



Council Meeting Synopsis

Council met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers on January 27th, 2026



- ★ All members of Council were present. Mayor Craven presided.
- ★ *State of the City | Mayor Craven* | Mayor Craven highlighted major projects the City is currently working on including a new wastewater lagoon, a new water treatment plant, and a new playground planned for 2027. Financial status of the City remains strong. He expressed continuing concerns about unfunded mandates and increasing regulatory control of the State and Federal governments that make unnecessary challenges for Oregon small towns. Mayor talked about the growing investment that continues to be made in Brownsville. He thanked Staff and Public Works for their hard work keeping the City's vital infrastructure working. He thanked all the volunteers working to enrich the lives of those who make Brownsville home and visitors alike, and the citizens for their neighborly spirit that makes Brownsville great.
- ★ *2025.2026 Goals Review* | Goals review was tabled until February.
- ★ *Public Works Report* | Frink reported four water leaks had been repaired since last month's meeting. Water Treatment Plant instrumentation has been calibrated. The City is running off the wells and with the addition of the GR12 well, things are working very well. Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) recently sampled for PFA's indicating that the results would not be available until March or April. Wastewater discharge is going smoothly. The City is discharging 2M gallons daily in accordance with the City's NPDES permit. The permit allows 3M per day. Frink has been filing annual reports for Inflow/Infiltration, Emergency Hazardous Substances surveys, and Wastewater Metrics reports that include BOD and TSS testing, among others. Frink shared the City's side of the parking lot drama that spun out recently on Facebook. It would be great if people would call the City for details before they generated unnecessary drama. Frink reported another act of vandalism in Kirk's Ferry Park.
- ★ *Linn County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) Report* | Sergeant Frambes reported on December's activity saying it was low key. He said January is another story but that is for next month's meeting. The LCSO continues investigating vandalism in Pioneer Park and Kirk's Ferry Park. There were no porch pirate thefts this Christmas, which was amazing. Frambes mentioned a homicide investigation in Harrisburg saying that the parties knew each other but couldn't relate many details due to the ongoing investigation.
- ★ *City Administrator Report* | Administrator Scott McDowell and Staff continue work on the new website launch. The Rural Economic Alliance (REAL) intern is set for the Winter term, and the group is planning on taking a tour of the LBCC facilities in February. Staff met with members of the Chamber of Commerce to discuss possibly continuing an agreement that supports Chamber events. Staff continue to work with advocacy partners through SMAC.
- ★ *Resolution 2026.01: Judges Pro-Tempore* | Council unanimously passed this resolution that appoints substitute judges for City court matters.
- ★ *Resolution 2026.02: Commitment to Safety Program (Annual)* | Council unanimously passed this resolution that commits the City to ensure a safe work environment for employees.
- ★ *Approve Annual 2025 TMDL Report* | Council unanimously approved the report as presented.
- ★ *Fireworks | 250th Celebration* | Council unanimously agreed to partner with the Brownsville Rural Fire District as they prepare for a larger fireworks display for this year's 250th celebration of America Independence from British rule.
- ★ *Approve River's Edge Homeowners Association Annual Letter* | Council unanimously passed a motion to send a letter to all residents of the subdivision to define the responsibilities of the

Homeowner's Association and the City as it pertains to operation and maintenance of certain facilities. McDowell reported that the webpage will still be available on the new website.

- ★ Park Facilities & Rules | Park Board Recommendation | Council unanimously approved this resolution standardizing deposits and rules across facilities. Applicants will need to reserve facilities via the City website. The new website will be launching soon. McDowell reported that new requirements will also be added to the application documents that include any damages incurred to facilities during a rental.
- ★ Officials Terms Review | Staff recently filed Election 2026 information with the Linn County Clerk's Office. Mayor Craven, Councilor Hansen, Councilor Solberg, and Councilor LaCoste are up for election in November.
- ★ Miscellaneous Items | Council will be receiving instructions about the possible dissolution of the Emergency Telephone Agency (911) at a future Council meeting. Staff will be meeting with the Canal Company board members in March. Staff will be making the January bond payment soon.
- ★ Citizen Comments | No one commented.
- ★ Council Comments | Councilor Chambers shared her concern with news articles included in the agenda packet. Chambers said these headlines are so outlandish, she thought it was satire. Councilor Hansen said he recently learned that if you are stopped for rolling through 3 stop signs over a three year period, your driving privileges are restricted.

All information the Mayor & Council received for the meeting can be found on-line prior to every meeting and afterwards at <https://www.ci.brownsville.or.us/meetings>. Please contact City Administrator Scott McDowell with questions at 541.466.5880 or email at admin@ci.brownsville.or.us.

For more information, please visit <https://ci.brownsville.or.us>.



Upcoming Events

Council | Next Meeting | February 24th, 2026 | Council Chambers at 7:00 p.m.



Story Time at the Library: Join the Library Staff each Friday at 11:00 a.m. for an hour of stories, songs, rhymes, and a fun craft with Ms. Thea. Free and open to the public!



Brownsville Stitchery Group: Join the Library Staff for a Stitchery Group each Wednesday from 1:00 – 3:00 each week. Come, have some fun, and get things done! Free and open to the public!

Fences and Accessory Structures

Did you know, a permit is required for new and replacement fences and accessory structures. An accessory structure can be a green house, storage shed, etc.

For more information, contact Elizabeth at City Hall, Monday – Thursday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. or email [Elizabeth at assistant@ci.brownsville.or.us](mailto:assistant@ci.brownsville.or.us).



How are you faring during the recent Winter Weather?



Drinking Water Preparations. Emergency preparedness experts recommend having at least 4 days' worth of water on hand in the event of an emergency. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends storing at least one gallon of water per person per day.

Icy Weather. Large sections of the United States are currently experiencing extreme cold, snow, ice, and high winds. These winter storms can create a higher risk of car accidents, hypothermia, frostbite, carbon monoxide poisoning, and heart attacks from overexertion.

If you are under a winter storm warning, find shelter right away. Bring your pets inside before the storm begins. If possible, stay off roads and limit your time outdoors. Reduce the risk of heart attack by taking breaks when shoveling heavy snow, pushing a vehicle, or walking in deep snow. Walk carefully on snowy, icy sidewalks. Local emergency rooms and Urgent Care centers were overrun with fall injuries during storms.



Power Outage. Carbon monoxide poisoning has unfortunately caused deaths during extended power outages. NEVER use a generator inside a home, basement, shed or garage, even if doors and windows are open. Follow a local station on a battery-powered radio for updated emergency information. Close blinds or curtains to retain as much heat as possible. Close off unused rooms to avoid wasting heat, and stuff towels or rags in cracks under doors. Layers of loose-fitting, lightweight, warm clothing will keep you warmer than a bulky sweater. Eat regularly, as food provides the body with energy for producing its own heat. Drink liquids such as warm broth or juice. Avoid caffeine or alcohol. If appropriate, check on neighbors who may need assistance – older adults, people with disabilities, and young children are more at risk in extreme cold.



Emergency Preparedness. The City of Brownsville has emergency preparedness information on the website, www.ci.brownsville.or.us. The website covers topics such as a 72-Hour Kit, the Linn County Orange Book, electrical outages, etc. You can also access the Central Linn Community Emergency Preparedness Committee page at <http://clcepc.org/>. You will find lots of great information!

Fourth of July Celebration! Did you know that July 4th, 2026 celebrates the 250th celebration of America's independence? The Brownsville Fire District is planning an extra-large fireworks display at Pioneer Park on Saturday, July 4th, 2026. In the next few months the City's synopsis will feature a QR code for contributions to help fund the event. Stay tuned!





City of Brownsville

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ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
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LOCAL PATRON

Budget Committee Member Needed



The City would like to fill one (1) opening on the Budget Committee. The Committee consists of all seven (7) Council members and seven (7) citizens. Members serve a three (3) year term. Deliberations are set to begin April 30th, 2026 to plan for the upcoming fiscal year. The Committee will meet on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. for no more than three (3) weeks. (The Committee has completed the entire process in one evening the last few years.)

Any citizen interested in serving should email Tammi Morrow at finance@ci.brownsville.or.us for an application, or stop by City Hall. Application deadline is Friday, February 20th, 2026 by 4:00 p.m. If you have any questions, contact Tammi Morrow at 541.466.5880. Please submit your application to the email address above or by dropping your application by City Hall.



Turkish Treasure - The glory that was Greece and the grandeur that was Rome is laid out, as if on a buffet table, for the inquisitive traveler. Join us as we explore both ancient Anatolia and modern Turkey. Friendly people and fascinating traditions abound. Your guide Donald Lyon is a retired photographic tour leader with a dozen trips to Turkey to draw from.

Our final program of the season is scheduled for Thursday, March 19, 2026, and will feature Florida's Wild Everglades beginning at 7 PM. All programs are free and open to the public.