Lisa Keith & Mikayle Stole regarding the Chamber agreement. Staff shared historical context for the agreement, addressed challenges, victories, and what the future forward could look like. I will rewrite the agreement and send it over to Keith & Stole. I plan to bring the agreement to Council in March.



Building Safety | Carbon Monoxide monitors were installed throughout the building due to potential safety concerns.

Canal Company | Council authorized a letter last meeting that was sent to Canal Company leadership. The City is currently arranging a meeting to discuss the agreement.

From 12.16.2025: Council may recall that the Canal Company rejected the mutually agreed to plan both sides had developed over the last decade on April 10th, 2025. In response to this turn of events, Council developed a maintenance agreement for the Canal Company’s appurtenances necessary for operation. The Canal Company has never responded to this new agreement. Staff have written a letter requesting the Company act on the agreement so the City may execute the appropriate next steps.

From 12.16.2025: Staff included a letter for Council review and possible approval. The Company has never responded to the amended agreement Council approved at the April 2025 Council meeting. The letter issues a date for response so the City can determine what needs to happen with the electrical service at that location. Since there was no response from the Canal Company after the April 10th, 2025 meeting, Council issued an agreement model that would protect the City while continue operational and maintenance support for the Mill Race.

American Legion | Banners Report | *From 12.16.2025:* The committee is planning on reconvening with the American Legion after the first of the year to create the next wave of banner.



From 11.18.2025: The new banners were hung by Public Works. The Council Committee will need to re-engage with the American Legion to discuss the next phase of the program. The response to the banners has been very positive.

REAL Meeting ☐ | REAL will meet on February 4th, 2026 to tour the LBCC campus with Dr. Dale Moon. I have met with LBCC Intern Ellie McConnell to work through her requirements for the Winter term.

From 12.16.2025: Nate Conroy provided a update on the marketing plan implementation efforts. Ellie McConnell continues her work based on community need toward the strategic plan. Conroy and McConnell will work together on a few items this upcoming year. REAL members have been invoted to a tour of Linn Benton Community College. Any Councilor who may be interested, please let me know.





City Administrator Report

From 11.18.2025: Members have been utilizing LBCC intern Ellie McConnell to work toward community goals around economic & community development. Members agreed to cost sharing formulas for both contracts. Staff meet with Amy Burbee of LBCC to review McConnell's job functions. Nate Conroy's team has been busy working on the marketing plan. Philomath's Chris Workman is working with McDowell on contract oversight for the Conroy team.

Rural Economic Alliance Intern – Staff completed the necessary reviews and evaluations. Staff submitted reimbursements to partners for expenses related to the Conroy & LBCC contracts.

From 09.23.2025: Staff would like authorization to serve as the fiduciary agent for the Linn-Benton Community College intern for the Fall and Spring terms. The other communities in REAL will reimburse the City for their portion of the related expenses. McDowell will also serve as Intern Administrator with LBCC.

ACTIVE, PENDING, STALLED & COMPLETED

Active: Pioneer Park Playground Project | The installer is scheduled to field verify the measurements soon.

From 12.16.2025: Staff are working on coordination with Buell Equipment.

From 11.18.2025: Council approved moving forward with the replacement of the slide on the smaller unit on the main playground in Pioneer Park.

From 10.28.2025: Staff have reached out to an Oregon playground equipment company for a design for the new playground slated for Spring 2026. Once Staff can gather a proposal, Parks & Open Space Advisory Board will review plans for a Council recommendation. Staff hope to be able to provide this for Council by the November Council meeting.

From 09.23.2025: The Park Board and Staff will work on an RFP this Fall. Staff will proceed with the project as planned with the Park Board coming to Council as needed.



Pending: Communications Committee | *From 09.23.2025:* The Committee met September 8th, 2025 to review several items. Council process and interaction information will be provided at the Retreat immediately following the meeting Tuesday. The Committee has not formalized any official policy concepts for Council's consideration to date.

Stalled: James Land Lease Agreement | No new information to report.

From 12.16.2025: No new information to share on this matter.

From 11.18.2025: Staff met with Joe James on October 6th, 2025 with no decisions being made.

From 10.28.2025: Fencing has been installed. Staff will be reaching out to Joe James to finalize the work and the agreement for the lease of this land from the City.

From 09.23.2025: Staff is working with Cozetta James to complete the agreement and reinstall the fencing.



City Administrator Report

Stalled: Linn County Housing Rehabilitation Program (LCHRP) | *From 10.24.2023:* The City collaborates with the communities in Linn County to help low-income homeowners to make improvements to their houses using Federal money (HUD). The City has been a member of this organization for over forty years. Cities take turns being the lead recipient and DevNW manages the funds received. Brownsville had its turn a few years ago. Currently, the City of Lebanon is taking the lead on the current funding request.

Pending: Canal Company Agreement Update ☑ | *From 07.22.2025:* Staff provided the maps at the request of President Mike Nehrer for the Canal Company meeting. No City Staff attended the meeting. After Staff members were attacked by people at the meeting who had no facts, the Company showed how much they valued the City's partnership. Several past members of the Board contacted McDowell to discuss next steps and what the future looks like with the agreement currently on the table.

From 05.28.2025: Staff forwarded the operations agreement to the Canal Company but has not heard anything from their leadership.

Small Municipalities Advocacy Coalition (SMAC)

Small Municipalities Advocacy Coalition (SMAC) ☑ | *From 10.28.2025:* Staff was asked to provide reformation documents for this effort. Several cities have met to review these documents. Next step includes bringing in elected officials to begin moving the project forward. SMAC's grant bill looks like it could be moving through the short-session of the State Legislature.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "SM", is written over a horizontal line.

S. Scott McDowell
City Administrator

Please visit the City website at <https://www.ci.brownsville.or.us> for all kinds of information pertaining to City business & operations.

★ *Kirk Avenue History* ★ *Calapooia Riverbank* ★ *Plus much more*



Public Works Report

January 22, 2026

Water:

- *Billing Support*- Follow through on customer service support and requests.
- *Meter reading* – Water meters have been read for the month of January.
- *Distribution System* – There was a total of four water leaks in the last month.
- *Cross Connection Program*- The Cross Connection Control Program has been reviewed and revised to include updated rules and regulations. Public works will be going out for bid for backflow device testing soon.
- *Water Treatment Plant* –All instruments have been calibrated to factory specifications. We are currently running all 5 wells. The annual water use report has been submitted and approved.
- *Misc.* –Monthly reports and sample results have been submitted to OHA.

Sewer:

- *North Lagoons* – We began discharging from this facility on January 5th. As of January 22nd, we have discharged a total of 17.345 million gallons of effluent to the Calapooia River. We are currently discharging at a rate of 1 million gallons per day from this facility.
- *South Lagoons*- We began discharging from this facility on January 5th. As of January 22nd, we have discharged a total of 12.041 million gallons of effluent to the Calapooia River. We are currently discharging at a rate of 1 million gallons per day from this facility.
- *Misc.* Monthly Discharge Monitoring Report has been submitted to DEQ. The annual biosolids report has been submitted and approved. The annual Inflow and infiltration report has been submitted and approved. The annual recycled water report has been submitted and approved.

Streets

- *Mowing/Tree Maintenance* –Public Works has been mowing all right of ways though out town. Public Works will begin tree trimming throughout town soon.
- *Asphalt/ Gravel Road Maintenance* –Public works will be grading all gravel streets as soon as leaf cleanup is complete. Various potholes and utility trench cuts have been filled with cold patch.
- *Storm Drainage* – Nothing to report this month.
- *Misc.* – Street sign work continues as time allows. A complete evaluation of all street signs is complete, and several signs will be replaced soon. We will be creating a map showing all the areas within the city that public works maintain.

Parks:

- *Pioneer Park* –Public Works have assumed all duties of the park. Leaf cleanup is near completion. The parking lot has been graded. The parking lot will be graded again prior to opening the park in April.
- *Blakely Park* – This park is mowed and maintained weekly.
- *Kirk's Ferry Park* – This park is mowed and maintained weekly.
- *Remington Park* – This park is mowed and maintained weekly.

Cemetery:

- *Grounds* – Nothing to report this month.

Library:

- *Grounds*- This facility is mowed and maintained weekly. Leaf cleanup will begin soon.
- *Buildings*- Several exterior lights have been repaired or replaced. New cameras have been installed to monitor the facility. Gutters have been cleaned.

Downtown

- *Restrooms* – This facility is cleaned every Friday, or more often needed.
- *Garbage cans* – Downtown garbage cans are emptied every Friday, or more often as needed.
- *Parking Lot* – Nothing to report this month.
- *Misc.* – The Gateway area is mowed and maintained weekly. We will be trimming the Gateway trees soon.

City Hall:

- *Buildings*- Nothing to report this month.
- *Grounds* –The grass is mowed and maintained weekly.
- *Community Center*- Nothing to report from this facility this month.

Rec. Center:

- *Grounds*- The grass is mowed and maintained weekly.
- *Buildings*- Nothing to report this month.

Public Works:

- *Grounds*- This facility has been mowed and maintained as needed.
- *Buildings*- Cleaning and organizing continue as time allows.
- *Misc.* – Preventative maintenance is performed on all the vehicles and equipment. All the equipment at public works has been repaired or in the process of being repaired to prepare for use. The annual Emergency and Hazardous Substance surveys have been submitted.
- *Equipment Repair*- Several pieces of equipment have broken down and have been repaired. The John Deere Tractor has been repaired and is back in service
- *Training*- Public Works received training on Kennedy fire hydrants courtesy of H.D. Fowler Company. Approximately 90% of the fire hydrants in town are Kennedy Fire Hydrants.
-

Respectfully Submitted,



Karl Frink, Public Works Superintendent

PLANNING AT A GLANCE

January 2026

Permits *Building, Plumbing, Mechanical, Fence, Etc.*

- | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| • Commercial Mechanical | Run Gas Line to Generator | 411 N Main St |
| • Plumbing | Add exterior piping for faucet | 520 Fisher St |
| • Mechanical | Replace HP & AH | 511 Washburn St |
| • Mechanical | Replace Gas F & AC | 849 NP Loop |
| • Mechanical | Install Free Standing G Stove | 308 Averill St |
| • Construction | 14x24 Storage Shed | 108 E Blakely Ave |

Thank you,

Elizabeth E. Geman



LINN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Michelle Duncan, Sheriff

1115 S.E. Jackson Street, Albany, OR 97322

Albany, OR. 97322

Phone: 541-967-3950

www.linnsheriff.org

2025

MONTHLY REPORT TO THE CITY OF BROWNSVILLE FROM THE LINN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

FOR THE MONTH OF:

DECEMBER

TRAFFIC CITATIONS: -----	15
TRAFFIC WARNINGS: -----	31
TRAFFIC CRASHES: -----	0
ARRESTS MADE: -----	3
COMPLAINTS/INCIDENTS INVESTIGATED:-----	119

TOTAL HOURS SPENT:

BROWNSVILLE

201.75 Hours

CONTRACT HOURS = 200 HOURS

**Michelle Duncan,
Sheriff, Linn County**

By: Sgt. Steven Frambes



Library Advisory Board

Librarian's Report

December 2025

Here are a few facts about our Library for the month of December 2025. We have received 2 new books for the library. Volunteers donated 171.5 hours to our library. There were 907 materials checked out. 322 adult fiction books; 86 adult non-fiction books; 35 audio books; 210 children's books; 139 junior books; 40 junior reference books and 75 large print books.

There was a total of 246 electronic materials checked out. 168 adult fiction books; 44 adult non-fiction books; and 14 junior books. Of these 60 were eBooks and 186 were eAudiobooks.

In December, we held 5 children's programs with 52 participants. There were 5 programs for adults with 17 participants. Programs included Story Time, Stitchery, Book Club and Rock Painting. Also 26 children made our passive activity craft. The snow globes turned out so cute!

December saw many fun activities in December. Our Library Advisory Board hosted a fun morning for Library volunteers. We celebrated their gift of service with light treats and a live reading by board members of the original Rudolf the Red Nosed Reindeer by Robert May. Overall. Our book supplier, Ingram, is having growing pains. The other large book supplier closed at the end of summer. The Library has been waiting a month for a box of books. This used to take 7 days to receive. Our Annual Book Sale was a stupendous success. Carol Humphreys and Sarah Glenn put together over 100 wrapped gift books that sold like hotcakes! This and very awesome donated books helped the Friends raise over \$1800 for programing and extras here at the Library. The Library was the hub for Festival of Trees and the Brownsville Women's Study Club gave \$1,330 each to Sharing Hands and our Library for Libby by Overdrive, the eBook service. I am looking forward to another terrific year at the Library.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherri Lemhouse,
Librarian





RESOLUTION 2026.01

**A RESOLUTION APPOINTING PRO TEMPORE JUDGE(S)
FOR THE BROWNSVILLE MUNICIPAL COURT**

WHEREAS, Brownsville Municipal Code 2.55.030 allows the Council to appoint Municipal Judge Pro Tempore, to serve in the absence of the Municipal Judge; and,

WHEREAS, the term appointments of persons previously appointed to serve as Municipal Judges Pro Tempore have expired,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BROWNSVILLE CITY COUNCIL, THAT Tré Kennedy and Danielle Myers are hereby appointed to serve as Municipal Judges Pro Tempore of the Brownsville Municipal Court for a term ending on the last day of December 2026.

Introduced and adopted this 27th, day of January 2026.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

S. Scott McDowell
City Administrator

Adam R. Craven
Mayor



RESOLUTION 2026.02

A RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING THE SAFETY POLICY AND LOSS PREVENTION PROGRAM FOR THE CITY OF BROWNSVILLE

WHEREAS, the City holds in high regard the safety, welfare and health of our employees; and,

WHEREAS, the Council has a responsibility to make every reasonable effort to maintain a safe and healthful working environment; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Brownsville, State of Oregon does hereby reaffirm a strong commitment to employee and workplace safety as articulated below:

Introduction:

The City of Brownsville has always believed that our employees are our most important and valuable asset. We will always place a high priority on safe operations and the safety of employees. The City considers no phase of operation or administration more important than safety and health. We will provide and maintain safe and healthful working conditions, establish and insist on safe work methods and practices at all times. All members of management and all employees must make safety a part of their daily and hourly concern.

Goal/Purpose:

Our goal is "No Accidents" and we consider it a realistic goal. We want to make our safety efforts so successful that we make elimination of accidents and injuries not just a goal, but a way of life. Our goal is to involve both management and employees in safety planning, development, and implementation.

Objectives:

- ★ The City of Brownsville will work consistently to: Maintain safe and healthful work conditions; Observe Federal, State and City safety regulations; Ensure that no employee is assigned to a job without necessary training;
- ★ Require safety orientation for new employees, timely and appropriate training, an employee safety committee, a self-inspection program, proper mechanical guards in adherence to safety standards, and a personal protective equipment program;
- ★ Provide safety and fire inspections to identify potential hazards of operation, then developing necessary protective measures;
- ★ Conduct accident investigations to determine the cause of accidents and the action required to prevent recurrences.



Responsibilities:

Management Personnel of the City are responsible for developing an effective Loss Prevention Program. The department heads and supervisors are responsible for preventing accidents in their departments. Each level of management must reflect and interest in the City's safety objectives and set a good example by complying with safety rules. Management interests must be vocal, visible and continuous.

Employee Participation:

All employees are expected to follow safe working practices, obey rules and regulations, and to work in a way which maintains the high safety standards developed and sanctioned by the City.

All Employees are expected to give full support to safety and loss-prevention activities.

Every employee must observe established safety regulations and practices, including the use of personal protective equipment.

All employees are expected to take an active interest and participate in the safety and health program and abide by the rules and regulations of the City.

All employees must recognize their responsibility to prevent injuries and illnesses and take necessary actions to do so. Their performance in this regard will be measured along with their overall performance.

Closing Statement:

By accepting mutual responsibility to operate safely, we will all contribute to the well-being of all involved with City operations. We must be so successful in our efforts that total elimination of accidents and injuries becomes not just an objective, but a standard practice.

PASSED by the Council and Approved by the Mayor on this 27th day of January 2026.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

S. Scott McDowell
City Administrator

Adam Craven
Mayor



PARK FACILITIES & RULES

22 of 77

Effective Date: January 2026

CAMPING

General camping is allowed from Memorial Day to Labor Day, Thursday through Sunday. Camping availability is subject to change. Fees are per night as follows:

\$ 15.00 per RV
\$ 10.00 per tent

Special Event Camping – The City requires an agreement for camping in advance of any special event. Special permits may be issued for camping arrangements from Memorial Day through October 31st. Please contact City Hall to learn more.

RESERVATIONS FOR PARK FACILITIES

Reservations for Pioneer Park facilities are made through a lottery drawing. The reservation deadline is December 15th for the upcoming season. The lottery drawing is held on the first working day in January. Please contact City Hall at (541) 466-5666 between 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday for more information.

DAILY RENTAL FEES & DEPOSITS

Pavilion – \$ 300 plus \$300 deposit
Includes: Pavilion, Kitchen & Dance Hall

Stage/Grandstand – \$ 100 plus \$100 deposit
Includes: Stage & Grandstand

Community Arts Building – \$ 100 plus \$100 deposit
Includes: Community Arts Building

Ball Fields Only – May be added to a rental. Fees and deposit vary depending on nature of proposed event.

Additional requirements may apply for groups over 300.

* Large groups are required to provide extra portable toilets and may also require an agreement with the City.

Deposits are refundable if the premises are left in good condition and free of damage.

DAILY REC CENTER RENTAL FEES & DEPOSITS

Gymnasium – \$ 100 plus \$100 deposit
Includes: Gym & Stage

Kitchen – \$ 100 plus \$150 deposit
Includes: Gym & Stage

If the gym & the kitchen are rented, the deposit will be \$200.

MEETING ROOMS

The City has four rooms available for public use. City meetings are given precedence. Kirk Room at the Library, Fisher Hall & the Community Room at City Hall, and the Meeting Room at the Rec Center. Rooms are available for rent from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. All meeting rooms require a \$50.00 deposit. Reservations can **only be made on-line**. Please visit the City's website at www.ci.brownsville.or.us to make your reservation.

All rental fees and applicable deposits are payable in advance. Keys are to be picked up and returned to City Hall.

Rates per use are as follows:

Kirk Room is \$15.00.

Fisher Hall is \$10.00.

Community Room is \$25.00.

Rec Center Meeting Room is \$35.00.

PARK HOURS

The park is open to the public from 7:00 a.m. to dusk.

FIRES

Fires are allowed in designated areas only. Pioneer Park is subject to fire restrictions enacted by the State, Linn County & the Brownsville Rural Fire District.

PETS & HORSES

Please keep your pet(s) 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. Keep horses on the roads or designated areas. Horses are not permitted on the ball diamond, picnic area or overnight areas.

PICNIC AREAS & TABLES

All picnic areas and tables are on a first-come, first-serve basis. The pavilion, kitchen, dance hall and their adjacent areas must be reserved in advance. Reservations for these facilities are made exclusively on-line.

VEHICLES

Vehicles must observe a 5 m.p.h. speed limit.

POLICE

Police protection is handled by the Linn County Sheriff's Department. Call 911 for emergency response. Call (541) 967-3911 for non-emergency concerns.

EMERGENCY

POLICE, MEDICAL OR FIRE

911



January 30th, 2026

Department of Environmental Quality

Attn: Priscilla Woolverton, *Upper Willamette TMDL Basin Coordinator*

165 E. 7th Ave., Ste. 100

Eugene, OR 97401-3049

541.687.7347

RE: 2025 TMDL Annual Report

Dear Ms. Woolverton,

Enclosed you will find the Brownsville's Implementation Tracking Matrix updated with 2025 accomplishments as part of the City's Annual Reporting requirement. The City is working on the newly issued requirements pursuant to the letter received from Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) in June of 2025. Council does not appreciate the DMA designation nor the financial requirements of this plan. The City will continue to meet the requirements of the plan to the best of the City's financial ability to do so.

Sincerely,

City Administrator S. Scott McDowell

Public Works Superintendent Karl Frink

c: Mayor & Council
File

Implementation Tracking Matrix – Year 5 Review September, 2023

City of Brownsville, OR

Receiving Bodies of Water: Calapooia River

POLLUTANT	SOURCE	STRATEGY What we are doing and will do to reduce pollution from this source	ACTIONS Specific ways to implement strategies	MEASURE How we will track successful implementation or completion	TIMELINE	STATUS
Temperature	Lack of shading in riparian areas	1. Riparian Vegetation: Protect existing riparian vegetation.	City arborist inspects vegetation at least once annually; vegetation maintained as needed.	Track inspections & routine maintenance of the park vegetation abutting the Calapooia River.	Ongoing; Annual Review	2025 No change to the City owned riparian area.
	Lack of shading in riparian areas	2. Education: Inform residents of significance of riparian areas and measures they can take to improve water quality.	Provide information to residents via City Newsletter, make material available on City website.	Track information provided in newsletter annually; website maintained with updated and relevant information.	Ongoing; Annual Review	2025 Please see enclosed newsletters. The City is in transition to a new website which is scheduled for launch during the report deadline.
	Lack of shading in riparian areas	3. Wastewater Treatment Plant Monitoring: City discharges during cool temperature months of November – March only. Maintain low effluent temperatures.	Meet requirements of NPDES permit. Staff measure the pH & temperature of the Calapooia River and the City’s effluent every day.	Discharge occurs under permit conditions only.	Ongoing; Annual Review	2025 Superintendent Karl Frink ensured that all discharge requirements of the NPDES permit were met.
	Lack of shading in riparian areas	4. Tree City: Maintain the requirements of the Tree City USA designation by properly caring for and planting trees through the community with special focus on riparian areas.	Monitor tree health during regular system maintenance and monthly meter reading	Continue to check tree health and plant necessary trees; track status of Tree City USA designation.	Ongoing; Annual Review	2025 The City exceeds the minimum requirements of Tree City program. The City always uses a certified arborist to direct work needs on the City's tree inventory. The City exceeds the Tree City expenditures due to the sheer size of the tree inventory.

POLLUTANT	SOURCE	STRATEGY What we are doing and will do to reduce pollution from this source	ACTIONS Specific ways to implement strategies	MEASURE How we will track successful implementation or completion	TIMELINE	STATUS
All Pollutants: Bacteria, Mercury, and Legacy Pesticides	Stormwater, erosion, and sedimentation	1.a. Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations: Street sweeping.	Public Works Operations: Continue contract for sweeping services and maintain records of activities.	Ensure monthly sweeping is carried out per contract.	Monthly	2025 The City maintains a contract with the City of Lebanon to provide street sweeping within Brownsville City limits. Streets are swept monthly as per contract.
	Stormwater, erosion, and sedimentation	1.b. Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations: Leaf collection.	Public Works Operations: Continue Annual Park Clean-Up and maintain records of activities.	Annually clean-up park.	Annually	2025 Public Works completes leaf removal in Pioneer Park annually.
	Stormwater, erosion, and sedimentation	1.c. Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations: Keep infiltration and inflow of the City's sewer system to a minimum. <i>(This issue is related to mainly stormwater).</i>	Inflow & Infiltration: Public Works performs annual ditch maintenance.	Update maintenance inventory on annual basis; track maintenance completed and cost.	Ongoing; Annual review	2025 Public Works performs annual ditch inspections cleaning as needed.
	Stormwater, erosion, and sedimentation	1.d. Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations: Ensure effluent quality meets the requirements contained in the NPDES Permit.	Wastewater Treatment Plant Discharge: Monitor and report effluent discharges to the river as required by the DEQ NPDES permit.	Staff reports daily.	Ongoing; Annual review	2025 Superintendent Karl Frink adheres to NPDES testing requirements.
	Stormwater, erosion, and sedimentation	1.e. Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations: Reduce runoff and erosion directly to waterbodies by continuing to enforce the Drainageway Dedication Policy for new development and redevelopment projects per the City Standards for Public Improvements Section III (J)(2).	Reduce runoff and erosion directly to waterbodies: Continue to enforce Public Works Standards and Municipal Code requirements. City Engineer and staff meet and review applications/plans prior to permitting.	Track number of developments and redevelopments that require drainageway dedication area to protect riparian habitat.	Ongoing; Annual review	2025 Staff ensured that the single family units meet all drainage requirements as is the City standard practice.

POLLUTANT	SOURCE	STRATEGY What we are doing and will do to reduce pollution from this source	ACTIONS Specific ways to implement strategies	MEASURE How we will track successful implementation or completion	TIMELINE	STATUS
All Pollutants: Bacteria, Mercury, and Legacy Pesticides	Stormwater, erosion, and sedimentation	1.f. Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations: Reduce runoff and erosion directly to waterbodies by monitoring vegetation (condition, health, growth of invasive or problematic species) in City owned riparian areas.	Reduce runoff and erosion directly to waterbodies: Monitor and maintain riparian vegetation and develop riparian restoration projects as needed. Promote public involvement and participation for riparian restoration projects via City newsletter and website. Provide webpage link to https://extension.oregonstate.edu/water/riparian-areas to provide public information on native riparian vegetation and invasive species via the City website.	Track quantity and stages of riparian restoration projects as they become available. Track number of riparian zone invasive plant species cases reported by the public.	Ongoing: Update website with relevant information; include information in annual newsletter. Ongoing; Annual review of riparian restoration projects or funding needed to complete projects.	2025 No such programming was necessary in 2025. Education process continues.
	Stormwater, erosion, and sedimentation	1.g. Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations: Continue monitoring and reviewing procedures for any potential City owned or operated industrial facilities that may require the application of a 1200-Z DEQ Permit.	Apply for 1200-Z DEQ Permit in the event that a facility owned or operated by the City necessitates a permit and comply with permit regulations.	Track number of 1200-Z permits. Coordinate with DEQ to ensure full adherence to 1200-Z Permit Regulations.	Ongoing; Maintain 1200-Z Permit compliance as applicable.	2025 No industrial developments occurred in 2025 nor are slated for 2026.
	Stormwater, erosion, and sedimentation	2.a. Public Education and Outreach: Inform residents of potential sources of mercury contamination to sewer systems. Provide information regarding stormwater issues that are significant to the City of Brownsville and the overall impacts of stormwater discharges on waterbodies with steps to reduce pollutants in stormwater runoff.	Stormwater BMP's: Identify existing educational materials and distribute to residents regarding mercury reduction.	Track information distributed to residents via semi-annual newsletter and website.	Ongoing: Update website with Relevant information; include information in annual newsletter.	2025 Residents receive annual information. Plus they have access to the City website which contains TMDL information. There is also a public library available. And, nearly all of them have smart phones in their possession at any given moment.

POLLUTANT	SOURCE	STRATEGY What we are doing and will do to reduce pollution from this source	ACTIONS Specific ways to implement strategies	MEASURE How we will track successful implementation or completion	TIMELINE	STATUS
All Pollutants: Bacteria, Mercury, and Legacy Pesticides	Stormwater, erosion, and sedimentation	2.b. Public Education and Outreach: Inform residents about potential bacterial and mercury water contamination from animal waste.	Reduce Pet and Animal Waste in Stormwater runoff: Short term: Provide information in City Newsletter and provide dog waste bags in City parks. Long term: Ongoing education to reinforce message.	Newsletter distributed. Resident feedback.	Annual	2025 Public Works continues to maintain the dog waste stations to assist with the removal of pet waste.
	Stormwater, erosion, and sedimentation	2.c. Public Education and Outreach: Provide general TMDL information to City residents.	Develop and distribute a semiannual newsletter to City residents within the 97327 zip code.	Conduct a qualitative evaluation of the newsletter TMDL outreach and education program. Employ the outcomes of the evaluation to maintain or enhance future stormwater education and outreach initiatives.	Ongoing; Annual review and evaluation.	2025 The City continues the semi-annual newsletter along with a monthly Council synopsis that is mailed to everyone in the 97327 Zip Code.
	Stormwater, erosion, and sedimentation	3.a. Public Involvement and Participation: Inform residents of potential sources of mercury contamination to sewer systems. Provide information regarding stormwater issues that are significant to the City of Brownsville and the overall impacts of stormwater discharges on waterbodies with steps to reduce pollutants in stormwater runoff.	Stormwater BMP's: Identify existing educational materials and distribute to residents regarding mercury reduction.	Track information distributed to residents via semi-annual newsletter and website.	Ongoing; Update website with Relevant information; include information in annual newsletter.	2025 The City continues the semi-annual newsletter along with a monthly Council synopsis that is mailed to everyone in the 97327 Zip Code.
	Stormwater, erosion, and sedimentation	3.b. Public Involvement and Participation: Maintain pet waste stations and signs in public parks to promote public involvement in pet waste cleanup.	Reduce Pet and Animal Waste in Stormwater runoff: Short term: Provide information in City Newsletter and provide dog waste bags in City parks. Long term: Ongoing education to reinforce message.	Pet waste stations are kept stocked with bags.	Ongoing; Annual review	2025 The City continues the semi-annual newsletter along with a monthly Council synopsis that is mailed to everyone in the 97327 Zip Code.

POLLUTANT	SOURCE	STRATEGY What we are doing and will do to reduce pollution from this source	ACTIONS Specific ways to implement strategies	MEASURE How we will track successful implementation or completion	TIMELINE	STATUS
All Pollutants: Bacteria, Mercury, and Legacy Pesticides	Illegal Dumping and Illicit Discharge	4.a. Illegal Dumping and Illicit Discharge, Detection and Elimination: Public Education.	Inform public of rules regarding disposal by including articles in City newsletter, material on City website, literature available at City Hall lobby. Include dates for upcoming city, county and other locally sponsored household waste collection events on website and in newsletter. Clearly identify on City’s website how community members should contact city with reports of illegal dumping and illicit discharges.	Track articles included in newsletter, provide information on website. Track information provided to public about illicit dumping/discharge impacts on water quality and city’s code enforcement.	Ongoing: Articles and collection events are published in newsletter at least annually; website information is kept up-to-date. HHW Solid Waste Franchise SHS- places advertisement in the local newspaper annually. Ongoing: Clearly identify on city website a phone number that community members can call to report illegal dumping or illicit discharges.	2025 The City's solid waste provide continues operating programming in accordance with the Franchise Agreement as well as meeting DEQ requirements. There were no reports of illegal dumping.
	Illegal Dumping and Illicit Discharge	4.b. Illegal Dumping and Illicit Discharge, Detection and Elimination: IDDE response, tracking and enforcement.	Calls or complaints received by City Hall are reviewed in the field by Public Works Superintendent who takes any necessary remediation efforts from there with the City Administrator.	Track complaints, city response and follow-up actions.	Ongoing; Annual Review	2025 There were no reports of illegal dumping.
	Illegal Dumping and Illicit Discharge	4.c. Illegal Dumping and Illicit Discharge, Detection and Elimination: Staff training and enforcement.	Provide annual staff training on how to detect, report and mitigate illegal dumping and illicit discharges	Track illegal dumping and illicit discharges reported and discovered, follow-up and enforcement actions.	Years 1-5: Provide biennial staff training (every other year)	2025 Veteran City Staff knows what to do and how to enforce requirements.
	Illegal Dumping and Illicit Discharge	4.d. Illegal Dumping and Illicit Discharge, Detection and Elimination: Identify stormwater catch basins and label to educate public.	Label and stencil storm drain catch basins to identify them as stormwater system and inform public that they drain to streams. Update and maintain a current map of the City’s stormwater conveyance system with digital inventory of outfalls and stormwater controls.	Continue labeling; track related expenses. Continue to update the City’s stormwater conveyance system map and inventory of outfalls and stormwater controls.	Ongoing: Annual review	2025 No changes.

POLLUTANT	SOURCE	STRATEGY What we are doing and will do to reduce pollution from this source	ACTIONS Specific ways to implement strategies	MEASURE How we will track successful implementation or completion	TIMELINE	STATUS
All Pollutants: Bacteria, Mercury, and Legacy Pesticides	Illegal Dumping and Illicit Discharge	4.e. Illegal Dumping and Illicit Discharge, Detection and Elimination: Municipal Code Update	Update Municipal Code to incorporate conditionally allowed discharges to the stormwater system such as groundwater, hydrant flushing, and lawn watering discharges.	Track hydrant and water system flushing dates. Per the City’s Water Management and Conservation Plan, the City will continue to encourage water saving devices and gardening techniques via brochures (flyers).	Ongoing; Annual review	2025 Updating the Code is unnecessary. The City works with OWRD on the implementation of the City's WMCP not DEQ. Public Works maintains the hydrants as part of ensuring proper water distribution maintenance and to maintain water quality.
	Stormwater, erosion, and sedimentation	5.a. Construction Site Runoff Control: Maintain current development code requiring developers to adhere to ODEQ NPDES Permit requirements for erosion control for areas >1 acre. Erosion control on new development > 1 acre. Assist developers of individual lots in larger developments to minimize erosion and runoff. Provide information to builders about the 1200-C Program.	Erosion & Sedimentation Control: Continue to enforce Public Works Standards and Municipal Code requirements. City Engineer and staff meet and review applications prior to permitting.	Verification of 1200C coverage for all developments greater than one acre; track developments greater than one acre.	Ongoing; Annual review	2025 Staff ensured that the single family units meet all drainage requirements as is the City standard practice.
	Stormwater, erosion, and sedimentation	5.b. Construction Site Runoff Control: Decrease soil disturbance in areas sensitive to erosion.	Erosion & Sedimentation Control: Current development code requires engineering study with specific recommendations for erosion control on slopes > 10 percent.	Track and document engineering studies completed.	Ongoing; Annual review	2025 One engineering review was required but the property owner decided not to develop the lot.

POLLUTANT	SOURCE	STRATEGY What we are doing and will do to reduce pollution from this source	ACTIONS Specific ways to implement strategies	MEASURE How we will track successful implementation or completion	TIMELINE	STATUS
All Pollutants: Bacteria, Mercury, and Legacy Pesticides	Stormwater, erosion, and sedimentation	6.a. Post-Construction Site Runoff for New Development and Redevelopment: Require stormwater best management practices for water quality for new development and redevelopment projects that create or replace a minimum of ¼ acre (10,890 square feet) of impervious surface area.	Stormwater BMP's: Continue to enforce Public Works Standards and Municipal Code requirements. City Engineer and staff meet and review application prior to permitting. Require extensive review by City Staff including the City Engineer, Planning, and Public Works.	Track and document that best management practices are implemented on all city permitted sites. Track and document the number of sites that were developed or redeveloped with a minimum of ¼ acre of impervious surface including details regarding the water quality system that was installed. Include this information in the annual report.	Ongoing; Annual review	2025 Continues operating under the Code requirements of the development process. Continues working with the Linn County Planning & Building Department.
	Stormwater, erosion, and sedimentation	7. Council Support: Keep Council abreast of the program and implications. Regularly review the Drainage Master Plan, the Water Master Plan, Park Master Plan, and the condition of the Calapooia River.	TMDL WILL BE ON THE AGENDA TWICE A YEAR. Monthly meeting focusing on the City Treasury.	Monitor progress through reporting as items are completed. Council has a goals board which is updated every TWO YEARS as to progress made.	February 2024 through February 2029	2025 Council reviews the annual report in January each year. Hears a TMDL presentation in April & November and many times through the year hears about TMDL because of new requirements being forced on the City by DEQ.
	Stormwater, erosion, and sedimentation	8. City Staff: Council requires Staff to continue work on TMDL and related topics.	Update plans as needed, forward necessary regulations as planned, continue implementation of applicable policies and strategies adopted by Council.	Reports from Staff monthly and through the year.	Ongoing; Annual review	2025 Council continues work on TMDL issues in spite of despising the program and what it represents in terms of unfunded mandates and heavy handed enforcement.

**REGION 10**

SEATTLE, WA 98101

RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Karl Frink
PW Superintendent
City of Brownsville
255 North Main Street
PO Box 188
Brownsville, Oregon

Re: Notice of Off-site Compliance Monitoring Inspection
Emergency Planning Community Right-to-Know Act
City of Brownsville Wastewater Treatment
Community Right-to-Know ID# 22315

Dear Mr. Frink:

This letter serves to inform you of an Off-site Compliance Monitoring Inspection (OfCM) of the City of Brownsville facility located at 28266 North Linn Way in Brownsville, Oregon ("Facility"). The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 10, is conducting an OfCM to determine compliance with the Emergency Planning Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA). Authorized by Title III of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA), EPCRA was enacted by Congress as the national legislation on community safety. This law is designed to help local communities protect public health, safety and the environment from chemical hazards. The OfCM will focus on compliance with EPCRA Sections 302, 311 and 312.

The purpose of EPCRA Sections 311 and 312 are to provide the state, local officials and the public with specific information on hazardous chemicals present at the Facility. Under the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Hazard Communication Standard, employers must maintain a Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for any hazardous chemical stored or used in the workplace. EPCRA Section 311 requires facilities that hold chemicals above reporting threshold quantities to submit copies of the SDSs or a list of these chemicals to the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC), the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) and the local fire department ("fire department"). EPCRA Section 312 requires facilities that hold chemicals above reporting threshold quantities to submit an annual chemical inventory report ("Tier II") by March 1 of each year to the SERC, LEPC and fire department. Reporting thresholds are found in the regulations at 40 CFR 370.10 and apply to both EPCRA Sections 311 and 312.

The purpose of EPCRA Section 302 is to gather information on the presence of Extremely Hazardous Substances (EHS) at each facility in the community for emergency planning and response. EPCRA

Section 302(c) requires any facility that has any EHS above the Threshold Planning Quantities (TPQ) to notify the SERC and LEPC. LEPCs should also include the EHS(s) in their emergency response plans. Facilities covered under EPCRA Section 312 are required to indicate on the Tier II if they are subject to EPCRA Section 302 emergency planning requirements. Facilities with EHS(s) present above the TPQs are also required to: designate a representative to be the facility emergency coordinator, participate in the local emergency planning process, provide any information to the LEPC that is necessary for developing an emergency response plan and notify the LEPC of any changes that occur at the facility that would affect emergency planning.

Our records indicate the Facility located at City of Brownsville in Brownsville, Oregon, has not filed the 2024 Tier II with the SERC, LEPC or fire department. The 2024 Tier II was due by March 1, 2025. The 2023 Tier II indicated 150 gallons of chlorine onsite. Please confirm the amount of chlorine onsite in pounds.

The EPA is requesting the Facility come into compliance with EPCRA Section 312 by submitting the 2024 Tier II to the SERC, LEPC and fire department. In Oregon State, the Tier II can be completed and submitted online to the SERC at <https://oregon.hazconnect.com/Account/Login.aspx>. After the Tier II submission has been completed to the SERC, copies must be provided to the LEPC and the fire department.

Please provide the following documentation on the chemical inventory at the Facility:

- 1. SDS for any Extremely Hazardous Chemicals (EHS) stored on-site over the reporting threshold, as required under EPCRA Section 311.**
- 2. 2024 Tier II, as required under EPCRA Section 312.**
- 3. Record of submission of the 2024 Tier II to the LEPC and fire department, as required under EPCRA Section 312.**

If applicable, please provide the following documentation on any EHSs at the Facility:

- 4. Designated emergency coordinator: including name, title, phone number and email, as required under EPCRA 302.**
- 5. Documentation of any communication and participation in the local emergency planning process related to any EHS stored on-site, as required under EPCRA 302.**

You are hereby requested to respond within **14 days** of receipt of this letter. If you anticipate being unable to fully respond to this request by the specified date, you may request an extension within seven days of receipt of this request and include a justification for your extension. If necessary, after the OfCM has been completed, EPA will coordinate with the Facility to schedule an onsite inspection if necessary.

If the Facility is exempt or no longer stores hazardous chemicals over the reporting threshold, please provide a written justification as to why the Facility no longer meets the Tier II requirements. The exemption form can be obtained from the website listed above and should be filed with the Oregon SERC. A copy of the exemption form and submittal to the Oregon SERC should be provided to EPA.

To aid EPA's timely review of your responses, EPA prefers that you submit responses to this Information Request via an electronic submission. You can submit all responsive documents by replying directly to the email this letter was attached to. If the files are too large to email directly, please email me and request to initiate the file transfer process or for additional options if electronic submission is not possible.

EPA's *Small Business Resources Information Sheet*, which provides information on compliance assistance that may be helpful to you, can be found at the following webpage: <https://www.epa.gov/compliance/small-business-resources-information-sheet>. For more information about EPCRA regulations and requirements, please visit the following webpage: <https://www.epa.gov/epcra>.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please feel free to contact me at (206) 553-1236 or Coffman.mhara@epa.gov. Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Mhara Coffman, RMP/EPCRA Inspector
Land Enforcement Section
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division

S. Scott McDowell

From: RAIN Catalysts <rachel@raincatalysts.org>
Sent: Friday, January 9, 2026 9:09 AM
To: admin@ci.brownsville.or.us
Subject: RAIN - A Year in Review and The Year Ahead



Our team of seasoned entrepreneurs at Regional Accelerator Innovation Network, RAIN, has helped thousands of people launch and grow their businesses in rural Oregon since 2014. . A New Year invites reflection on RAIN's successes in the past year and enthusiasm for what we have planned for the year ahead. We invite you to see what we've accomplished and the work we're proud to embark on in 2026.

2025 - A BIG YEAR for RAIN

Rural Entrepreneurship Navigation, our core program, embedded team members in rural communities across Oregon—offering connections to resources, mentorship, and education for over 430 rural Oregon entrepreneurs and small businesses.

Spring 2025 Tech Accelerator RAIN supported 20 start up venture teams in moving their businesses towards investment-readiness and customer acquisition.

Willamette Valley Biotech Showcase We hosted this event in Lebanon, OR to showcase the growing hub of rural biotech and life science companies in the Willamette Valley. Over 75 entrepreneurs, students, and professionals joined us at the Western University of Health Sciences to network and hear presentations from companies including ZippinBio, Lac to Love, xBiologix, SutureGard, and Lazarus3D. Thanks to the Biotech

Collective for partnering on this event! (Oregon Life Sciences, OTRADI, OEN, OHSU OCTRI, RAIN).

Serving Underrepresented Washington State Entrepreneurs RAIN brought our rural entrepreneurship support to underrepresented founders in Washington State with support from the Washington State Microenterprise association. With mentorship, coaching, and boot camps in English and Spanish, we served over 300 businesses and helped create 33 jobs.

Leading Cascades West Innovation Hub We were honored to be named the lead of the Cascades West Innovation Hub, funded by Business Oregon. With support from regional economic development and Latino-serving organizations, RAIN cultivates a vibrant ecosystem of entrepreneurship and technical support, focusing on innovative enterprises with tangible products across varied sectors. Programming will enable the launch and scale of high-growth impactful businesses across Lane, Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Counties with a special emphasis on reaching rural and underrepresented entrepreneurs.

2026 - DELIVERING FOR OREGON'S RURAL ENTREPRENEURS

Growing Rural Entrepreneurship Navigation With generous support from regional philanthropies and local governments, RAIN is growing the reach of our Rural Entrepreneurship Navigation program. Monthly virtual workshops from Navigators on much needed specific business topics will address the unique needs and challenges of rural Oregon entrepreneurs. Entrepreneurs and small business owners can also take advantage of in-person and virtual coaching and mentorship, community networking events, assistance with access to capital, and access to professional service providers. RAIN is also excited to pilot an initiative to connect prospective brick and mortar entrepreneurs with opportunities in rural communities.

Serving Rural Oregon's Spanish Speaking Entrepreneurs Spanish-Speaking entrepreneurs and small business owners can now connect with RAIN's Navegador de Emprendimiento for Spanish language coaching, education, and mentorship.

Sector-Specific Coaching and Navigation RAIN is expanding our Entrepreneur Navigation services to ensure that entrepreneurs are connected with Navigators with sector expertise for customized guidance.

Rural CREATOR Artists, designers, makers, and others can join our free Rural CREATOR (Creative Entrepreneurs in Oregon) program. Networking cohorts and monthly educational workshops specifically for current and prospective entrepreneurs that want to turn their products and creativity into profitable businesses are starting soon. Programming will be available in English and Spanish. This program is made possible with a grant from the Roundhouse Foundation.

The Cascades West Innovation Hub continues to grow! Check innovatecascadeswest.org for information on events or how to connect with us and our partners.

We invite you to learn more about RAIN's important work in navigating rural Oregon's entrepreneurs to build and grow thriving enterprises and contribute to their communities so that rural Oregon can thrive.



Commissioners Hear Juvenile Department Statistics

By Alex Paul

Linn County Reporter

ALBANY, Ore. — Work crews completed more than 600 hours of community service projects in November, Linn County Juvenile Department Director Torri Lynn told Commissioners Roger Nyquist, Sherrie Sprenger and Will Tucker at their December 23 meeting.

Lynn said 15 youth on the Tier 1 work crew (informal probation) completed 218.5 hours of community service over 12 project days. During November 2024, six young people completed 58.5 hours of service.

Lynn said 20 youth on the Tier 2 work crew (higher risk assessment) completed 390.25 hours of service over 15 project days. In November 2024, some 29 young people completed 637.25 hours of service.

After the meeting, Lynn said work crews do a variety of projects, working closely with the Bureau of Land Management and the Oregon Department of Forestry.

“The Juvenile Department pays particular attention to separating youth based upon their level of risk and age, making sure each youth is able to safely be supervised on any particular project,” Lynn said. “The first priority is safety of the youth and staff, followed by job skill development and project completion.”

Lynn told the commissioners, there were 47 referrals in November, and referrals have not returned to pre-Covid 19 numbers.

There are 183 youth in the Probation Unit, either on probation or pending court with 32 of them assessed as high-risk.

There are 126 youth under the Community Programs Unit serving on informal probation and the Intervention Specialist is serving 194 youth. Of those, 186 youth are from the community with no involvement with law enforcement.

In November, 11 youth from Linn County — two females and nine males — were held for 69 days of care. Their average length of stay was 5.75 days.

Six youth from Benton County — all males — were held for 84 total days. Their average length of stay was 14 days.

Three youth from Lincoln County — all males — were held for 46 days. Average length of stay was 15.33 days.

The average daily population was 6.63 youth and an average length of stay of 9.48 days.

Three youth completed 60.25 hours of service with the Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Program.



In other business, the commissioners:

- Updated a contract with the law firm of Sussman Shank LLP, for litigation services in the Western States Land Reliance Trust v. Linn County lawsuit, which will be reviewed on appeal by the Oregon Supreme Court. The contract does not to exceed \$175,000.
- Approved a letter of proxy allowing Commissioner Tucker to vote for the Board of Commissioners at the Association of O & C Counties annual meeting.
- Announced that most Linn County offices (except the Sheriff's Office) will be closed on Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24, and Christmas, Thursday, December 25. Offices will reopen at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, December 26.

Announced that Linn County submitted comments to the Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Services, in favor of rulemaking that would clarify how economic impacts are considered in the implementation of the Endangered Species Act.

Media contact: Alex Paul, Linn County Communications Officer, 541-967-3825 or email apaul@co.linn.or.us.



Commissioners Address End-of-the-Year Items

By Alex Paul

Linn County Reporter

ALBANY, Ore. — Linn County Commissioners Roger Nyquist, Sherrie Sprenger and Will Tucker addressed a number of end-of-the-year housekeeping items at their December 30 board meeting.

The commissioners:

- Elected Commissioner Nyquist as chairman of the board and Commissioner Tucker as vice-chairman for 2026.
- Approved the Albany Democrat-Herald and The New Era (Sweet Home and Lebanon) as official newspapers of record for publication of legal notices.
- Appointed Matt Pitcher as the Linn County Tax Collector.
- Approved a two-year extension of a four-year contract with Crabtree Automotive to provide maintenance for Linn County Sheriff's Office vehicles.
- Appointed John E. Kennedy III of Lebanon and Danielle Myers of Brownsville as Justices of the Peace pro tempore for District 4A.
- Held a second reading of an ordinance designating the Lyons Rural Fire Protection District to provide service for Linn County Ambulance Service Area Code 7. The Idanha-Detroit Rural Fire Protection District had previously covered that service area, but discontinued ambulance service in 2016. The ordinance will take effect on March 30, 2026.
- Approved a code text amendment to allow accessory dwelling units (ADUs) in the Urban Growth Area — Rural Residential zoning district and the Rural Residential zoning district.
- Announced a management staff meeting will be held at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, January 7, in the courthouse basement meeting room.
- Adjourned the Board of Commissioners meeting and convened a meeting of the 4-H and Extension Service District governing board. Commissioner Tucker was elected chair and Commissioner Sprenger was elected vice-chair for 2026.

Media contact: Alex Paul, Linn County Communications Officer, 541-967-3825 or email apaul@co.linn.or.us.



Commissioners Ok Juvenile Records Expungement Contract

By Alex Paul

Linn County Reporter

ALBANY, Ore. — At their first meeting of the new year on January 6, Linn County Commissioners Roger Nyquist, Sherrie Sprenger and Will Tucker approved an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Oregon Youth Authority which will reimburse the Juvenile Department for expunction of records of young people when they turn 18 years of age.

The agreement is not to exceed \$84,821.31. Reimbursement rates vary: Formal Accountability Agreements, \$223.80; Misdemeanor Cases, \$279.75; Felony Cases, \$324.51.

Expunction of records had been performed by the state until recently, Juvenile Director Torri Lynn told the commissioners. Lynn said youth previously had to apply to the juvenile court to have their record expunged, after waiting five years.

The automated system applies to cases that were informally handled, misdemeanor charges and some felony charges.

Lynn said the Juvenile Department receives a list of youth from the Juvenile Justice Information System who are eligible for expunction based upon their age and charges. The Juvenile Department then prepares notifications and provides information to other agencies that have juvenile records that may qualify for expunction.

In his written report, Lynn noted that some felony charges will not be expunged. They include Arson I and II, Robbery I and II, Assault II, Kidnapping II and using a child to display sexual images.

Some misdemeanor charges are not eligible for the automated process and young people must wait four years before being eligible to apply. Those charges include fourth-degree assault, strangulation, menacing, bias crimes and reckless endangering.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Accepted a \$35,000 grant from the Oregon Department of Veterans Services for the Linn County Veterans Services Department. Funds will be used to provide transportation to medical services by Quality Medical Transport for local veterans. The grant runs through June 2027.
- Approved an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Linn County Road Department and the city of Millersburg for stormwater code implementation. The agreement allows the city to administer, inspect and enforce erosion and sediment control and post-construction stormwater requirements on portions of Old Salem Road, Nygren Road, Conser Road and Morningstar Road. The roads are within the urban growth boundary outside city limits. There is no cost associated with the agreement.



- Approved a pass-through services contract with Jimco Electrical to provide a back-up generator at the Sweet Home Community Center. Funding is not-to-exceed \$81,718 and is provided by the Oregon Health Authority. The contract runs through June 30, 2026.
- Approved an Intergovernmental Agreement to accept up to \$78,079 from the Criminal Justice Commission to support the Linn County Mental Health Court. The agreement runs through November 31, 2027.
- Approved an amendment to a Personal Services Contract between the Intercommunity Health Network Coordinated Care Organization and Linn County's Maternal Child Health program. The agreement is not-to-exceed \$185,473 and runs through December 31, 2026.
- Approved a Behavioral Health Provider Agreement between the Intercommunity Health Network Coordinated Care Organization and Linn County. Approved new compensation rates of \$34 for mental health services and \$8.50 for substance use disorder.
- Appointed Candy Bliss to the Position 4 seat on the Linn County Transportation Advisory Committee.
- Announced that a management staff meeting will be held at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, January 7, in the basement meeting room of the Linn County Courthouse.

Media contact: Alex Paul, Linn County Communications Officer, 541-967-3825 or email apaul@co.linn.or.us.



Commissioners Hear Veterans Services Report

By Alex Paul

Linn County Reporter

ALBANY, Ore. — Linn County Veterans Services helped local veterans and their families obtain about \$414,661 in government benefits from October through December 2025, Commissioners Roger Nyquist, Sherrie Sprenger and Will Tucker learned at their January 13 board meeting.

Veterans Services Manager Dee Baley-Hyder said that from January through December 2025, tax-free benefits recovered totaled about \$2,480,553.

Baley-Hyder said the department's medical transportation program has been active, aided by a \$24,000 grant from the Oregon Department of Transportation that was aimed at assisting veterans who live in rural Linn County. The grant period was from October through December 2025.

The department also received a \$35,000 grant from the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs. The funds will provide medical transportation from January 2026 through June 2027.

Baley-Hyder said her department applied for a Veterans Medical Transportation Grant from ODOT, but the status of that application hasn't been announced.

Baley-Hyder said she attended a meeting of the Santiam Service Integration group in Gates.

"It was a great way to share with everyone what our office does and how we help Linn County veterans," she noted in her written report. "It was also great to share about the medical transportation that is used by our veterans."

Veterans Service Officer Rob McKibben was a guest speaker at the Lebanon Senior Center Veterans Recognition Day. He talked about services provided by the department and highlighted the medical transportation services.

"We were also in the Veterans Day parade and it is always nice to see all the veterans we have served in our community," Baley-Hyder said.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Announced that they will send a letter of support — with conditions — to the Oregon Health Authority and Samaritan Health Services concerning the proposed affiliation between Samaritan Health Services and MultiCare Health System.
- Approved the purchase of oil rock for the 2026 chip seal program from Knife River Corporation. One purchase is for \$155,800, to be delivered to the county's Lebanon maintenance yard and another purchase is for \$121,450 to be delivered to the Brock Quarry near Scio.
- Appointed Danielle Myers to Position 4 on the Law Library Committee. The position was formerly held by Judge Jessica Meyer.

Media contact: Alex Paul, Linn County Communications Officer, 541-967-3825 or email apaul@co.linn.or.us.



Health Officials Warn Public About Two Locations Where Affected Individuals Spent Time

By Alex Paul

Linn County Reporter

PORTLAND, Ore.—Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and Linn County public health officials are investigating two cases of measles and want people to know about locations where they may have been exposed to the highly infectious virus.

The affected individuals developed measles symptoms—rash, fever, cough and runny nose—on Jan. 5. OHA is not identifying the individuals' gender, age or county of residence.

People might have been exposed if they were at the following locations during these dates and times:

- Lebanon Community Hospital Emergency Department, between 8:53 p.m. Jan. 6 and 7 a.m. Jan. 7.
- Albany General Hospital Emergency Department, between 4:59 a.m. and 8:15 a.m. Jan. 7.

People who were at these locations during these dates and times should immediately contact their health care provider and let them know they may have been exposed to someone who has measles. The health care provider can determine whether they are immune to measles based on their vaccination record, age, or laboratory evidence of prior infection.

“Measles is here in Oregon and rates are increasing nationally, which is why we encourage everyone to make sure they’re protected by talking with their providers about being up to date on vaccinations,” said Howard Chiou, M.D., Ph.D., medical director for communicable diseases and immunizations at OHA’s Public Health Division.

Facts about measles

Measles spreads through the air after a person with measles coughs or sneezes. People are contagious with measles for four days before a rash appears and up to four days afterward. The virus particles also can linger in the air for up to two hours after someone who is infectious has left the area.

Measles typically starts with a fever, cough, runny nose and red eyes. A rash usually follows, beginning on the face and spreading to the rest of the body. Symptoms begin seven to 21 days after exposure to a person with measles. Common complications of measles include ear infection, lung infection and diarrhea. Swelling of the brain is a rare but much more serious complication.

Measles can be dangerous, especially among infants and children younger than 5, adults older than 20, pregnant people, and people with weakened immune systems. In developed countries in recent years, one or two out of every 1,000 measles cases has been fatal.



The measles vaccine is highly effective at providing protection, as two doses of the MMR vaccine is 97% effective at preventing measles. The risk of severe disease from measles for people who are up to date on their vaccines is very low.

What to do if you suspect measles in your household

Public health officials urge people experiencing symptoms of measles not to arrive unannounced at a medical office if they:

- Have a measles-like rash, or
- Have been exposed to measles within the previous 21 days, and have any other symptom of measles (such as fever, cough or red eyes).

Individuals planning to seek medical care should first call a health care provider or urgent care center by telephone to create an entry plan to avoid exposing others in waiting rooms.

Learn more about measles at
<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/DISEASESCONDITIONS/DISEASESAZ/Pages/measles.aspx>.

Media contact: Alex Paul, Linn County Communications Officer, 541-967-3825 or email apaul@co.linn.or.us.

Former Oregon Gov. Kate Brown Released a Cold-Blooded Killer Who Executed a Teen Girl — Now He Sits on Salem's Police Review Board

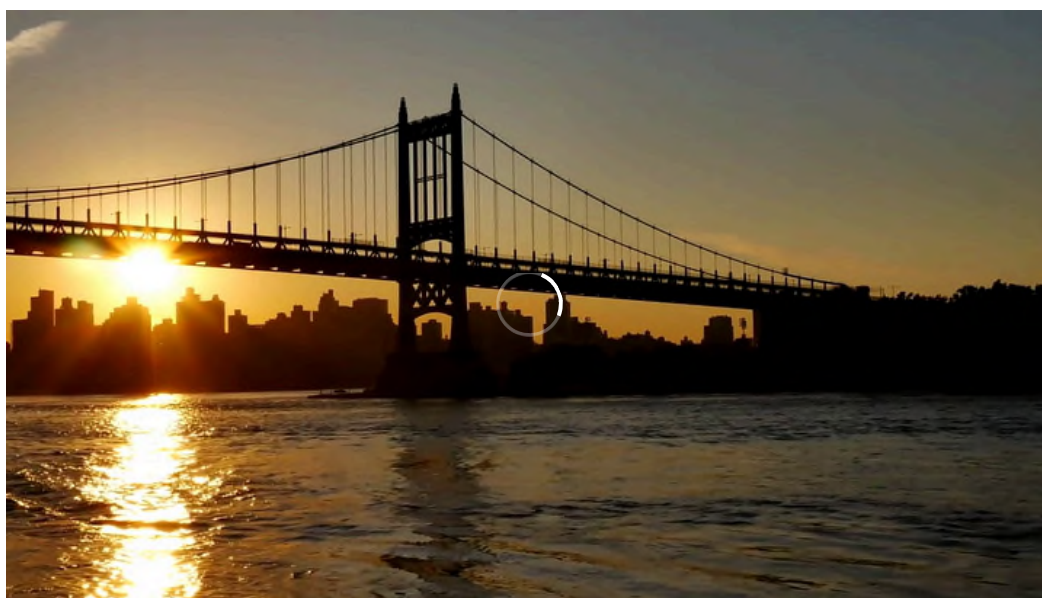
by Tyler James | Dec 27, 2025 | News



Kevin Neri/Statesman Journal / USA Today Network via Imagn Images

Share This Article

A convicted Oregon killer freed early by former Democratic Governor Kate Brown is now placed in a position of authority in Salem after the City Council voted to reappoint him to the Community Police Review Board. For many Oregonians the decision is not merely controversial but profoundly disturbing and morally indefensible.





In a narrow five to four vote on December eight the Salem City Council reinstated Kyle Hedquist a man who was originally sentenced to life in prison for the execution style murder of nineteen year old Nikki Thrasher. After serving twenty seven years Hedquist was released following executive clemency granted by Kate Brown. The council's decision overrode the recommendation of its own Boards and Commissions Appointments Committee which had urged that the seat be left vacant.

Nikki Thrasher's killer released; family not told



To critics this was not a technical disagreement or procedural oversight. It was a deliberate choice to ignore the gravity of an aggravated murder conviction and to elevate ideology over basic standards of public trust.

For many families of violent crime victims the reappointment reopened wounds that never healed and reinforced a growing belief that victims are increasingly treated as an afterthought in Oregon's justice system.



Photo of Nikki Thrasher at Roseburg High School, 1992 Roseburg OR ([Ancient Faces](#))

Hedquist was convicted of aggravated murder for killing Nikki Thrasher in 1995 when he was eighteen years old. Prosecutors said the crime was calculated and deliberate. In 1994, Hedquist feared Thrasher would report him to police for hiding stolen property. To silence her, he drove her down a remote logging road and shot her in the head. He then dumped her body along the remote logging road in Douglas County.



Do you love Oregon?

Sign up for monthly emails full of local travel inspiration and fun trip ideas. In each newsletter we'll share upcoming events, new things to do, hot dining spots and great travel ideas.

Email Address



Subscribe

Law enforcement officials described the killing as cold blooded execution style violence. This was not a crime of passion. It was a conscious decision to end a young woman's life in order to avoid accountability. Prosecutors later stated that Hedquist admitted the motive was to prevent her from going to police.

Despite the severity of the crime and the original life sentence imposed by the court Hedquist's punishment was reduced when Kate Brown commuted his sentence in two thousand twenty two making him eligible for release decades earlier than intended. That decision drew immediate condemnation from law enforcement leaders across Oregon.

Douglas County Sheriff John Hanlin publicly opposed the clemency calling the murder calculated cold blooded and execution style. He said the decision to release Hedquist was shocking and irresponsible and that it rejected the justice delivered on behalf of Nikki Thrasher her family and her friends. Hanlin noted that Brown ignored objections from multiple law enforcement leaders including district attorneys and sheriffs who warned against early release.



Kyle Hedquist (Oregon Department of Corrections)

What many Oregonians did not learn until later was that families of victims were often not properly notified when violent offenders were released under Brown's clemency decisions. In Nikki Thrasher's case her mother Holly Thrasher was never informed that her daughter's killer had been released from prison. She learned only after the fact that the man who executed her child in cold blood was no longer incarcerated.

Victims advocates describe this failure as devastating infuriating and deeply cruel. For families who already endured unimaginable loss the lack of notification felt like a second betrayal by a justice system that claims to prioritize victims while quietly sidelining them.

Those same concerns resurfaced during the Salem City Council debate. Opponents argued that someone convicted of aggravated murder and originally sentenced to life should never hold a role overseeing police accountability. They warned that placing a convicted killer on a board responsible for reviewing complaints against law enforcement threatens public trust retraumatizes victims and damages the legitimacy of the board itself.

Councilor Shane Matthews who opposed the reappointment said that if the execution of a teenager followed by a life sentence does not disqualify someone from overseeing police officers then no

crime ever will. He said positions involving public safety must be held to higher standards and that this decision sends a chilling message to victims of violent crime across Oregon.

Despite those warnings Councilor Mai Vang introduced an amendment to reappoint Hedquist arguing that he provides a perspective not represented elsewhere on the board and pointing to his prior year of service. She said she believes people can change and that Hedquist's experience within the criminal justice system gives him insight into community safety.

Critics rejected that reasoning outright. They argued that rehabilitation does not erase an execution style murder nor does it entitle someone to authority over public safety institutions. They said there are countless ways to advocate for reform without placing a man once sentenced to life for killing a teenager in judgment over the police.

Compounding the outrage the council also approved Hedquist for two additional city commissions further expanding his role in local government. City officials later acknowledged gaps in background check procedures raising serious questions about how such decisions were allowed to occur in the first place.

For many Oregonians this is not a debate about second chances. It is about moral boundaries. It is about whether society still recognizes that some crimes permanently disqualify a person from positions of authority especially those involving public safety and law enforcement oversight.

The decision has left residents asking how a system could allow a man who executed nineteen year old Nikki Thrasher to walk free without her family even being notified and then be placed in a position of authority in Salem overseeing the police sworn to protect the public. For many the answer is as unsettling as the decision itself.

Share This Article

[← Oregon Residents Told to Stay Inside Because It's Miserable and Stupid Outside](#)

[Portland Yoga Scene Thrives Amid Reports That Downtown Is Making a Comeback →](#)

Related Articles



Portland Yoga Scene Thrives Amid Reports That Downtown Is Making a Comeback

by Tyler James | Dec 27, 2025 | Humor, News, Satire



Oregon Residents Told to Stay Inside Because It's Miserable and Stupid Outside

by Tyler James | Dec 17, 2025 | News, Satire



Tina Kotek Says No Christmas Presents Under Tree For Anyone Opposing Her Tax Bill

by Tyler James | Dec 16, 2025 | News, Satire



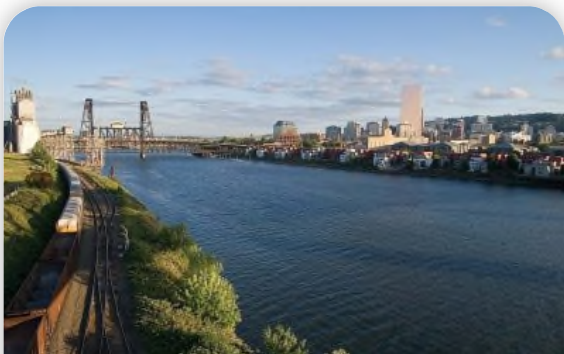
Area Man Behind on Rent Says He's 'Treating Himself While Shopping at Tiny Overpriced Hippie Grocery Store

by Tyler James | Dec 14, 2025 | Humor, News, Not Satire



Kotek's Gas Tax Jeopardy After Oregon Voters File Nearly 200,000 Signatures

by Tyler James | Dec 12, 2025 | News, Politics



Portland Clarifies River Poop Is "Different Poop" Than What Residents Dodge Downtown Daily

by Tyler James | Dec 12, 2025 | Humor, News, Satire



Portland Replaces Christmas Tree With Large Green Object, Calls New Holiday Display "Bold" and "Inclusive"

by Tyler James | Dec 12, 2025 | Humor, News, Satire



Bend Named 'Top Relocation Choice for Californians Who Don't Understand Why Locals Hate Them'

by Tyler James | Dec 8, 2025 | Humor, News, Satire



Apparently Portland Has Decided Its Christmas Tree Is No Longer a Christmas Tree

by Tyler James | Dec 2, 2025 | Adventures, News, Not Satire



Kotek Announces Christmas in Oregon Will Now Be Known as "Inclusive Winter Observance"

by Tyler James | Dec 1, 2025 | Humor, News, Satire



Tourist Mispronounces Willamette, Immediately Deported Back to California

by Tyler James | Nov 29, 2025 | Humor, News, Satire



State Officials Confirm Half of Oregon Thanksgiving Traffic Caused by One Toyota Prius Going 41 in a 55

by Tyler James | Nov 27, 2025 | Humor, News, Satire

S. Scott McDowell

From: WOOLVERTON Priscilla * DEQ <Priscilla.WOOLVERTON@deq.oregon.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 12, 2026 10:08 AM
To: Undisclosed Recipients
Subject: WOOLVERTON Priscilla * DEQ; PLUNK Chance * DEQ
 DEQ: TMDL 2026

Good morning- this email is a quick reminder about TMDL deliverables in 2026. If you have any questions, please give me a call or email.

- **DUE Nov. 9, 2026:** TMDL Implementation Plan Update for the 2025 Willamette Subbasins Temperature TMDL
- **DUE 2026:** TMDL Annual Report. Contact me directly if you don't know when your TMDL annual report is due
- **Recommendation:** Draft Streamside Evaluation approach. A completed Streamside Evaluation is due May 9, 2028; however, I encourage you to reach out and schedule a time to meet with me in 2026 to discuss an approach that makes sense for your jurisdiction.

Also: the report summarizing the results of the 2018-2023 Willamette Basin Year Five Review is now available on our [website](#): You can also find recent webinar recordings for the 2025 Subbasins Temperature TMDL on our webpage: [Department of Environmental Quality : Willamette Basin-Specific: TMDL Implementation : Total Maximum Daily Loads : State of Oregon](#)

Thanks,
 Priscilla

Priscilla Woolverton | Willamette Basin Coordinator
 DEQ Western Region | 165 E. 7th Ave., Ste. 100, Eugene, OR 97401-3049
priscilla.woolverton@deq.oregon.gov | 503.688.8801
 pronouns: she/her

S. Scott McDowell

From: NWYC <research@nwyw.com>
Sent: Monday, January 5, 2026 7:31 AM
To: Scott McDowell
Subject: Regulation Roll Backs | ACA Subsidies



Compliments of Adam Craven

Scott McDowell,

This week, Congress returns from its Christmas recess and will focus on a couple of measures to roll back Biden-era regulations.

Regulation Roll Backs

- **SHOWER Act**
 H.R.4593, the Saving Homeowners from Overregulation With Exceptional Rinsing (SHOWER) Act) aims to revise the federal definition of "showerhead". The bill proposes to roll back certain water conservation standards established under previous regulations. ([Voice Your Opinion](#))
- **Affordable HOMES Act**
 H.R. 5184, the Affordable Housing Over Mandating Efficiency Standards (HOMES) Act, aims to prohibit the Department of Energy (DOE) from enforcing certain energy efficiency standards for manufactured (mobile) homes, specifically striking down a final rule from May 2022 and requiring new recommendations for standards, prioritizing affordability over strict energy mandates. This bill seeks to reduce housing costs for manufactured homes by removing potentially burdensome federal efficiency requirements, making them more accessible. ([Voice Your Opinion](#))

Possible Consideration

- **ACA Subsidies**
 Four Republican lawmakers signed onto House Democrats' discharge petition to force a vote on an extension of Obamacare premium subsidies, an act of defiance against GOP leaders as moderates grow frustrated over health care. It will be set for a House vote in early January, said Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA).

This bill extends the enhanced tax credits for three years, through the end of calendar year 2028, to subsidize premiums for health insurance purchased on the Affordable Care Act health insurance markets.

Specifically, it allows taxpayers with household income exceeding 400% of the federal poverty line to receive tax credits for an additional 3 years. The measure would take effect retroactively on Jan. 1, 2026. ([Voice Your Opinion](#))

- **Venezuela**

The Senate is poised to vote this week on a resolution by Tim Kaine (D-VA) that would block U.S. military action within or against Venezuela unless authorized by Congress. The War Powers Resolution is privileged, and may be called up for a vote on the Senate floor in 10 days. ([Voice Your Opinion](#))

S. Scott McDowell

From: NWYC <research@nwy.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 7:31 AM
To: Scott McDowell
Subject: Major Senate Votes of 2025 - Your NWYC eVoter



The Major Senate Votes of 2025

- [Became Law](#)
- [Major Votes](#)
- [Cabinet Confirmations](#)
- [Regulation Roll Back](#)

Became Law

One Big Beautiful Bill

The Senate passed ([51-50](#)) H.R. 1, which provides for approximately \$3.8 trillion in net tax cuts and \$321 billion in military, border enforcement, and judiciary spending, offset by \$1.5 trillion in spending reductions.

\$9.4 Billion Fiscal 2025 Rescissions

The Senate passed ([51-48](#)) H.R.4, which rescinds a total of \$9.4 billion in previously appropriated funding, including \$8.3 billion in foreign aid and \$1.1 billion provided for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, which funds National Public Radio and the Public Broadcasting Service.

Fiscal 2026 Defense Authorization

The Senate passed ([77-20](#)) S.1071, to authorize \$900.6 billion for the Pentagon and associated Energy Department defense activities for fiscal 2026, \$8 billion more than requested.

Fiscal 2026 Full-Year and Stopgap Funding

The Senate passed ([60-40](#)) H.R.5371, which provides fiscal 2026 funding for Military Construction-VA, Agriculture, and Legislative Branch agencies and programs and extends current funding levels, through Jan. 30, 2026, for the remaining federal agencies and programs.

Fiscal 2025 Full-Year Continuing Appropriations

The Senate passed ([54-46](#)) H.R.1968 to extend government funding through the end of fiscal year 2025 (Sept. 30).

Laken Riley Act - Immigration Penalties for Theft

The Senate passed ([64-35](#)) S.5, to establish grounds for inadmissibility (and thus deportation) of immigrants who have been charged with theft and other criminal offenses, including misdemeanors.

Release Justice Department Records on Jeffrey Epstein

The Senate passed (Unanimous Consent) H.R.4405, which requires the attorney general to make publicly available all Justice Department materials related to Jeffrey Epstein.

GENIUS Act: Requirements for Stablecoin Issuers

The Senate passed ([68-30](#)) S.1582, which would establish a national regulatory framework for stablecoin issuance. It would require payment stablecoin issuers to be approved by state or federal regulators to issue stablecoins in the U.S.

HALT Fentanyl Act

The Senate passed ([84-16](#)) S.331, which amends the Controlled Substances Act to permanently classify fentanyl-related substances as Schedule I controlled substances, unless they are specifically exempted or listed in another schedule.

Criminalize Non-Consensual Explicit AI Imagery

The Senate passed (Unanimous Consent) S.146, which would make it a federal crime to knowingly publish non-consensual intimate imagery of other persons, including such imagery generated by artificial intelligence.

Whole Milk

Lawmakers voted by voice vote in the House and unanimous consent in the Senate to approve legislation (S.222) that expands the purchasing options students have under the National School Lunch Program. The measure now heads to the President's desk.

Major Votes**Health Care****Three-Year ACA Tax Credit Extension**

The Senate failed ([51-48](#)) to proceed (invoke cloture) on S.3385, which would provide for a three-year extension of the enhanced Affordable Care Act tax credits.

HSA Contributions for ACA Plans

The Senate failed ([51-48](#)) to proceed (invoke cloture) on S.3386, a bill that would require contributions to the health savings accounts of certain individuals who are enrolled in bronze or catastrophic plans through an Affordable Care Act exchange.

Family/Children

Barring Transgender Women in School Sports

The Senate failed ([51-45](#)) to proceed (invoke cloture) on S.9 the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act.

Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection

The Senate failed ([52-47](#)) to proceed (invoke cloture) on S.6 to establish requirements for the degree of care a healthcare practitioner must exercise in the event a child is born alive following an abortion or attempted abortion.

Defense/Foreign Policy

Terminate National Emergency for Tariffs On Canada

The Senate passed ([50-46](#)) S.J.Res.77, which would terminate the national emergency declared by the president on Feb. 1, 2025, with respect to Canada's purported "failure to act" to stop fentanyl and human trafficking at the northern border.

Terminate National Emergency Concerning Brazil

The Senate passed ([52-48](#)) S.J.Res.81, which terminates the National Emergency Concerning Brazil. A joint resolution that would terminate the national emergency declared in a July 2025 executive order with respect to imports from Brazil.

International Criminal Court Sanctions

The Senate failed to advance ([54-45](#)) H.R.23 that would have required the president to impose U.S. property blocking and visa sanctions on International Criminal Court officials and others involved with bringing indictments against Israeli and U.S. officials.

Government Operations

Pay Federal Employees During Government Shutdown

The Senate failed to advance ([53-43](#)) S.3012, a bill to provide appropriations to pay federal employees who work during a government shutdown.

En Bloc Nominations Rule Change

The Senate adopted ([51-44](#)) S.Res.377, an executive resolution that would authorize the en bloc consideration in executive session of 48 nominations on the Senate executive calendar.

Cabinet Confirmations

The following are the Cabinet nominations that received the most commentary:

Chavez-DeRemer Nomination to be Secretary of Labor

The Senate confirmed ([67-32](#)) President Donald Trump's nomination of Lori Chavez-DeRemer to be Secretary of Labor.

Peter to be Secretary of Defense

The Senate confirmed ([50-50](#)) President Donald Trump's nomination of Pete Hegseth to be Secretary of Defense -- Vice President JD Vance casting a "yea" vote to break the tie.

Tulsi Gabbard to be Director of National Intelligence

The Senate confirmed ([52-48](#)) President Donald Trump's nomination of Tulsi Gabbard to be Director of National Intelligence.

Pamela Bondi to be Attorney General

The Senate confirmed ([54-46](#)) President Donald Trump's nomination of Pam Bondi to be Attorney General.

Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. to be Secretary of Health and Human Services

The Senate confirmed ([52-48](#)) President Donald Trump's nomination of Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. to be Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Linda McMahon to be Secretary of Education

The Senate confirmed ([51-45](#)) President Donald Trump's nomination of Linda McMahon to be Secretary of Education.

Regulation Roll Backs

In 2025, Congress used the Congressional Review Act to roll back twenty-two Biden-era regulations. The Congressional Review Act (CRA) is a tool that Congress may use to pass legislation to overturn a rule issued by a federal agency; it cannot be filibustered in the Senate.

- H.J.Res.89 - Disapprove EPA Waiver for California Vehicle Emissions Standards.
[House](#) | [Senate](#)
- H.J.Res.88 - Disapprove EPA Waiver for California Vehicle Emission Standards.
[House](#) | [Senate](#)
- H.J.Res.87 - Disapprove EPA Waiver for California Vehicle Emissions Standards.
[House](#) | [Senate](#)

- H.J.Res.75 - Disapprove Refrigeration Appliance Energy Standards Rule.
[House](#) | [Senate](#)
- H.J.Res.61 - Disapprove Rubber Tire Pollutants Rule".
[House](#) | [Senate](#)
- H.J.Res.60 - Disapprove Glen Canyon Off-Road Vehicles Rule.
[House](#) | [Senate](#)
- H.J.Res.42 - Disapprove Appliance Efficiency Standards Rule.
[House](#) | [Senate](#)
- H.J.Res.35 - Disapproval of EPA Emissions Rule.
[House](#) | [Senate](#)
- H.J.Res.25 - Disapproval of IRS Digital Asset Reporting Rule.
[House](#) | [Senate](#)
- H.J.Res.24 - Disapprove Energy Standards for Freezers Rule.
[House](#) | [Senate](#)
- H.J.Res.20 - Disapproval of Water Heater Rule.
[House](#) | [Senate](#)
- S.J.Res.31 - Disapprove EPA Hazardous Air Pollutants Standard Rule.
[House](#) | [Senate](#)
- S.J.Res.28 - Disapprove CFPB Digital Consumer Payments Rule.
[House](#) | [Senate](#)
- S.J.Res.18 - Disapprove CFPB Overdraft Payments Rule.
[House](#) | [Senate](#)
- S.J.Res.13 - Disapprove Bank Mergers Rule.
[House](#) | [Senate](#)
- S.J.Res.11 - Disapprove Oil and Gas Exploration Rule.
[House](#) | [Senate](#)
- S.J.Res.80 - Disapprove BLM Alaska Petroleum Reserve Rule.
[House](#) | [Senate](#)
- H.J.Res.104 - Disapprove BLM Miles City Resource Management Rule.
[House](#) | [Senate](#)
- H.J.Res.105 - Disapprove BLM North Dakota Resource Management Rule.
[House](#) | [Senate](#)
- H.J.Res.106 - Disapprove BLM Central Yukon Resource Management Rule.
[House](#) | [Senate](#)
- H.J.Res.130 - Disapprove BLM Resource Management Plan.
[House](#) | [Senate](#)
- H.J.Res.131 - Disapprove BLM Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Rule.
[House](#) | [Senate](#)

S. Scott McDowell

From: Smart Cities Dive <newsletter@divenewsletter.com>
Sent: Friday, January 9, 2026 9:07 AM
To: S. Scott McDowell
Subject: Jan. 9 - Emergency housing bill introduced in Senate | DOT awards \$1B for safer roads

[View online](#) | [Signup](#)



DAILY DIVE

Jan. 9, 2026 | Today's news and insights for smart city leaders

BROUGHT TO YOU BY — Routeware



Routeware SmartCity for Municipal Fleets

Routeware SmartCity enables municipal governments to leverage the power of digitization, real-time data, and advanced reporting to benefit public works managers, drivers, and residents.

[Learn more.](#)

Senate 'housing emergency' bill seeks to spur construction of 4 million US homes

New legislation asks the federal government to curtail local housing regulations and use the Defense Production Act to boost domestic production of construction materials.

US DOT awards \$1B in SS4A funds for road safety

Under a revised Safe Streets and Roads for All program that eliminated equity and environmental justice considerations, awards went to 521 projects.

Trump administration sues cities to stop gas appliance bans

Federal courts have been mixed on whether the bans run counter to a federal law that sets appliance efficiency standards, which the government argues preempts the bans.

OPINION

As federal safety nets disappear, states and cities need rent control

With America's rent crisis deepening, state and local leaders should use rent control to protect residents, preserve communities and stabilize the economy.

S. Scott McDowell

From: NWYC <research@nwyc.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 8, 2026 7:32 AM
To: Scott McDowell
Subject: Your Complimentary 2025 Executive and Judicial Year in Review

Scott McDowell, this exclusive report is prepared as part of your NWYC membership. Compliments of Adam Craven



**National Write
Your Congressman**

**2025 Year in Review
Executive & Judicial Branch**



Executive

In 2025, President Donald Trump signed 225 Executive Orders (from EO 14147 through EO 14371). The following is a brief summary:

Rescinding asylum and refugee programs: Trump signed a suite of orders aimed at tightening immigration, including halting refugee admissions, rescinding prior policies on asylum, and declaring a national emergency at the southern border.

Expanded immigration enforcement and deportation efforts: The administration significantly reshaped U.S. immigration enforcement, leading to increased deportations.

Greater presidential control over “independent” agencies: Trump issued orders stripping regulatory independence from agencies like the FTC, FCC, and SEC, requiring presidential approval for regulations, and centralizing power within the White House.

Targeting transgender and gender identity policies: Trump signed orders that restrict federal recognition of gender identity, prohibit gender-affirming care for minors, and roll back government DEI (diversity, equity, and inclusion) initiatives.

Rescission of affirmative-action and diversity policies: The administration rescinded affirmative-action programs (e.g., Executive Order 11246) and DEI efforts in federal employment.

English declared the official U.S. language: Trump issued an order designating English as the official language, a largely symbolic move.

Sanctions on the International Criminal Court (ICC): Imposed visa and financial sanctions on ICC staff connected to investigations involving U.S. citizens and allies.

Reversal of land-mine policy: The administration reversed a prior U.S. ban on antipersonnel land mines globally, arguing military utility.

New class of Navy battleships: Trump unveiled plans for a new “Trump-class” battleship fleet.

Rollbacks on habitat protections and wind energy: He rolled back protections for the greater sage-grouse to open more land to energy development and suspended several major offshore wind projects, citing national security concerns.

Space dominance executive order: A major 2025 order set a U.S. goal for a crewed moon landing by 2028 and reorganized national space policy.

Marijuana reclassification order: Trump signed an order downgrading marijuana under federal law (from Schedule I to III), expanding medical research access.

For a full list of President Trump’s Executive Orders, please contact the NWYC Research Center at research@nwy.com



Judicial

In 2025, the U.S. Supreme Court issued around 67 main rulings and numerous emergency docket decisions as part of its 2024-2025 term, concluding with many controversial cases in June and more emergency rulings later in the year, significantly impacting state policy on topics like gender-affirming care and voting rights.

The following are the key cases in 2025:

TikTok: The Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of the Protecting Americans from Foreign Adversary-Controlled Applications Act as applied to TikTok, ruling the law did not violate the First Amendment.

Planned Parenthood: South Carolina blocked Planned Parenthood from receiving Medicaid funds due to its abortion services. The Supreme Court sided with South Carolina, stating the Medicaid Act didn't contain clear, unambiguous language creating such a private right for beneficiaries to sue. This ruling allows states more power to exclude abortion providers from Medicaid.

Parental Rights: The Court ruled that public schools must allow parents to opt their children out of curriculum materials, such as LGBTQ+-inclusive books, that conflict with their religious beliefs, finding that denying opt-outs constitutes a substantial burden on religious exercise.

Protecting Minors: The Supreme Court upheld a Texas age-verification law for Internet pornography to prevent minors' access, ruling the law passed intermediate scrutiny, but it is limited to content harmful to minors, not broader speech.

Universal Injunctions: The Supreme Court limited federal courts' ability to issue universal injunctions, ruling that they generally lack statutory authority for nationwide relief, thereby affecting challenges to executive actions such as those concerning birthright citizenship.

Parental Rights/Education: The Supreme Court required public schools to allow parents to opt their children out of classes discussing LGBTQ+ themes if they have religious objections, granting parents significant control over curriculum.

LGBTQ+ Rights/Healthcare: The Court ruled that Tennessee's state law prohibiting medical professionals from providing hormone therapy or puberty-delaying drugs to transgender minors did not violate the 14th Amendment's Equal Protection Clause.

Excessive Force/Fourth Amendment: The Supreme Court narrowed the "moment-of-threat" rule for police shootings, indicating a broader framework for evaluating use of force under the Fourth Amendment.

Key Controversial Cases on the Emergency "Shadow" Docket

Immigration/TPS: The Supreme Court allowed the administration to terminate Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Venezuelans and potentially others, blocking lower court rulings that sought to protect them, raising humanitarian concerns, and favoring executive control over immigration.

Presidential Power/Independent Agencies: The Court allowed the President to fire members of independent agencies (like the FTC) without cause, signaling a potential shift away from precedent protecting agency independence, a significant win for executive power.

Birthright Citizenship: While not deciding the merits of President Trump's executive order on birthright citizenship, the Supreme Court used the emergency docket to limit nationwide injunctions, strengthening presidential power and allowing policy implementation while disputes continue in lower courts.

Government Spending: The Supreme Court granted the government's emergency application to stay a lower court's injunction that would have required the executive to obligate roughly \$4 billion in foreign-aid funds that Congress had appropriated, effectively allowing the administration to withhold those funds while the legal challenge proceeds. The decision was procedural and not a final ruling.

Healthcare/Appointments: The Court considered challenges to the constitutionality of the members of the HHS Preventive Services Task Force, which impact federal health guidelines.

Mass Parole Revocation: The Supreme Court granted an emergency stay allowing the Department of Homeland Security to revoke the parole and work authorizations of over 400,000 migrants from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Venezuela en masse.

Federal Employee Layoffs: The Court stayed lower court orders that had blocked the administration's plans for mass firings and "reductions in force" across the federal government.

Transgender Military Ban: An emergency order allowed the administration to reinstate a ban on transgender individuals serving in the military.

Gender Identity: The Court temporarily allowed the Trump administration to enforce a policy requiring new U.S. passports to reflect biological sex at birth, halting a lower court order that permitted self-selected gender markers (M, F, or X) for trans/nonbinary individuals.

National Guard: The Supreme Court let stand, for now, a judge's order blocking the deployment of hundreds of National Guard troops to the Chicago area. "At this preliminary stage, the Government has failed to identify a source of authority that would allow the military to execute the laws in Illinois."



National *Write*
Your Congressman



S. Scott McDowell

From: Smart Cities Dive <newsletter@divenewsletter.com>
Sent: Monday, January 12, 2026 9:11 AM
To: S. Scott McDowell
Subject: Jan. 12 - Cities launch ICE investigations | Atlanta RTA prepares for World Cup

[View online](#) | [Signup](#)



DAILY DIVE

Jan. 12, 2026 | Today's news and insights for smart city leaders

BROUGHT TO YOU BY — Melissa

Know Your City with Trusted Location Data



Melissa is your data superstore for location intelligence: Master Address, Legislative District, Parcel, Property Data & more. **City to nationwide – shop now.**

Local officials move to hold federal immigration agents accountable after Minneapolis shooting

City and state leaders are launching investigations and public reporting portals and testing new legal tools as they weigh questions about jurisdiction, liability and the limits of federal authority.

Atlanta region transit agency prepares for FIFA World Cup

A redesigned bus network and new trains are among the improvements expected to be ready by summer.

Louisville, Kentucky, joins growing number of cities bringing AI to permitting

The city also appointed its first-ever chief AI officer to lead its effort to “harness the power” of artificial intelligence.

SPONSORED CONTENT by Smart Cities Dive’s Studio

4 ways to strengthen government and constituent relations

Building trust starts with better communication. Examine four communication strategies that enable local governments to establish trust and enhance engagement with their constituents in [this playbook](#).

Investors, analysts react to Trump’s single-family home buying ban

The president’s announcement that he would seek to bar institutional investors from acquiring single-family homes raises big questions for the housing industry.

[Read more news](#)

 STREETSblog USA

Mayor Bowser Blasts U.S. DOT Talk of Eliminating Enforcement Cameras in DC

 WASHINGTON POST

The LA fires gave us an unprecedented look at the danger of urban blazes

S. Scott McDowell

From: NWYC <research@nwy.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2026 7:31 AM
To: Scott McDowell
Subject: Ban Members of Congress From Insider Trading



Provided by Adam Craven

Mr Scott McDowell

Restore Trust in Congress Act

To ban Members of Congress and their families from engaging in insider trading

Congress introduced bipartisan legislation, H.R. 5106, the Restore Trust in Congress Act. This legislation aims to ban Members of Congress and their families from engaging in insider trading and reconciles several previously introduced bills on the subject.

While the legislation would not allow lawmakers to own individual stocks and bonds, they would be allowed to own diversified mutual funds, ETFs, and certain commodities.

Lawmakers who currently own individual stocks and bonds would have 180 days to divest. New members would have 90 days to divest upon taking office.

*Should Congress pass
H.R.5106, the Restore Trust
in Congress Act?*

Voice your opinion!



National *Write*
Your Congressman



National Write Your Congressman

2435 N Central Expressway, #300

Richardson, TX 75080

Copyright © 2025 National Write Your Congressman, All rights reserved.

You are receiving this email, because you are a valued member of National Write Your Congressman

Want to change how you receive these emails? You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#)

Municipal Market Bulletin

by Government Capital Corporation

your public finance partner

Lessons From An Ever-Changing Market

As we reflect back on 2025, we are reminded how swiftly market conditions can change in an economic environment defined by uncertainty. Although interest rate volatility moderated late in the fourth quarter, the year ultimately rewarded preparedness over attempts at predicting the market's next move. For municipal issuers, the year reaffirmed the value of proactive debt planning in a rapidly evolving interest rate landscape.

Market Recap – Q4 2025

Government Shutdown Clouds Economic Outlook - The record-long federal government shutdown from October through mid-November disrupted markets at a crucial juncture. Delays in key economic data reduced transparency and made it more difficult for market participants to evaluate real-time conditions. The result was a more cautious lending environment, as investors and municipal entities alike awaited further clarity on both overall economic conditions as well as the possible future direction of interest rates.

Federal Reserve Cuts Rates and Hits Brakes - Subsequently, in December the Federal Open Market Committee lowered interest rates by 25 basis points for a third consecutive meeting, extending their gradual easing cycle. While the interest rate reduction itself was widely expected, the decision was accompanied and tempered by a more conservative outlook. Policymakers openly acknowledged uncertainty around inflation, employment trends, and economic momentum. Markets interpreted the move as a signal that future rate adjustments will be more data-driven, and that a pause in interest rate cuts is increasingly likely.

Volatility Eased, Uncertainty Persisted - Debt markets appeared to be much calmer by year-end. However, unresolved questions about future monetary policy, inconsistent economic data, and fiscal disruptions have all contributed to ongoing uncertainty. In this environment, preparedness and flexibility are essential in preserving long-term financial stability.

What This Means for Municipal Issuers

Debt Structure Matters More Than Timing - The past year repeatedly reinforced a familiar lesson: issuers who prioritize sound structure are rewarded as compared to those who merely attempt to time the market. Issuers that emphasized prudent debt sizing, manageable payment schedules, and flexible terms were far better equipped to weather the uncertainty and volatility we witnessed in 2025. Financings structured with resilience in mind helped safeguard municipal entities even amid a rapidly changing interest rate environment.

Keep Flexibility in Mind - In a market defined by uncertainty, flexibility is no longer a luxury but a necessity. Incorporating shorter call provisions, optional prepayment features, and customized debt service schedules provides issuers the ability to respond as conditions change. Embedding flexible terms in your financing from the outset preserves your freedom to refinance, restructure, or reduce debt as the opportunity presents itself, rather than being locked into rigid terms.

Article by Jared Noblitt, Senior Placement Agent

GOVERNMENT CAPITAL
CORPORATION

Recent Closings

Texas Appraisal District
Facility Acquisition & Renovation
\$10,296,765 | 20 years

Louisiana Parish
Police Fleet Vehicles
\$654,416 | 7 years

Oklahoma College
Energy Conservation Project
\$354,684 | 8 years

Texas Emergency Services District
Fire Station
\$4,040,000 | 20 years

Colorado Town
Heavy Equipment
\$132,815 | 7 years

South Carolina City
Water Meter Project
\$327,438 | 5 years

Washington Fire District
Fire Station Construction
\$510,759 | 10 years

Texas Economic Development Corp.
Land Acquisition
\$6,191,500 | 20 years

Mississippi County
Heavy Equipment
\$445,487 | 5 years

Kansas School District
School Bus Acquisition
\$312,961 | 10 years

Alabama Fire Department
Fire Station Renovation
\$201,295 | 5 years

Texas School District
Fleet Acquisitions
\$7,347,182 | 6 years

Missouri Water District
Water Meter Project
\$198,900 | 10 years

Government Capital Corporation is a leading public finance firm providing professional financial services to all local governmental entities. Since its founding in 1992, the company and its affiliates have successfully completed over 10,500 municipal financings exceeding \$7 billion nationwide.

345 Miron Dr. | Southlake, TX 76092 | 800.883.1199 | www.govcap.com



Goals 2025-2026

1. Focus on the Fundamentals.

- ★ *Carefully manage Brownsville's treasury.*
- ★ *Foster productive relationships both internally & externally.*
- ★ *Administer civic partnership agreements focusing on deliverables.*
- ★ *Focus on proactively dealing with State preemptions, unfunded mandates, and laws that force unwanted expenditures and requirements on citizens.*

2. Organizational Development.

- ★ *Modify Council Rules and meeting procedures.*
- ★ *Create a communications plan.*
- ★ *Implement social media strategies.*
- ★ *Build positive & effective Council and Staff relations.*
- ★ *Recognize City volunteers and continue developing elected and non-elected officials.*
- ★ *Recognize practical impacts of external relationships that cause harm to City operations.*

3. Capital Improvements Plan.

- ★ *Continue planning for new sewer lagoon and treatment improvements.*
- ★ *Plan for construction of a new playground.*
- ★ *Paint City Hall.*
- ★ *Plan for the Water Treatment Plant project that includes a new reservoir and the replacement of critical distribution lines.*
- ★ *Share with citizens the challenges related to projects such as Kirk Avenue, sidewalks, and riverbank restoration.*

4. Community Development Plan.

- ★ *Refine the Brownsville Municipal Code to reflect actual practice where needed.*
- ★ *Consider adopting rules for storage containers, election signs, and property identification.*
- ★ *Develop a plan to preserve & further the historic aesthetic of Brownsville.*
- ★ *Continue local & regional emergency preparedness efforts.*
- ★ *Support youth activities in partnership with the Central Linn Recreation Association.*



5. Economic Development Plan.

- ★ *Participate in regional efforts and opportunities with partner cities.*
- ★ *Support and implement the Rural Economic Alliance's (REAL) 5-year strategic plan.*
- ★ *Complete and implement the Land Use inventory project.*

6. Water Rights.

- ★ *Explore possible additional water source options.*
- ★ *Continually work on monitoring and perfecting City water rights.*
- ★ *Implement the State required Water Management & Conservation Plan.*

7. Advocacy Plan.

- ★ *Develop the Legislative Advocacy Policy Committee (LAPC) to effectively participate in the State legislative process and in the Federal legislative process when appropriate.*
- ★ *Focus on home rule with other stakeholders, partnerships, and other regional efforts to strengthen City policy positions and authority.*
- ★ *Monitor new laws, tort limits, system development charges, and recreational immunity protections for taxpayers, ratepayers, and to protect local amenities.*
- ★ *Market and promote the Small Municipalities Advocacy Coalition (SMAC).*



2025-2026 Council Values

Council Vision Statement

The Brownsville City Council works collaboratively and effectively with each other, staff, and community partners to preserve the historic character and economic health of our town and to create a high quality of life for our citizens.

A Vision for Brownsville

For a tiny rural Oregon community, Brownsville has a huge presence. It is well known throughout the state for its friendly welcome and for being a safe, clean, and attractive town. It is clear that residents value its historic character and make special efforts to preserve and enhance it. Talk to business owners in the thriving north and south business areas and you will find that it is the creative working relationships between city government and private, county, state, and federal partners that sustain our economic health and well-being. Residents participate in Brownsville's inclusive process of growing and enhancing our high quality of life. Brownsville citizens care about healthy city finances, they expect infrastructure that delivers, and they elect a City Council that works for the benefit of the community. Public spaces are a vital part of Brownsville's sense of place; citizens' and city government's attention to the appearance and cleanliness of parks, streets, and neighborhoods adds to the town's livability.

Tag line

Brownsville: Where People Care, Business Thrives, and History Lives

Who we are?

Brownsville is a City that is proud of its past while constantly improving toward the future for the benefit of our citizens. We are a group of citizens that honor each other by carefully balancing the social contract (Brownsville Municipal Code) to keep peace and order. The Brownsville Municipal Code and Comprehensive Plan help define the role of the City. Organizational transparency is a focus of Council. Council is working closely with Staff, volunteers, civic organizations, appointed officials and the citizenry to execute identified goals and carry out the responsibilities of the City.

Brownsville has a tremendous sense of place and synergy between City Hall and our residents. Active citizens are the true strength of Brownsville as evidenced by the volunteers who give freely of themselves to provide many municipal functions and civic services. Many civic organizations implement their missions actively in our community which provides a quality of life and vibrancy that is uncommon. Community events are planned and designed to invite people into town to share what Brownsville has to offer.

Council recognizes that many civic organizations and the City government are working diligently on implementing organizational development concepts in order to more efficiently provide services. Council recognizes that we are in a transition period between an authoritative model and are collectively moving toward a new, participatory approach within the organization and throughout the community.

What do we want for Brownsville?

Brownsville should honor the past, maintain a healthy present and strive to assure a dynamic future by focusing on fundamental municipal services such as:



- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Treasury Health | 7. Contract Administration |
| 2. Water | 8. Personnel |
| 3. Sewer | 9. Police Protection |
| 4. Capital Improvements | 10. Municipal Court |
| 5. Parks | 11. Library Services |
| 6. Streets | 12. Planning & Zoning |

Organizational Development

1. *Elected & Appointed Officials.* People who understand their role and responsibilities for the City as policy & decision makers. People who have a tremendous amount of pride and caring about the future of Brownsville. People who understand the financial nuances of local government in Oregon. People who understand and respect the significant contributions of Staff. People who are focused on the greater good they can collectively make in the community. People who understand the mission of the City and who can explain City policy and issues with the general public. People who represent Brownsville citizenry as well as City Staff.
2. *Staff.* People who understand their multiple roles and responsibilities. People who love coming to work. People who are interested in creating the best possible work environment that is full of respect and compassion for the citizens and is honest and trusting among all the ranks of the organization. People who don't complain about what they cannot control but people who are interested in creating practical, cost-effective solutions for those issues they can control. People who expect more than the ordinary from themselves and from each other.
3. *Organizational Axiom.* Creating, developing and maintaining effective relationships with individuals, other civic organizations, County, State & Federal government personnel. Understanding that the number one priority of the City is relationship building. The City shall honor relationships and the ordinances and laws of the land. The City shall be ever mindful of the importance of the social contract of government and the order that it strives to preserve for the sake of freedom.
4. *Civil Rights Act of 1964.* The City creates an environment of equal access to opportunities for all individuals in Brownsville. The City is committed to equal access through Federal and State laws, but also through local practice principled in the elimination of bias and barriers that may exist in the community and from developing in the City's organization. Council shall continue to consider implications of new and past policies that may create unnecessary barriers for members of minority groups, women, veterans and vulnerable populations.

NOTES: Council has discussed many organizational theories & objectives as well as identifying important critical thinking models that will serve as a guide for making better decisions. Below are a few of those models:

THE PROCESS OF PROGRESS

1. Recognize & Identify
2. Accept & Agree
3. Strategize & Develop Action Steps



4. Implement & Execute
5. Review Outcomes

LEXIPOL'S 10 FAMILIES OF RISK MODEL

1. External Risks
2. Legal & Regulatory Risks
3. Strategic Risks
4. Organizational Risks
5. Operational Risks
6. Information Risks
7. Human Resources Risks
8. Technology Risks
9. Financial and Administrative Risks
10. Political Risks

How are expectations set in City Government?

- ◆ Laws & Municipal Code
- ◆ Standards
- ◆ Requirements & Rules
- ◆ Memoranda of Understanding
- ◆ Contracts
- ◆ Agreements
- ◆ Employee Handbook
- ◆ Societal Norms
- ◆ Cultural Nuances
- ◆ Public Opinion

**Acceptable
Conduct**

vs.

**Unacceptable
Conduct**

MONTH END FINANCIAL RECAP

		DECEMBER 2025		YTD	%	Unexpended	
		REVENUE	EXPENDITURES				
1	GENERAL	\$ 366,998.86	\$ 134,104.74	\$ 547,408.47	16.73%	\$ 2,725,096.53	1
2	WATER	\$ 47,809.64	\$ 26,055.56	\$ 204,716.91	19.10%	\$ 866,883.09	2
3	SEWER	\$ 48,593.12	\$ 26,603.09	\$ 160,708.22	12.34%	\$ 1,141,671.78	3
4	STREETS	\$ 20,957.84	\$ 11,293.62	\$ 94,414.70	20.90%	\$ 357,435.30	4
5	DEBT SERVICE (CLRC BOND)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ 58,000.00	
6	WATER BOND	\$ 111.71	\$ -	\$ 34,482.87	68.97%	\$ 15,517.13	5
7	SEWER BOND	\$ 1,491.70	\$ -	\$ 229,831.52	57.14%	\$ 172,418.48	6
8	SEWER DEBT FEE	\$ 12,841.09	\$ -	\$ 75,281.24	51.92%	\$ -	7
9	BUILDING & EQUIPMENT	\$ 893.17	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ 207,200.00	8
10	WATER RESERVE	\$ 3,072.70	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ 241,500.00	9
11	HOUSING REHAB	\$ 1,125.62	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ 257,500.00	10
12	WATER SDC	\$ 391.03	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ 124,500.00	11
13	SEWER SDC	\$ 4,104.04	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ 940,000.00	12
14	STORMWATER SDC	\$ 1,513.99	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ 370,300.00	13
15	BIKEWAY/PATHS	\$ 452.66	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ 75,000.00	14
16	LIBRARY TRUST	\$ 41.60	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ 9,450.00	15
17	CEMETERY	\$ 450.46	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ 101,450.00	16
19	SEWER CONSTRUCTION	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	18
20	LAND ACQUISITION	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ 9,985.00	19
21	COMMUNITY PROJECTS	\$ 278.41	\$ -	\$ 12,952.38	16.49%	\$ 65,597.62	20
		\$ 511,127.64	\$ 198,057.01	\$ 1,284,515.07		\$ 7,739,504.93	

Key Bank Account

General Checking \$ **109,997.11**

Oregon State Treasury

General Account \$ 7,225,042.52

Community Improvements \$ 39.79

Project Escrow Holding \$ 113,117.46

CLRC Renovation Acct \$ 633.15

TOTAL OST / LGIP \$ **7,338,832.92**

Annual Bond Payment

Water \$ 46,319.02

Wastewater \$ 280,030.98

Total \$ **326,350.00**

2025-2026

YTD

% of Total

Appropriated \$ 475,829.99 14.23%

Total Bonded Debt

Rec Center Gap Debt Payment is \$57,996.99

Total Bonded Debt is \$5,958,952 (Principle Only)

Total Bonded Debt is \$8,343,239 (Principle & Interest)

Previous Month Court Revenue \$ **1,068.25**