



Goals 2023-2024 *(Compilation Date: February 2023)*

1. Focus on the Fundamentals.

★ *Protect & manage Brownsville's treasury.*

- ▶ The City fielded a full Budget Committee with the addition of Felipe Eversull & Matt Schoemaker. Staff shared the audit findings from the previous fiscal year. Council executed gap financing for the completion of the Rec Center Renovation project. Government Capital Corporation was able to find a great rate given market conditions. Council passed a supplemental budget in February 2024 to appropriate the funds for expenditure. Council received a good price for the completion of the GR12 Waterline & Pump Station Improvements project. Council passed ordinances to push back against Salem for unfunded mandates that continue to take away local funding for local projects.

★ *Foster cooperative and productive relationships both internally & externally.*

- ▶ The City continues working closely with the State of Oregon's Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD), the Linn County Commissioners Office and several other agencies. Regional efforts including Rural Economic Alliance (REAL), RAIN, the Sheriff's Office contract, the Planning & Building Department contract, and the development of SMAC. Connections have been maintained with the League of Oregon Cities, the Cascade West Council of Governments, and CIS. Local agreements have been extended with the Calapooia Food Alliance (CFA), Sweet Home Sanitation, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Central Linn Recreation Association.

2. Advocacy Plan.

★ *Create an advocacy committee charged with developing an advocacy strategy complete with written policy statements as an effort to participate in the State legislative process and in the Federal legislative process when appropriate.*

- ▶ Council created the Legislative Advocacy & Policy Committee (LAPC) through ordinance early in 2023. The Committee made several framework recommendations that were passed and implemented by Council. Position papers on key advocacy items were created for internal use and provided to the other members of SMAC and to Sean Tate.

★ *Focus on home rule with other stakeholders, partnerships, and other regional efforts to strengthen City policy positions.*

- ▶ Council attended several meetings and continues to stay connected to key issues facing the City through the League of Oregon Cities and Sean Tate. Staff have communicated through partnerships the path for execution. Mayor Craven met with House Representative Jami Cate on several occasions and attended a luncheon with Governor Kotek to express the City's policy priorities and concerns.

★ *Monitor new laws, tort limits, and recreational immunity protections for local amenities.*



- ▶ Cities in Oregon received bad news in the case, *Fields v the City of Newport*. The City has been active in working toward a fix with CIS. SB 1576 is currently being voted on in the House for passage. If this loophole cannot be closed with this legislation, the impact on the City park system will be devastating. The State's raising of the tort limits is wreaking havoc with the insurance rates. Property & liability insurance has risen nearly 60% due to these limits being raised and the continued passage of terrible public policy that is dramatically impacting cities and counties across the State.

3. Capital Improvements Plan.

- ★ *Complete Rec Center Renovation project.*

- ▶ Open House was held in February. The City has successfully completed this important project. Staff continue detailed work to prepare the facility for public rentals.

- ★ *Complete the GR 12 Waterline extension.*

- ▶ The project is underway and progressing nicely overall. Staff hopes the project will be completed by the end of March 2024.

- ★ *Plan for new sewer lagoon along with operational improvements.*

- ▶ The City Engineer continues to work on the initial planning for a new sewer lagoon. The City is also looking into making a chemical change at the Treatment Plants. Any formal plans will have to be rolled into a bond with the improvements planned for the Water Treatment Plant. The City will have some high cost items that must be addressed per State Law and to continue providing critical services to the residents.

- ★ *Plan for construction of new pavilion and relocation of the playground.*

- ▶ Funding will delay these projects. Council will need to reassess during the upcoming Budget Season FY 2024.2025.

- ★ *Analyze new TMDL plan.*

- ▶ Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has not officially approved the City's new plan. Council approved submitting the edited report at the January 2024 Council meeting.

4. Community Development Plan.

- ★ *Refine Brownsville Municipal Code to better reflect actual practice.*

- ▶ Council passed several ordinances including parking, towing, curfew, camping, and administrative laws toward this effort. Council authorized Staff to review the nuisance abatement process for repeat offenders at the February Council meeting.

- ★ *Adopt building rules and standards to preserve and promote the historic aesthetic.*

- ★ *Continue the local & regional emergency preparedness efforts.*



- ▶ Council supported the EPC who has been sending stand alone newsletters twice a year to all residents in Brownsville, Halsey, and the corresponding fire districts. The City ordinance is centered around public education and individual preparedness efforts.

- ★ *Support youth activities with community partners.*

- ▶ Council spent over \$2M renovating the Rec Center, adopted a new agreement and helped with organizational development and custodial services. Staff continues to assist the Central Linn Recreation Association with operational issues.

5. Economic Development Plan.

- ★ *Participate in regional efforts and opportunities with partner cities.*

- ▶ Council finalized the financial agreement with Business Oregon for the partnership with REAL. Council entered into a new agreement with RAIN through the end of 2025.

- ★ *Support and implement the Rural Economic Alliance's 5-year strategic plan.*

- ▶ The group continues to prioritize items in the strategic plan. REAL is close to signing a deal with JayRay Marketing to survey regional businesses to get a better understanding of needs and priorities. This survey will be done in partnership with Business Oregon.

- ★ *Complete and implement the Land Use inventory.*

- ▶ Administrative Assistant Elizabeth Coleman, Planner Dave Kinney continue work with Linn County's GIS Department preparing for this process.

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.*

- ▶ Staff are actively working on the implementation of the items identified in the Plan.

7. Organizational Development.

- ★ *Review Council rules and policies.*

- ▶ Council passed a new officials handbook.

- ★ *Focus on Council leadership development & training.*

- ▶ Council met several times throughout 2023 to work on group dynamics and interactions. Great progress was made in the overall cooperation of the Council. Council held a Staff appreciation dinner for Staff.



- ★ *Foster positive and effective working relations between Council and Staff.*
 - ▶ Council held a Staff appreciation dinner for Staff. Staff & Council held a volunteer appreciation party in September at the pavilion in Pioneer Park. Mayor Craven and Council have increased their efforts in working with Staff and are maintaining extremely effective relationships with Staff.

- ★ *Maximizing social media efforts to promote City projects and events.*
 - ▶ Council revisited this item. The City will not publish Council meetings in a television format. Council members are doing a great job monitoring social media conversations without creating more community drama and turmoil.

- ★ *Focus on recognizing volunteers, meeting training and procedures for all official boards & committees.*
 - ▶ Council held both a volunteer appreciation cookout & a Staff dinner this past year as mentioned above. Librarian Sherri Lemhouse also does a very good job recognizing Library volunteers with appreciation events during the year.