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**January 30<sup>th</sup>, 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	<b>2025</b>   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	<b>2025</b>   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	<b>2025</b>   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	<b>2025</b>   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	<b>2025</b>   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	<b>2025</b>   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	<b>2025</b>   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	<b>2025</b>   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	<b>2025</b>   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 <a href="https://extension.oregonstate.edu/water/riparian-areas">https://extension.oregonstate.edu/water/riparian-areas</a> 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.	<b>2025</b>   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.	<b>2025</b>   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.	<b>2025</b>   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:  <b>Short term:</b> Provide information in City Newsletter and provide dog waste bags in City parks.  <b>Long term:</b> Ongoing education to reinforce message.	Newsletter distributed. Resident feedback.	Annual	<b>2025</b>   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.	<b>2025</b>   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.	<b>2025</b>   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:  <b>Short term:</b> Provide information in City Newsletter and provide dog waste bags in City parks.  <b>Long term:</b> Ongoing education to reinforce message.	Pet waste stations are kept stocked with bags.	Ongoing; Annual review	<b>2025</b>   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.	<b>2025</b>   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	<b>2025</b>   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)	<b>2025</b>   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	<b>2025</b>   No changes.



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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	<b>2025</b>   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	<b>2025</b>   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	<b>2025</b>   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	<b>2025</b>   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	<b>2025</b>   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	<b>2025</b>   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.





# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

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 Agency Headquarters  
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 Portland, OR 97232  
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March 3, 2021

Brownsville City Council  
 255 N Main St.  
 Brownsville, OR. 97327

RECEIVED  
 City of Brownsville  
 MAR 8 2021  
 Clerk \_\_\_\_\_

RECEIVED  
 City of Brownsville  
 MAR 9 2021  
 Clerk [Signature]

Re: EPA takes final action on *Revised Willamette Basin Mercury Total Maximum Daily Load*

Dear City Council Members:

This letter provides notification that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released the *Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for Mercury in the Willamette Basin, Oregon* on Feb. 4, 2021. EPA notified DEQ that, "EPA has established this TMDL and is hereby providing it to the State for implementation."

The EPA's TMDL says that the required reasonable assurance of implementation for the TMDL relies on DEQ's Water Quality Management Plan. The WQMP was issued on Nov. 22, 2019 as part of the DEQ *Final Revised Willamette Basin Mercury Total Maximum Daily Load*. You received this letter because DEQ listed the City of Brownsville as a Designated Management Agency in the WQMP. Therefore, the City of Brownsville is responsible for implementing strategies to reduce mercury according to requirements identified in the WQMP that are specific to the City of Brownsville.

DEQ submitted its TMDL and associated documents to EPA for review and action on Nov. 22, 2019. EPA disapproved DEQ's TMDL on Nov. 29, 2019. On Dec. 30, 2019, EPA established the Willamette Basin Mercury TMDL, which was in effect until EPA released the revised TMDL on Feb. 4, 2021. EPA's 2019 TMDL, as revised in Feb. 2021, and DEQ's 2019 TMDL WQMP are in effect and apply to the City of Brownsville. DEQ's WQMP and additional information can be accessed at: <https://www.oregon.gov/deq/wq/tmdls/Pages/willhgtmdlac2018.aspx>

As a DMA, the City of Brownsville is required under OAR 340-42-080 to prepare a TMDL implementation plan to incorporate implementation requirements in the WQMP based on several criteria. TMDL implementation plans must be submitted to DEQ for review and approval by September 3, 2022, which is 18 months from the date of this letter. Should the City of Brownsville fail to submit the plan by this date, this matter may be referred to the Department's Office of Compliance and Enforcement for formal enforcement action, including the assessment of civil penalties and/or a Department Order. Please note that civil penalties can be assessed for each day of violation.

Please contact your basin coordinator, Priscilla Woolverton, to determine what your specific requirements are and to discuss any questions you may have. Your basin coordinator will work closely with you to support your submittal of all TMDL- required documents and reports.

We appreciate the City of Brownsville involvement in TMDL implementation to reduce mercury in the Willamette Basin in order to protect people who regularly eat fish and shellfish from streams and lakes across the basin.

Sincerely,



Zach Loboy  
Water Quality Manager DEQ, Western Region  
(541) 687-7425, [Zach.LOBOY@deq.state.or.us](mailto:Zach.LOBOY@deq.state.or.us)  
165 E. 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. Ste. 100, Eugene, OR. 97401

Priscilla Woolverton  
Willamette Basin Coordinator DEQ, Western Region  
(541) 687-7347, [Woolverton.Priscilla@deq.state.or.us](mailto:Woolverton.Priscilla@deq.state.or.us)  
165 E. 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. Ste. 100, Eugene, OR. 97401

cc: Scott McDowell, City Administrator, City of Brownsville  
Karl Fink, Public Works Director, City of Brownsville



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

## Department of Environmental Quality

Western Region Eugene Office

165 East 7th Avenue, Suite 100

Eugene, OR 97401

(541) 686-7838

FAX (541) 686-7551

TTY 711

June 4, 2025

City Council Members

Brownsville City Council

PO BOX 188

Brownsville, OR. 97327

Re: Issuance of the Mainstem Amendment to the Willamette Subbasins Temperature Total Maximum Daily Load and Water Quality Management Plan

Dear City Council Members,

The Oregon Environmental Quality Commission adopted the Mainstem and Major Tributaries rule amendment to the Willamette Subbasins Temperature Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) as Oregon Administrative Rule 340-042-0090 on May 8, 2025. The TMDL can be found at OAR 340-042-0090(3)(a) and the WQMP at OAR 340-042-0090(3)(b). All documents will be made available on DEQ's webpage <https://www.oregon.gov/deq/about-us/eqc/Pages/202505.aspx>

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) submitted the amended TMDL documents to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 10 for action (approval or disapproval) on May 14, 2025. DEQ developed the TMDL documentation pursuant to §303(d) of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and, when approved, this TMDL constitutes an update to Oregon's Continuing Planning Process per §303(e) of the CWA.

### Purpose of this letter:

You are receiving this letter because City of Brownsville is identified as a Designated Management Agency in the WQMP. OAR 340-042-0030(2) defines Designated Management Agency as a federal, state, or local governmental agency that has legal authority over a sector or source contributing pollutants and is identified as such by DEQ in a TMDL.

As a DMA, City of Brownsville is required under OAR 340-42-0080 to prepare a TMDL implementation plan to incorporate strategies to reduce sector nonpoint source pollutant loadings for temperature according to requirements identified in the WQMP. TMDL implementation plans are due on **November 9, 2026**. WQMP requirements and due dates are shown in the table below. Failure to submit a timely TMDL implementation plan required by rule is a violation under OAR 340-012-0053(2).

Requirement	WQMP Section	Due Date
TMDL Implementation Plan	Sec. 5.3	Nov. 9, 2026
Shade Gap Analysis Methodology*	Sec. 5.3.4	Nov. 9, 2026

Streamside Evaluation	Sec. 5.3.2	May 9, 2028
Shade Gap Analysis* and Updated Streamside Evaluation	Sec. 5.3.4	Nov. 9, 2030
120-Foot Streamside Buffer**	Sec. 5.3.3	Nov. 9, 2030
<p><i>* A shade gap methodology and assessment are only needed if DEQ completed a shade gap assessment for your jurisdiction and the jurisdiction desires to do an independent shade gap assessment.</i></p> <p><i>** Establishing a 120-Foot streamside buffer is not required unless the DMA chooses this implementation method.</i></p>		

For NPDES permittees, TMDL point source wasteload allocations for temperature will be incorporated into permit requirements upon renewal or reissuance, where necessary.

Please contact your primary DEQ staff contact if you have any questions about TMDL implementation responsibilities. Your primary DEQ staff contact for questions about this TMDL is:

Priscilla Woolverton  
priscilla.woolverton@deq.oregon.gov  
503-688-8801

Sincerely,

*Heather Tugaw*

Heather Tugaw, Interim Western Region Watersheds and Stormwater Manager  
221 Stewart Ave, Suite 201  
Medford, OR 97501  
503-702-0811  
Heather.tugaw@deq.oregon.gov

Ec: Priscilla Woolverton, Willamette Basin Coordinator  
Scott McDowell, City Administrator, City of Brownsville



## Council Meeting Synopsis

Council met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers on  
January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025



- ★ All members of Council were present. Mayor Craven presided.
- ★ *Oregon Legislative Information System (OLIS)* | McDowell reviewed with Council how to use the system to submit testimony, know when hearings are happening and read related bills. McDowell also shared where folks can sign up for announcements and alerts from State agencies. The website, <https://www.s-mac.org>, also has direct links to the United States Congress.
- ★ *Linn County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) Report* | Sheriff Duncan reviewed the statistics for December. Duncan shared the personnel challenges the Sheriff's Office continues to face. She said that increases to the city's contract are forthcoming. LCSO is in labor negotiations. She also said the LCSO will be preparing to reintroduce the law enforcement levy this year as it is set to expire. Duncan discussed the multiple challenges the Jail is facing. The LCSO is in the process of expanding the female portion of the Jail by 22 beds. She encouraged all to look into the Citizens Academy this Fall. The Academy takes a deep dive on all things the LCSO does for Linn County from the Jail to SWAT to Search & Rescue and much, much more.
- ★ *Public Works Report* | Public Works Superintendent Karl Frink reported on challenges at the Wastewater Treatment Plants sharing a quote for replacement of the gas chlorination equipment for both plants. Frink had hoped to get by until the chemical switch but the associated costs for the new process set those plans back. Council agreed to move forward with the quote from Correct Equipment, Inc. Public Works has been making repairs at the Rec Center. Two of the three pumps failed at the north plant. All pumps have been repaired.
- ★ *City Administrator Report* | Administrator Scott McDowell reported that the two Town Hall meetings to review the Brownsville Canal Company and Mill Race were well attended and there was good participation. He will be meeting with the Canal Company officials to continue preparations for the Canal Company meeting. Reports with various State agencies have been filed. Frink and McDowell are working on filling the Park Caretakers position for this Summer. Staff is preparing for the website upgrade to the newest version of Drupal.
- ★ *Capitol Day* | Mayor Craven and several Council members attended the League of Oregon Cities Capitol Day, meeting with the City's representative Jami Cate, District 11, and Senator Cedric Hayden, District 6, to express the City's advocacy positions. Craven said the thoughts and insights shared by Representative Cate were all very useful. Councilor Winklepleck said that Governor Kotek was intent on staying the current course, which is a course that must change. Councilor Eversull commented that it was very interesting to see the innerworkings of the State government. Councilor Hansen said that it is fascinating to see the resolve of Representative Cate and how she must focus on the small victories due to the super majority of Democratic leadership. Mayor Craven ended with the thought that the City is not interested in handouts as much as major policy shifts aimed at ending unwanted regulation and costs associated with burdensome bureaucracy.
- ★ Resolution 2025.01: Judges Pro-Tempore (Annual) | Council unanimously passed this resolution that appoints substitute judges for City court matters.
- ★ Resolution 2025.02: Commitment to Safety Program (Annual) | Council unanimously passed this resolution that commits the City to ensure a safe work environment for employees. The City has received the highest safety rating for five of the last six years.
- ★ Resolution 2025.03: Authorize Check Signers | Council unanimously passed the resolution that reassigns check signs for City financial transactions.
- ★ *Elect Council President | Two Year Term* | Council appointed Councilor Chambers as Council President.



- ★ *Elect Central Linn Recreation Association Representative | Two Year Term* | Council appointed Councilor Eversull as the Central Linn Recreation Association liaison.
- ★ *Elect Linn County Sheriff's Office Representative | Two Year Term* | Council appointed Councilor Chambers as the LCSO representative with Councilor Solberg as backup.
- ★ *Authorize Legislative Advocacy & Policy Committee (LAPC) Member Advertisement* | Council unanimously authorized advertising for new a member.
- ★ *Authorize Budget Committee Members (2) Advertisement* | Council unanimously authorized advertising for two new members.
- ★ *Approve Annual TMDL Report (2024)* | Council approved the submitted report as written. *Vote:* Chambers, Solberg, Winklepleck, LaCoste, Hansen, Eversull in favor; and Craven against. Craven wanted to show that the City is not interested in these kinds of forced programming.
- ★ *Vacate Brownsville Municipal Code Appendices (B & D)* | Council directed McDowell to vacate two franchise agreements that were no longer relevant to City business and reorder the appendices as necessary. The motion unanimously passed.
- ★ *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 a webpage is also dedicated for this purpose.
- ★ *Annual Goal Setting Session* | Council set February 19<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m., for a Council Retreat & Goal Setting review session. Council hopes to finalize the goals at the February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025 meeting.
- ★ *Advocacy Positions* | Council reviewed the previously approved advocacy positions.
- ★ Staff will publish required notices for the annual Budget Hearings and notices in *The New Era* newspaper.

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](mailto:admin@ci.brownsville.or.us).

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



## Upcoming Events: Council Meeting | February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025 | Council Chambers | 7:00 p.m.



**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. Our local emergency rooms and urgent care centers can be overrun with fall injuries during winter storms.





## **Brownsville School History | Central Linn Recreation Center Project**

Brownsville is designated to have built the first school in Linn County (compiled by Workers of the Writer's Program published about 1945). The first teacher was Rev. H. H. Spaulding, and he taught in this log house on a hill above the town, now referred to as School Hill, in the summer of 1849. This was a subscription school, financed in the first few years by voluntary subscriptions by the patrons of the school.



Around 1870 there were three original villages that composed what is now the City of Brownsville. Around 1874 the villages had grown enough that the borders finally touched, and the village of Amelia was incorporated into the town of North Brownsville. Bitter rivalry existed between these adjacent villages, but finally all differences were ironed out and on April 8<sup>th</sup>, 1895, North and South Brownsville were incorporated into one town. However, this incorporation did not unite the school districts. For many years two separate schools were maintained. Research shows that the North Brownsville School was built and opened in 1910. Around 1918 there was a cooperative agreement that united the schools into the Brownsville Joint School District No. 52-74.

North Brownsville School  
with Rec Center early 1900's

In 1957 the communities of Brownsville, Halsey, and Shedd consolidated their schools into the Central Linn School District, and the community high school was established about 5 miles west of Brownsville. The last class to graduate from Brownsville High School was the class of 1958. The beautiful Brownsville High School building is long gone (rumored to have been torn down 2 weeks after the 1958 class graduation), but the Rec Center building remains to this day (you can see it in the picture to the right).



The Rec Center officially became City property in 2018 after the Central Linn School Board agreed to convey the property to City ownership at the request of City Council. The Central Linn Recreation Association has been operating youth sports programming for over fifty years for the Central Linn community. Since 1981, the City has maintained the building with the help of the Association.

The recent renovation project has been a "head-to-toe" update of the facility. Fire and Life Safety are driving many of the decisions. The gymnasium has been redone with a new scoreboard, backboards, an updated stage area, storage rooms, restrooms, upgraded kitchen, and a large meeting room. Accessibility is improved with ADA ramps and entrances for the facility. New HVAC, electrical, and plumbing are included. Other upgrades include small seismic modifications, replacement of all the windows and doors, and paint for the entire building, inside and out.



The City of Brownsville held an open house on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 at the Rec Center to celebrate the recent remodeling of the building, and invited the community in to see all the upgrades. The event was attended by over 100 people.

A few of the folks had attended school in the building, and were so excited to see the refurbishment. Mary Lou Neher told stories of attending school in the Brownsville High School building.

The renovation project has been a mix of preserving the old, and embracing new modifications and upgrades with the hope that the building will serve the community for decades to come!



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## LOCAL PATRON



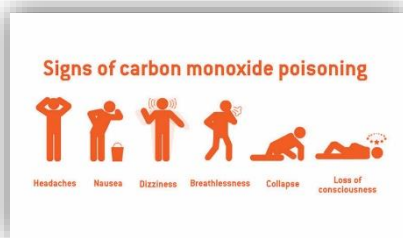
### Board Committee Openings



**Legislative Advocacy & Policy Committee (LAPC).** The City is seeking a member for LAPC. Meetings are on an as-needed basis, and advises Council on policy positions. Members may also be asked to testify at the State Legislature, provide written testimony, or other administrative functions as directed by the Administrator and Council.

**Budget Committee Member.** The City would like to fill two (2) openings 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 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025 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 complete the Boards & Committees Application found on the City website at <https://www.ci.brownsville.or.us/bc/page/boards-committee-application> by Thursday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025 by 4:00 p.m. You may also pick up an application at City Hall. If you have any questions, contact S. Scott McDowell at 541.466.5880. Please submit your application to [admin@ci.brownsville.or.us](mailto:admin@ci.brownsville.or.us), or by dropping your application by City Hall.



**Carbon Monoxide Poisoning.** 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.



## Council Meeting Synopsis

Council met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers on  
April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025



- ★ All members of Council except Councilor Chambers and Councilor LaCoste were present. Chambers and Lacoste were excused. Mayor Craven presided.
- ★ *Calapooia Food Alliance Report* | Peggy Purkerson | Mrs. Purkerson provided the annual report on behalf of the Calapooia Food Alliance highlighting the food that is donated annually to Sharing Hands, the Community Garden program, the Farmer's Market, Munch Night, and the Azure buying program. The Market will run starting May 1<sup>st</sup> from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Hours will be extended once summer rolls around. The Market runs through October and is being held at D & D Storage across from Dari Mart. Melissa Selby is the new Market Director. To learn more about the CFA visit <https://www.calapooiafoodalliance.org>.
- ★ *TMDL* | *Semi-Annual Report* | Public Works Superintendent Karl Frink and City Administrator Scott McDowell met the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) requirement to cover the State's TMDL program twice a year. The City is supposed to remind pet owners to clean up after your pets. The City has installed pet waste stations for your convenience. The City is charged with reminding everyone that all water runoff leads to the river. The State wants you to be mindful of water runoff and the impacts on fish habitat and water quality health. Please report any illegal dumping to City Hall.
- ★ *Linn County Sheriff's Office Report* | Sergeant Frambes reported on the statistics from last month. Frambes said they are continuing the investigation on the coffee shop break-ins that have been happening all over Linn County. Hansen asked about a situation that happened at the 76-gas station on Highway 228. Frambes said that it is under investigation. Hansen asked about the use of non-lethal options. Frambes outlined the training and licensing that is required for these alternate resources. Winklepleck encouraged Council to apply to ride along with a patrol. Winklepleck said you really get a totally new understanding of the challenges law enforcement continues to face.
- ★ *City Administrator Report* | Administrator Scott McDowell reported work on developing a new website has begun. McDowell will be meeting with CivicsPlus to review a new platform the company is rolling out to smaller cities like Brownsville. He shared sweeping changes to programs such as PFA's and VOC's being implemented by the State of Oregon. Staff will be working on insurance renewals. The marijuana lawsuit filed in 2018 was recently officially dismissed after one appeal. Staff have been busy reading bills and protecting City residents as best as possible from overregulation and other demands being considered by the State Legislature. The City will be a ballot drop site for Linn County Clerk's Office until Election Day which is May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025. City Hall will be open on that day from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- ★ *Resolution 2025.07: State Shared Revenues & Services Verification (Annual)* | Council unanimously passed this to be eligible to receive State Shared Revenues.
- ★ *Ordinance 807: City Administrator Nonelective Appointments (Second Reading)* | Council unanimously passed an ordinance that will modify how nonelective positions are filled by the City to match actual practice.
- ★ *Ordinance 808: Nuisance Abatement Modification* | *Brownsville Municipal Code* | *Chapter 8.30.120 (First Reading)* | Council considered an ordinance that will modify the nuisance abatement ordinance to clarify field procedures.
- ★ *Proclamation: Linn County Pioneer Association* | Mayor Craven and Council recognized the 138<sup>th</sup> Pioneer Picnic.



- ★ *Proclamation: Mental Health Month* | Councilor Winklepleck read the proclamation recognizing May as Mental Health month, reminding all to take care of yourself.
- ★ *Proclamation: Older Americans Month* | Councilor Hansen read the proclamation recognizing May as Older Americans Month to appreciate the significant contributions Seniors make in Brownsville.
- ★ *Proclamation: Military Appreciation Month* | Councilor Winklepleck read the proclamation recognizing May as Military Appreciation Month thanking those in the armed forces current and past who have sacrificed for our freedoms.
- ★ *Linn County Pioneer Association | Logistics Letter (Annual)* | Council approved a letter to be forwarded to the Association detailing responsibilities of the City and the Association so that we can do our best to ensure a great event for all.
- ★ *Authorize Canal Company Operations Agreement* | Council authorized an operations agreement for the purpose of working with the Brownsville Canal Company to supply water into the Mill Race for 2025. The City has been providing services for many years without a formalized agreement in place. This agreement is different than the one pitched at the Town Hall meetings held this past February. The Canal Company voted against moving forward with that particular agreement at the Company's meeting held April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025.
- ★ *Approve Goals Strategy & Timeline | Goal Setting 2025.2026* | Council unanimously approved the strategy as outlined by McDowell. Council will form several committees of Council to accomplish additional goals as adopted by Council.
- ★ *Elected Officials Handbook Modifications* | Council unanimously adopted modifications to the handbook concerning new citizen comment procedures and social media practices.
- ★ *Authorize Rural Economic Alliance (REAL) Agreement* | Council unanimously authorized an agreement to continue economic development efforts with REAL. REAL is comprised of nine cities in Linn & Benton counties working together on strategies to help existing businesses and to attract possible businesses to the broader area.
- ★ *Support Alyrica's Broadband Equity Proposal* | Alyrica has teamed up with Central Linn School District to provide high-speed internet to certain facilities. Alyrica requested Council support. Council was not in favor of using taxpayer dollars for these purposes.
- ★ *Citizen Comments* | Betty Doren expressed concerns about drainage along her property and made accusations against City Staff. Sharon Banks introduced the new editor of the Brownsville Times, Sravya Tadepalli. She reported that they are planning the first week of June as the official relaunch of the local newspaper. You can subscribe, volunteer and learn more by visiting <https://brownsvilletimes.org>.
- ★ *Council Comments* | Councilor Hansen discussed his opposition to HB 2548 which is a bill that brings a host of unnecessary bureaucracy to the Agriculture industry through small businesses. Hansen encouraged everyone to sign up for listserv mailers to track bills that are being considered by the State Legislature. Hansen also shared the Central Linn School District's Bond Measure flier. Councilor Winklepleck wondered where the State Lottery & Marijuana monies were for this project.

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](mailto:admin@ci.brownsville.or.us).

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



## Upcoming Events

**Council Meeting** | May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025 (*Wednesday*) | Council Chambers | 7:00 p.m.  
**Budget Hearing** | May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at Council Meeting | 7:00 p.m.



## FY 2025.2026 | Budget Committee Happenings

The Budget Committee met April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025, and completed their recommendations for the upcoming fiscal year. Below are links to the LB1 and the complete proposed budget.



### LB1 Form:

**LB 1:** <https://www.ci.brownsville.or.us/bc-budget/page/2025-lb1-fy-20252026>

### Completed Recommended Budget:

**Recommended Budget:** <https://www.ci.brownsville.or.us/bc-budget/page/2025-budget-fy-20252026-budget-committee-approved>



All City Budget Information: <https://www.ci.brownsville.or.us/bc-budget>.

## Weeds & Nuisance Season



June 1<sup>st</sup> is the official start of noxious vegetation season in Brownsville. The Brownsville Municipal Code, Chapter 8.30.060, states that weeds and obnoxious vegetation more than twelve inches (12”) high must be cut by June 1<sup>st</sup>. With typical spring weather, rain showers and then bursts of sunshine, weather has encouraged the grasses and vegetation to grow quickly. Staff will be reviewing all properties in the City soon to check for weeds & nuisance compliance.

This ordinance is designed for fire hazard mitigation. Recent local wildfires over the last few seasons have shown the importance of maintaining a defensible space around your home and property.

The Oregon State Fire Marshal proclaimed May as *Wildfire Awareness Month* and promotes a program known as *Community Wildfire Protection Program (CWPP)*. Please visit their website at <https://www.oregon.gov/osfm/pages/default.aspx> to find more information. Your local fire department is likely also promoting this effort.



## City of Brownsville



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### 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).



### Emergency Preparedness



The City of Brownsville has emergency preparedness information on the website, [www.ci.brownsville.or.us](http://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 useful information!

Emergency preparedness starts with you  
**be prepared**



make a plan



build a kit



stay informed





## Council Meeting Synopsis

Council met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers on  
June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025



- ★ All members of Council were present. Mayor Craven presided.
- ★ *Muddy Creek Solar Park | Troy Jones* | Mr. Jones provided an update outlining the progress that has been made with the citing of the Muddy Creek Solar Park. Jones shared several instances where Q Cell had not followed proper procedure or made conclusions on studies that proved inconsistent with State Law. Jones was complimentary of the State agencies working on the citing project because they were attempting to get the requirements met. Jones said that Q Cell was granted a one-time extension until May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026 to submit all the required plans. Jones explained the measures that Marion County has taken to protect EFU lands and said that the Linn County Commissioners are considering their legal options. To learn more and track progress, visit <https://www.friendsofaproad.com/>.
- ★ *Proposed Use of State Revenue Sharing (SRS) | FY 2025.2026* | Mayor Craven opened a public hearing concerning the use of the State funds and the FY 2025.2026 Budget. No members of the public spoke on the issue.
- ★ *Budget Public Hearing | FY 2025.2026* | No members of the public chose to speak about the budget.
- ★ *Linn County Sheriff's Office Report* | Sergeant Frambes reported there have been strange incidents around town including two domestic situations, one involving a firearm and the other involving a vehicle used as a weapon. Charges are pending on both cases. The Office has been busy with hiking accidents that have claimed the lives of area teenagers. Deputies are preparing for the Fourth of July celebrations throughout the County with Harrisburg and Mill City being the largest celebrations. Deputies will be in town for Brownsville's celebration.
- ★ *Public Works Superintendent Report* | Superintendent Frink reported that the team has been busy preparing for events. There was a water leak in the middle of the night on Spaulding Avenue. The Park Caretakers are doing a good job taking care of Pioneer Park.
- ★ *City Administrator Report* | Administrator Scott McDowell reported the City's S & P rating review is this week. A three-year contract has been signed with the Linn County Sheriff's Office to continue providing police services. Preparations are being made for all summer events. The City is working on building a new City website with CivicsPlus. Staff will put out a proposal for the painting of City Hall soon. Council is working on committees to complete recommendations for Council goals.
- ★ *Resolution 2025.09: Water Rates Annual Adjustments (Annual)* | Council voted unanimously to pass this resolution adjusting water rates by 3%.
- ★ *Resolution 2025.10: Sewer Rates Annual Adjustments (Annual)* | Council voted unanimously to pass this resolution adjusting sewer rates by 3%.
- ★ *Resolution 2025.11: Adopting FY 2025.2026 Annual Budget* | Council voted unanimously to pass this resolution adopting the FY 2025.2026 budget. The resolution appropriates funds, categorizes taxes and allows for delinquent assessments to be added to the tax rolls.
- ★ *Resolution 2025.12: Year End Transfers (Annual)* | Council voted unanimously to pass this resolution for accounting purposes.
- ★ *Approve Delinquent Assessments (Annual)* | Council voted unanimously to levy one delinquent assessment to the tax rolls in the amount of \$506.90.
- ★ *OLCC | Local Licenses* | McDowell shared the new process implemented by the State two years ago. Liquor licenses are now done online. Council approved all licenses for 2025.



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- ★ *Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) | TMDL | Shade Study* | The City received a certified letter from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) requiring the City to conduct a shade study on the Calapooia River. Council referred the matter to a subcommittee to develop a response.
- ★ *Council Comments* | Councilor Chambers wished everyone a happy and safe Independence Day. Mayor Craven thanked the person who returned his son's bicycle helmet.
- ★ *Citizens Comments* | Michael Humphreys expressed concern about the public comment period change recently made by Council. Humphreys thought it would be better to have the comment period after the legislative items. Craven and McDowell explained that as it stands, citizens have the opportunity to share concerns prior to any item being adopted. The process does require citizens to read through items they may be concerned about. The last comment period was rarely used. Jack Alsman expressed concern about the public restrooms on Spaulding Avenue. Staff shared the reality of having public restrooms and facilities. Unfortunately, many people do not respect public facilities, which often leads to vandalism.

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](mailto:admin@ci.brownsville.or.us).

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



### Upcoming Events

**Rally on the River** | July 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025 | Pioneer Park  
**Citywide Garage Sale** | July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
**Stand by Me Day** | July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025



### Wildfire Season



Fire authorities are busy preparing for another very busy fire season. It is imperative that folks keep weeds, tall grasses, overgrown trees and shrubs cut back to provide a wildfire defensible space to protect yourself and your property. A big thank you to everyone in town for keeping our community risk as low as possible and complying with the City's weed and nuisance ordinances. For more information on wildfire preparedness, check out the Oregon State Fire Marshal's website.



## Council Meeting Synopsis

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



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

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

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

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



## Upcoming Events

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

### Library Happenings:

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







Check out their website for more information: [www.connectlinncounty.net](http://www.connectlinncounty.net)

## Chickens at Large



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

## Appliances

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





## LOCAL PATRON

### NATIONAL DRUG TAKE BACK DAY

**Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025**



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

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

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



[www.ci.brownsville.or.us](http://www.ci.brownsville.or.us)



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

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

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





## Around Town *By Mayor Adam R. Graven*

The City recently entered into a contract to paint City Hall this upcoming summer. The Parks & Open Space Advisory Board and Staff continue to work on playground equipment selection for the new playground to be installed in Pioneer Park. The City's current playground has reached the end of its useful life and will be moving due to erosion concerns.

Cities across Oregon continue to experience challenges complying with State & Federal requirements. Many new efforts include everything from changes to FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) to Per- & Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFA's) to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirements just to name a few that have Council & Staff concerned. The City has taken a more active role in advocacy over the last two years attempting to increase relationships with our State elected officials and share the financial burdens being placed on taxpayers and rate payers alike. Small towns are not financially equipped to keep up – especially at the current pace of legislative actions and lawsuits being filed against State and Federal agencies.

Council is preparing work on advocating for City positions in Salem during the upcoming short session. Partnering with other communities and increasing our footprint with the State Legislature is the only way for our voices to be heard. The City continues efforts with the Small Municipalities Advocacy Coalition (SMAC) to align with other small cities experiencing the same challenges. The City also works as part of a nine city, two county economic development effort known as the Rural Economic Alliance (REAL). REAL has recently hired a consultant and intern to assist in the implementation of the organization's strategic & marketing plan. REAL aims to help businesses with a variety of available programs and to assist entrepreneurs who want to bring a business concept to reality. The group is focused on capturing talent from Oregon State University, Linn-Benton Community College, and the University of Oregon instead of those people leaving Oregon for other states.

It was great seeing familiar and new events in Pioneer Park this summer. The Pioneer Picnic, an amazing Fourth of July celebration, the Antique Faire, and Rally on the River are beautiful continuing traditions. Events that also generated great interest included Stand by Me Day, Hands on History, and Carriage Me Back. Connect Linn County is a new non-profit that continues finding creative ways to engage the public with exciting events. The City Council wants to thank all community volunteers for freely giving your time and talents to make these events possible. You are all appreciated!



*"Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success." Edward Everett Hale*



## Tuesday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025 is Election Day!



The City of Brownsville is designated as an official Linn County ballot drop off site. The ballot bag is located in the lobby at City Hall. Normal City Hall hours are Monday - Friday, from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**City Hall Election Day Hours: We will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.**



# Calapooia Food Alliance

## Autumn News

The Calapooia Food Alliance is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit with a mission to build community one bite at a time.

We do this in four major ways: by offering gardening plots at the Community Garden, creating the Thursday Market that offers vegetable starts, fresh produce, baked goods and crafts during the Market season from May through October. The Co-Op Buyers Club coordinates monthly deliveries from Azure Standard — all manner of organic food products and items for sustainable living. Finally, and a whole lot of fun, your CFA offers mostly monthly Munch Nights with a home cooked meal and a film or speaker on some aspect of having a richer, sustainable life and community.

CFA activities are open to all. Visit our website at [www.calapooiafoodalliance.org](http://www.calapooiafoodalliance.org) and watch for notices in *The Brownsville Times*.

## Planning & Building Corner | PERMITS REQUIRED

**A City of Brownsville permit is required for the following:**

**ACCESSORY STRUCTURES** - Example: Carports, RV Covers, Garden Sheds

**FENCES** - New & Replacement

**NEW CONSTRUCTION** - Example: Covered Porches, Decks & Patios



These permits help ensure the construction or placement is not on your neighbors property or the City ROW (Right-of-Way), & meets height & setback requirements for your zone. Contact Elizabeth Coleman, Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. or email [assitant@ci.brownsville.or.us](mailto:assitant@ci.brownsville.or.us) to obtain applications or additional information.

## OLD TOWN COMMERCIAL (OTC) BUILDINGS

**A FRIENDLY REMINDER TO OWNERS & RENTERS OF COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS IN THE OTC ZONE**

- 1)** Chapter 15.80.080 of the Brownsville Municipal Code determines the permitted uses & administrative review procedures for the Old Town Commercial zone (i.e., new construction or exterior alterations).
- 2)** A City of Brownsville Business Registration is required (\$15).
- 3)** A OTC Change of Use Permit is required for new businesses.
- 4)** Signage requires a Sign Permit. Please contact Elizabeth Coleman if you have questions or would like additional information regarding your property that the City can provide.



**DID YOU KNOW?** Finding property pins can be tricky. If a survey was done for your property, a map with property dimensions & access to a **metal detector** can be great tools for this undertaking. You can call the Linn County Surveyor's office (541.967.3857) to see if there is a recorded survey of your property. If so, it can be emailed, or you can pick up a hard copy (for a fee, depending on the size) in Albany.





## Library News & Upcoming Events

*By Librarian Sherri Lemhouse*

### World Cultures & Travel Program

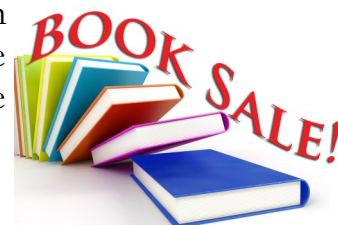
**France Provence** - Since Roman days, Provence in the South of France has been the favored land and it still is today. Join travel photographer Donald Lyon and sink into the land savoring the aroma of lavender fields, aromatic cheeses and village markets. Roman aqueducts and medieval hill towns invite you to explore. Ride the white horses and run with the bulls -- it's all here in La Belle Provence, Thursday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025 beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Kirk Room at your local Library.

### Free Programs

- **Story Time with Craft** Join us every Friday from 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. All ages.
- **Stitchery Group** meets every Wednesday from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- **Book Club** meets every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month.
- **Kindness Rocks Painting** on December 18<sup>th</sup> beginning at 5:00 p.m. This class is for adults and young adults aged 13 and above.
- **Feed the Birds Activity** - Help Teacher Caroline make decorations for the Library Children's Festival of Trees Tree. Ornaments will be pinecones with peanut butter and bird seed. Come join in the fun! November 21<sup>st</sup> from 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

### Book Sale - December 4<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup>

Each year we have an annual book sale that fills our Kirk Room! There are books from all walks of life. Books are available for adults, juniors and children; non-fiction (true) and fiction (made up). Many of these books are donated by our community. A few are books that have had to be pulled from the Library collection. Paperbacks are \$0.50, everything else is \$1.



### Prescription Mail Back Envelopes

If not disposed properly, unused medicines can lead to accidental poisonings, addiction or abuse. Medicines can also have health and environmental impacts when they end up in a landfill or are flushed down the toilet or drain. Chemical compounds from these medicines can pass through treatment plants or septic systems to our rivers or groundwater. Free prescription mail-back envelopes are available for folks at the library.



#### **LIBRARY HOLIDAY CLOSURES**

November 11 – Veteran's Day  
November 27 – 29 Thanksgiving  
December 24 – 25 Christmas  
December 31 – New Year's Eve  
January 1 – New Year's Day

#### **NORMAL LIBRARY HOURS**

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 10 – 5  
Thursday: 1 – 7  
Saturday: 10 – 2  
Sunday, Monday: Closed







## Brownsville Women's Study Club

invites you to the **2025 Festival of Trees!**

**December 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

- 25 Beautifully Decorated Nordmann Fir Trees
- 17 Locations in Historic Downtown Brownsville
- December 5<sup>th</sup> | Bidding begins at 10 a.m.
- December 6<sup>th</sup> | Bidding ends at 4 p.m.
- Tree pick-up/payment at 4 p.m. @ the Library
- Payment: Cash or Check
- Last year proceeds were used to support Brownsville Community Library and Sharing Hands.

## Utility News

- ⇒ If you use online bill pay through your bank, please make sure your account number is included on the check. It is important that your account number is correct to properly post your payment.
- ⇒ If you have a name change, please let us know. Make sure the name on the check and the bill match.
- ⇒ Make sure your contact information is current and correct, especially contact phone numbers. If there is a broken water pipe or leak near your residence, it is imperative that we can reach you immediately. Please write the corrected information on the bill you return with your payment, or give us a call at City Hall and we can update your account accordingly.
- ⇒ Want to make your payment by debit or credit card? Go to [www.ci.brownsville.or.us](http://www.ci.brownsville.or.us) and click on the Online Payments tab near the bottom of the home page. This link will take you directly to PayGov.us. If you would rather download the app, the location code for the City of Brownsville is 37033. Be advised there is a 3% convenience fee associated with this form of payment.



If you have any questions, please contact Jannea Deaver, Utility Clerk, at 541.466.5880.

## Blue or Black Ink Only

Please only use **BLUE** OR **BLACK** ink on your check. **Red**, **pink**, **purple**, **turquoise**, or **green** ink, while all fun colors, do not process through the bank's check reader machines, resulting in returned checks. Thank you!

**WHAT INK COLORS  
CAN YOU USE?**



## Linn County Historical Museum Updates

For Fall season, the Linn County Historical Museum, 101 Park Ave, Brownsville, has new open hours: Wednesday-Saturday 11:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Admission is still free.

All are invited to wander through the exhibits, discovering stories about the Kalapuyan People who have lived in the Willamette Valley for at least 13,000 years or the thousands of settlers who migrated west starting in the 1840's. Guided Moyer House tours are Saturdays on the hour, noon to 3:00; buy your tickets at the Museum, adults \$5.

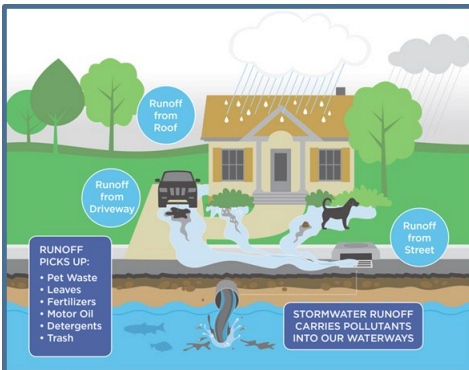
The old 1938 caboose is also open for exploring; it's a bit rusty and dusty, but fun to imagine the conductor, engineers, and workmen cozy in the train car with its little wood stove and bunk beds as it rattles along the tracks.

For more information on the Museum or Moyer House please go to [www.linnmuseum.com](http://www.linnmuseum.com). For group tours call 541.466.3390.



## Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)

The Clean Water Act (CWA) requires the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to carry out an extensive storm water management plan for the United States. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is the State of Oregon's department charged with enforcement of these storm water techniques. The graphic to the left shows some of the basic principles of the storm water management planning that is required. Many cities have already started charging residents for storm water services to cover the cost of installing and maintaining storm water systems. The City is required to report annually on five TMDL components which include temperature, bacteria, mercury, illicit discharge detection and elimination (IDDE) and all pollutants. The City is required to educate the general public by making everyone aware of the program and its components. The City does many things that help meet the requirements including street sweeping the city streets that have curb and gutter, which aren't many, setting up animal waste stations, collecting leaves in Pioneer Park, monitoring property development, among other details.



Storm water drains end up in the Calapooia River, including ditches that may be in front of your home or storm drains that have catch basins in the street or curbing that you see in various places around Brownsville. The City has also installed pet waste stations in Pioneer Park and downtown by the Spaulding Avenue public restrooms. The general public is encouraged to cleanup after your pet, so the waste does not end up in the river.

To report illegal dumping, please contact City Hall at 541.466.5880.

**To learn more please visit:**

<https://www.ci.brownsville.or.us/publicworks/page/total-maximum-daily-load-tmdl>

### ***Your Neighbor Says...***

*Thanks for cleaning up after your dog and keeping them on their leash!*

*Thanks for keeping your speed down in town!*

*And thanks for the cup of sugar!*





# Council Meeting Synopsis



Council met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers on  
October 28<sup>th</sup>, 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. The Annual Book Sale is from December 4<sup>th</sup> through the 13<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025 | Council Chambers at 7:00 p.m.  
City Offices will be closed November 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025 in observance of Thanksgiving.



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

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LOCAL POSTAL PATRON  
Attn: City of Brownsville Residents

## 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 17<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:assistant@ci.brownsville.or.us) or drop it by City Hall.



The City of Brownsville website ([www.ci.brownsville.or.us](http://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.*



## Council Meeting Synopsis

Council met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers on  
December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025



- ★ Council members Hansen, Eversull and LaCoste were excused. Councilors Chambers, Solberg and Winklepleck were present. Mayor Craven presided.
- ★ *Central Linn Community Foundation | 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. Council voted unanimously to continue the partnership with the Foundation and to increase the City's effort.
- ★ *Brownsville Art Association | 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.
- ★ *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.
- ★ *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.
- ★ *Linn County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) Report* | 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.
- ★ *Public Works Report* | 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 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.
- ★ *City Administrator Report* | 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. Staff installed security cameras at the Rec Center and the Library along with new computers at the Library.
- ★ *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. 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.

- ★ Resolution 2025.19: Acknowledging Oregon State Treasury Fund Transfers | Council unanimously approved the transfers as presented.
- ★ Resolution 2025.20: Audit's Division FY 2024.2025 | Council unanimously passed this resolution to address historical data shown on the LB1 form.
- ★ Resolution 2025.21: Authorize Geider Building Permit & SDC Refund | Council unanimously approved the refund as presented.
- ★ Canal Company Agreement | Authorize Letter | Council unanimously authorized 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.
- ★ Schedule Annual Goals Review | 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 goals and priorities through 2026.
- ★ Authorize Funding Sponsorship | Central Linn School District | Council unanimously approved this resolution that allows the City to serve as a pass-through for any available public funding for the CTE (Career & Technology Education) building at the Central Linn High School campus.
- ★ Fourth of July | Fireworks Display Assist | Staff will work with the Brownsville Rural Fire District to place a QR code for the upcoming 250<sup>th</sup> birthday of America in the synopsis asking for donations. It is going to be a big and impressive display for the 250<sup>th</sup>!
- ★ Citizen Comments | No one commented.
- ★ 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.

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](mailto:admin@ci.brownsville.or.us).

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



## Upcoming Events



**Council Meeting** | January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026 | Council Chambers at 7:00 p.m.  
City Offices will be closed December 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> in observance of Christmas.  
City Offices will be closed December 31<sup>st</sup> & January 1<sup>st</sup> in observance of the New Year.







Pacific Power reports that with wildfire risk decreasing, they will be transitioning out of enhanced safety settings for most customers in our area. Pacific Power continues to work to improve coordination with public safety partners and communication with customers.

Pacific Power encourages you to prepare for winter weather and possible outages. Don't forget to update your contact information with them for alerts, and prepare or refresh your **outage preparedness kits** with winter essentials. It is also important to use generators and heating devices safely. Check out their website for more information.



Floods are the most common disaster in the United States. Failing to evacuate flooded areas or entering flood waters can lead to injury or death.

#### **Ways to Stay Safe During a Flood**

- Evacuate immediately, if told to do so. Never drive around barricades. Local responders use them to safely direct traffic out of flooded areas.
- Contact your healthcare provider if you are sick and need medical attention. Wait for further care instructions and shelter in place, if possible. If you are experiencing a medical emergency, call 9-1-1.
- Listen to EAS, NOAA Weather Radio or local alerting systems for current emergency information and instructions regarding flooding.
- Do not walk, swim, or drive through flood waters. **Turn Around. Don't Drown.**
- Stay off bridges over fast-moving water. Fast-moving water can wash bridges away without warning.
- Stay inside your car if it is trapped in rapidly moving water. Get on the roof if water is rising inside the car.
- Get to the highest level if trapped in a building. Only get on the roof if necessary and once there, signal for help. Do not climb into a closed attic to avoid getting trapped by rising floodwater.



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## LOCAL PATRON

# FIRST ANNUAL BROWNSVILLE CHRISTMAS PARADE



The first annual Brownsville Christmas Parade was held on Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. hosted by Connect Linn County. The event was a fabulous success! There were over 57 entrants and well over 1,100 folks in attendance. Festivities that evening also included a Welcome speech from Mayor Adam Craven, a seasonal word from Councilor Michael Winklepleck, and the tree lighting in front of City Hall. The tree in front of City Hall was hosted entirely by your City Councilors. Council and Staff wish you the very best Christmas Season and New Year.



**Connect Linn County Parade Committee**  
Tika Harrison, Karmel Curtis,  
Melissa Dalevout, and Leise Rolfe



Mayor Craven and Councilor  
Solberg decorating the tree

