

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday July 28th, 2026, 5:30 P.M.
City Hall Council Chambers
115 N 3rd Street

The Council of the City of Oregon met Tuesday July 28th, 2026, at 5:30 P.M.

The meeting was held at City Hall in the Council Chambers and on Zoom.

Present: Mayor Ken Williams
Council Member Melanie Cozzi
Council Member Josiah Flanagan
Council Member Tim Krug
Council Member Terry Schuster
City Manager Darin DeHaan
Lieutenant Tim Brechon
City Clerk Cheryl Hilton

Present via Zoom: Attorney Katy Nagy.

Also Present: Destini & Jeremy Benesh, Public Works Director Bill Covell, Earleen Hinton, Tom Pacey, and Josh Pickering.

Mayor Ken Williams called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

Council Members Cozzi, Flanagan, Krug, Schuster, and Mayor Williams answered roll call. A quorum was present.

City Clerk Cheryl Hilton started the pledge of allegiance.

Proclamations, Commendations, Swear In, Etc.

The City Council welcomed Destini Benesh as the new Main Street Director for the City of Oregon. She has experience with small local businesses and is the president for the Autumn on Parade committee.

Presentations

Dr. Lori Cortez is unable to attend the meeting tonight. She has rescheduled for the next City Council meeting.

Public Comment

None.

Approval of Minutes

Council Member Josiah Flanagan moved to approve July 14th, 2026, minutes, Seconded by Council Member Terry Schuster.

Roll Call: Cozzi, Flanagan, Krug, Schuster, Williams. No Nays.

Approval of Warrants & Payroll

Council Member Terry Schuster moved to approve payroll in the amount of \$69,109.71 and the current warrants as listed:

a5 Group Inc.	\$18,506.25
Ace Hardware & Outdoor Center	\$99.80
Amazon Capital Services, Inc	\$90.16

Autumn On Parade	\$2,000.00
Axon Enterprise Inc	\$11,230.52
Axon Enterprise Inc	\$18,750.00
Bonnell Industries Inc.	\$144,595.00
Box Materials LLC	\$1,052.03
Butitta Bros. Automotive - Oregon	\$61.21
Caspers Home Inspection LLC	\$1,550.00
CDW Government	\$1,013.75
Cintas	\$150.85
City Of Oregon	\$5,500.00
City Of Rockford	\$132.00
Comcast	\$1,033.15
Comcast	\$850.67
ComEd	\$17,205.32
Couple of Patels LLC	\$150.00
Dekalb Implement Company Inc.	\$2.06
Ecolab	\$150.00
Ehmen	\$1,060.00
EM Benefits	\$2,092.51
Fehr Graham & Associates, LLC	\$1,647.50
Fischer's	\$300.79
Frontier	\$134.49
Hach Company	\$67.39
Harvard State Bank	\$48,187.42
Hawkins, Inc	\$1,322.53
High Star Traffic	\$651.90
ILEAS	\$60.00
Illinois EPA	\$10.00
Illinois EPA	\$72,768.30
Illinois EPA	\$11,677.38
Ken Williams	\$25.00
Martin And Company Excavating	\$4,640.00
Melanie Cozzi	\$25.00
Melecio Attachments, Inc.	\$6,500.00
Menards	\$555.79
NICOR	\$201.13
Ogle County Fair Association	\$2,395.00
Polo Cooperative Association	\$5,404.99
Postmaster	\$874.25
SealMaster Chicago	\$3,870.00
Taryn Bradley	\$293.00
Terry Lester	\$52.39
The Lamar Companies	\$700.00
Townsquare Media LLC	\$3,000.00
Verizon	\$1,125.05
Visa	\$296.80
Visa	\$693.41
Visa	\$2,116.61
Wipfli	\$28,861.00
Zoro Tools, Inc	\$76.19
	\$425,808.59

Seconded by Council Member Josiah Flanagan.

Roll Call: Cozzi, Flanagan, Krug, Schuster, Williams. No Nays.

Ordinances

Council Member Terry Schuster moved to approve Ordinance 2026-010 an Ordinance amending Oregon City Code Article 24 – Parking Division 16 Parking Generally Section L. Restricted Parking, Seconded by Council Member Melanie Cozzi.

Discussion: City Manager Darin DeHaan said employees of Oregon Living and Rehab are parking in an emergency egress area and it is impacting the residential neighborhood. He said Oregon Living and Rehab has spoken to the staff, but they continue to park in that area. The city added parking along 10th street for staff parking. The amendment to the ordinance would allow the city to designate parking on both sides of Gale Street between S. 8th and 10th Street as resident only parking zones.

Roll Call: Cozzi, Flanagan, Krug, Schuster, Williams. No Nays.

Resolutions

None.

Motions

Council Member Melanie Cozzi moved to approve the City of Oregon Zoning Map, Seconded by Council Member Tim Krug.

Discussion: The only changes to the zoning map were three parcels changed from Industrial to Residential. The Planning Commission and the City Council have already approved the changes. The motion to approve is officially adopting the zoning map.

Roll Call: Cozzi, Flanagan, Krug, Schuster, Williams. No Nays.

Discussion Items

Oregon Public Library Façade Grant Request: Mayor Ken Williams said this is another taxing body asking for TIF funds. City Manager Darin DeHaan said the city needs to finalize the criteria for the use of TIF funds. He said the city has a narrow window to collect TIF funds and do things for the community. If the city provides TIF funds to the library, requests will come from other taxing bodies. Council Member Terry Schuster said the library is a taxing body; it is unfortunate because replacement of the doors is needed. City Manager Darin DeHaan said the city did give ARPA funds to the library district and the fire protection district. He also stated there are grants available for historic preservation the library could apply for.

Lorado Taft Campus: Mayor Ken Williams stated governmental entities received a letter from NIU. IDNR requested to take the three parcels, however the governor turned it down stating the department did not have the budget to maintain the property. The offer from NIU was to gift the parcels to a governmental entity. The city hosted a meeting today with many of the entities that were offered the property. They held a roundtable discussion, and many ideas were presented however it comes down to sustainable funding. Every entity sees value in public space.

Board & Commission Reports

Planning: Capital Improvement projects.

Economic & Community Development: City Manager Darin DeHaan said the corporation is working with businesses and looking at open spaces for new businesses.

Tree Board: Josh Pickering presented two trees as options to become the city tree. City Manager Darin DeHaan said the city tree could be a symbol and recognition of the Tree Board. He thanked Josh for his work on the project.

Department & Officer Reports

Public Works Director Bill Covell: Congratulated Cody Ahrens on his family's new baby. Council Member Terry Schuster asked when the sidewalk project on the East side was going to begin. Bill stated the contractor had not yet been on site. He will notify the businesses before the project begins. Mayor Ken Williams said the city will be installing the blinking lights at the public crossing by McDonalds. City Manager Darin DeHaan said IDOT had stated they would finish the project. He said he is thankful they did a portion of the work for the city, but they did not finish the project. The city will take over the project and complete the lighting. A second crosswalk is planned on 1st Street to cross over by the fire department.

City Manager Darin DeHaan: Thanked City Clerk Cheryl Hilton for the amount of work done behind the scenes on complex FOIA requests and grant reporting.

Council Reports

Council Member Terry Schuster: The city will have a table set up at the Ogle County Fair. Mayor Ken Williams encouraged attendance.

Council Member Melanie Cozzi: The Farmer's Market has been in operation now for two months. Everything is going well; they have added another vendor and produce season is beginning.

Mayor Ken Williams: Thanked the city council.

Council Member Tim Krug moved to go into Executive Session at 6:20pm. to discuss court action, Seconded by Council Member Melanie Cozzi.

Roll Call: Cozzi, Flanagan, Krug, Schuster, Williams. No Nays.

Council Member Terry Schuster moved to adjourn the meeting, Seconded by Council Member Melanie Cozzi.

Roll Call: Cozzi, Flanagan, Krug, Schuster, Williams. No Nays.

Adjourn: 6:35 P.M.

Ken Williams, Mayor

Attest: _____
Cheryl Hilton, City Clerk