



Council Meeting Synopsis



Council met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers on
October 28th, 2025

Everyone was present. Mayor Craven presided.

Thin Line Chaplaincy (TLC) | Nick Droback | Mr. Droback shared the mission of TLC with Council describing the services provided to individuals that includes counseling first responders with critical stress management, providing support to community members in times of loss and trauma, and handling sensitive details during times of unimaginable circumstances, to name a few. Droback also reported that he worked with the Chinese Coalition who was interested in providing an emergency preparedness disaster Conex box. The Brownsville Rural Fire District was successful in receiving a box. The box is equipped with enough supplies to support up to 200 families for two weeks. Deployment is at the sole discretion of the Fire District. The unit is climate controlled and offers water, MRE's, generators, and propane. To learn more about TLC's non-profit services, please visit <https://www.thinlinechaplain.com/>.

Linn County Sheriff's Office Report | Sergeant Frambes shared that Mr. Droback's services are greatly appreciated by law enforcement. Droback has accompanied on death notifications which is one of the hardest things an officer must do. At the scene of accidents, Droback can help the family with the emotional response to the accident while the officer is able to handle the scene of the accident. Frambes said he wished more resources could be dedicated to TLC's efforts. Frambes reported that activity in September was very calm. There was no significant incident(s) to report on. Councilor Hansen asked about the levy. Frambes asked people to review the facts of what the levy provides and decide for themselves. Frambes is not allowed to comment or forecast on the levy.

Planning Report | Administrative Assistant Elizabeth Coleman shared details about the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) revisions to the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Floodplain Management Standards. Coleman reviewed the four paths being pushed on communities for compliance. Last year the City was forced to pick from a list of options due to FEMA's Pre-Implementation Compliance Measures (PICM). Coleman has attended several webinars to learn more about the government's plans on this critical issue. Coleman shared a picture of the floodplain explaining the impact these rules will have on Brownsville. She said three floodplain functions of primary concern include flood storage, water quality, and vegetation. Coleman reported on the details of tree planting as one example of the regulations. Coleman shared what FEMA defines as activity in the floodplain and the definition is expansive. Currently, the City has decided to handle each case on a case-by-case basis, which is what a lot of communities are doing due to the heavy handed approach being implemented by the State to impose these regulations that will make development even more difficult and costly for landowners.

Library Report | Librarian Sherri Lemhouse talked about programming and service provided by the Brownsville Community Library. Lemhouse shared that the Library offers a way to safely dispose of any unused or unwanted medicine through the Med-project. Don Lyon has been sharing his travels through the World Cultures program. The upcoming event will explore the France La Provence on November 20th at 7:00 p.m. Story time happens each Thursday starting at 10:00 a.m. and includes a craft. The Page Turners Book Club meets the third Wednesday of each month. The Stitchery Group, the Thread Wizards, meets on Wednesdays from 1:00 -3:00 p.m. Everything stitchery from crochet, to quilting, to embroidery is done. Come by and say, "Hi!" There will be rock painting on Thursday, December 18th from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. The Annual Book Sale is from December 4th through the 13th during normal Library hours.

Public Works Report | Public Works Superintendent Karl Frink | Frink was excused from the meeting this month.

City Administrator Report | Administrator Scott McDowell | Administrator Scott McDowell reported on several bills that will impact the City from the latest session of the State Legislative Assembly. Governor Kotek was very successful getting her housing agenda passed along with a Statewide Shelter Funding and Homelessness Response. The State continues to ignore the ruling the United States Supreme Court made in 2024 on homelessness. The State did not fix the Recreational Immunity issue for public entities. Report continued on the next page.

City Administrator Report continued The City will closely monitor any developments as the implications are massive for all public entities including the State of Oregon. The State is now studying Measure 5 and 50 that limit government's ability to levy property taxes. The Feds have also been talking about certain property taxes being eliminated which will impact public schools, fire districts, cities and counties. McDowell gave brief updates on planned computer installations at the Library, updates on the City audit, the Rural Economic Alliance (REAL), and concerns with the vendor handling the creation of new City website. Councilor Winklepleck shared details about Council's goal to honor hometown heroes. Council worked with the American Legion to identify local veterans to begin a banner program honoring their service. The first ten banners are posthumously honoring veterans and will be hung through November. Council and the American Legion will continue the program to show the communities appreciation for those who served in our armed forces.

Resolution 2025.15: Utility Accounts Write-off | Council voted unanimously to pass this resolution making six adjustments to the general ledger.

Ordinance 809: Public Streetlight Application (First Reading) | Council completed a first reading for an ordinance that would clarify the public streetlight process.

Ordinance 810: Public Street Closure Application (First Reading) | Council completed a first reading for an ordinance that would standardize the public street closure process.

Resolution 2025.16: Recognizing Gary Compton's Community Service | Gary Compton served as the Planning Commission Chair for over twenty-five years. Council unanimously passed this resolution honoring Compton's service to the City and community.

Resolution 2025.17: Award City Hall Painting Project | Council unanimously awarded the project to Great Paint & Renovate from Sweet Home in the amount of \$30,989. The project is scheduled to begin next summer with the exact date yet to be determined.

Appointed Officials | Openings & Reappointments | Council re-appointed Dayna Hansen & Matt Shoemaker to the Budget Committee and authorized Staff to advertise for a Planning Commission opening. Councilor Hansen abstained for personal reasons on the re-appointment of Budget Committee members.

Pacific Power | McDowell shared information provided by Pacific Power's Regional Manager about power outages. Councilor Winklepleck has been concerned about outages over the last year. McDowell reported that Pacific Power has installed very sensitive monitoring equipment on their power lines stemming from lawsuits levied against them during the fires over the last few years. Pacific Power can no longer clear an alarm without sending out personnel during fire season which leads to longer outages. The sensitivity of the monitoring equipment is also leading to the short power blips that are happening more often. Salazar explained that when the power gets reset because of a tripped monitor, that it can cause a very brief power blip. McDowell also reminded everyone the Pacific Power has been warning the public on this issue for nearly two years. They have a program that assists in the purchasing of generators to lessen the impacts of future outages.

Franchise Agreements | Lumen & Sweet Home Sanitation | Council will be updating these two franchise agreements over the coming months.

Citizen Comments | Calapooia Food Alliance (CFA) President Don Lyon thanked Council for their support through the years and shared concerns that may arise due to the partnership not being renewed. Richard Fries shared concerns about the bus stop at the intersection of Depot Avenue and Linn Way. Mayor Craven explained that Linn County is responsible for determining any improvements to the intersection and the Staff will review the matter.

Council Comments | Councilor Winklepleck wished everyone a Happy Halloween. Councilor Solberg talked about the contributions Gary Compton made while on the Planning Commission. Councilor Chambers thanked Mayor Craven for his leadership.

Upcoming Events

Council | Next Meeting | November 18th, 2025 | Council Chambers at 7:00 p.m.
City Offices will be closed November 27th & 28th, 2025 in observance of Thanksgiving.



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

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Planning Commission Vacancy

MEMBER NEEDED FOR BROWNSVILLE PLANNING COMMISSION

The City is seeking a member for the Brownsville Planning Commission. The Planning Commission meets on Monday as needed and holds public hearings regarding land use issues in the City of Brownsville as well as advising the Council on land use policy. Any resident of Brownsville interested in serving on the Planning Commission should complete the Boards & Committees Application found on the City website at <https://www.ci.brownsville.or.us/bc-pc> by Monday, November 17th, 2025, by 4:00 p.m. P.S.T. If you have any questions, please contact Elizabeth Coleman at 541.466.5880. You may submit your application by email to assistant@ci.brownsville.or.us or drop it by City Hall.



The City of Brownsville website (www.ci.brownsville.or.us) is a wealth of information! You can make online utility bill payments, find agendas and meeting minutes, the Brownsville Municipal Code, Staff directory, make a building or room reservation through a reservation module, obtain permit applications, and much, much more. You can also find history pertaining to Kirk Avenue, the Calapooia riverbank erosion, etc.

There are hot links that will take you to City boards and committees, community civic organizations, and county and state organizations. We feel truly blessed to live in such a beautiful part of the world, and to be able to serve this great community!



"The time is always right to do what is right." *Martin Luther King Jr.*