



Our Mission: To foster an environment of economic growth and opportunity through effective partnerships with our citizens, businesses, and visitors while maintaining a high standard for quality of life in a progressive community which embraces its heritage.

CITY OF OREGON

115 N. 3rd Street, Oregon, IL 61061

Phn: 815-732-6321/ website: cityoforegon.org

To: Mayor Ken Williams & Oregon City Council

From: Darin J. DeHaan, City Manager & Staff

DATE: Aug 25, 2026

I am pleased to provide Mayor Williams and the Oregon City Council with the following synopsis of City Business for – Aug 8, 2026 – Aug 21, 2026

[Submitted by Darin DeHaan, City Manager](#)

A Friday Afternoon in Downtown Oregon

I wanted to take just a moment to reflect on Friday afternoon in downtown Oregon.

As I drove and walked through downtown, I was excited to see so many new faces enjoying our beautiful community. Families walking together, couples moving from one location to another, people pointing out a mural, and others stopping to admire our beautiful flowers.

That is absolutely what we strive for in Oregon.

We want to create a place that those of us who call Oregon home are proud of, but also a place we can share with our visitors—a place where they can experience what makes Oregon special and take a little piece of it home with them through great memories.

Seeing our downtown full of people, activity and energy is incredibly rewarding. There is still a lot of work ahead, but moments like Friday remind us why that work matters.

This is the Oregon we are working to build.

- Reviewed current bank statements as well as the draft audit. Reviewed each department's current budget status for this quarter. Reviewed and approved warrants.
- Completed several IT-related projects and tasks.
- Continued working on transitioning our email addresses to .gov. This has been quite a process. Not quite there yet.
- Worked with Cheryl on a new ordinance for council consideration for spending limits and credit policies for the city.
- Updated the City policy manual with some minor language changes.
- Working on updating our emergency response plan.

- It is important for local leaders to have a direct line of communication with our state representatives and to make sure they understand how state policies and laws impact our community. Mayor Williams, Council Member Cozzi, and I recently met with Senator Andrew Chesney to discuss current City projects, share our priorities, and relay some of the frustrations we are experiencing with state laws and how they affect us at the local level. These conversations give us an opportunity to put a local perspective behind the issues and work toward solutions that better serve our community.



- Working on a few potential TIF projects.
- Continue to help coordinate discussion surrounding Taft Campus.
- Continued working with Bill on ongoing construction projects.
- Working on review of the HVAC system at the coliseum, sidewalks and the equipment ramp as possible capital projects.
- Held a Leadership team meeting where we discussed training initiatives and a few other topics.
- Worked through a few citizen complaints.
- Working with Destini on a city newsletter.
- Continue to work with the OCEDC Housing Committee on the housing crisis.
- Coordinated the City's response based on some requests that came in.
- Continue to work on the new City welcome signs.
- I attended the Ogle Co Soil and Water Conservation District board meeting. I continue to coordinate our potential 2nd street prairie project with our sustainability committee.
- I attended the Northern Council of Governments board meeting.
- Continue to coordinate our All Trails Campaign with a5. Few minor follow ups to close out our Ogle County Fair marketing campaign. Currently working on marketing for our upcoming festivals AOP and Candlelight Walk.

City Hall - Cheryl Hilton, City Clerk

- Congratulations to City of Oregon employees celebrating an anniversary this month:
 - Andrew Bonilla - Public Works - 1 year
 - Officer Taylor Buckwalter - 2 years
 - Mary Elliott - Police Department - 29 years
- The next brush pickup is scheduled for Monday August 31st.
- 8 building permits were issued in July

MEETING INFORMATION

City Council Meeting:

Next meeting Tuesday Sep 8, 2026 5:30 PM Oregon City Hall Council Chambers.

Sustainability Committee:

Next meeting Monday Sep 14, 2026 9:00 AM Oregon City Hall Conference Room.

Planning & Zoning:

Next meeting Tuesday Sep 15, 2026 5:30 PM Oregon City Hall Council Chambers.

Tree Board:

Next meeting Wednesday Sep 16, 2026 4:00 PM Oregon City Hall Council Chambers.

Public Art Commission:

Next meeting TBD at Oregon City Hall Council Chambers.

Main Street Submitted by Destini Benesh

- Continued building my familiarity with the Main Street platform and completed some self-guided courses offered on their website.
- Further developing and organizing the Quarterly Preview, with a goal to launch and distribute it by the end of September.
- Met with several local business owners to introduce myself, understand their needs, and discuss how Main Street can support them.
- Joined the Candlelight Walk Committee, assisting with securing sponsorships and coordinating the distribution of promotional materials.
- Submitted an application for the “Powering the Holidays Grant Program” to obtain additional funding for this year’s Candlelight Walk.
- Collaborating with a5 to develop and refine Main Street’s marketing strategies and upcoming event initiatives.

Director of Public Works Submitted by Bill Covell

A. Daily Tasks

- Help Schedule
- Approve Bills
- Purchased supplies
- Monthly Fuel Reports
- Safety Training

B. Projects

- Headworks
 - Nothing new
- Lead Service Inventory
 - Review service list
- 2026 Local Road Projects
 - Help verify quantities
 - Help decide on how to mill and pave road
 - Review plans for errors
 - Notify public of project
- 2026 MFT Project
 - Work on limits of project
 - Work with business owners, city hall and police for parking and garbage location while slurry seal cures
 - Provide estimate for Village of Progress
 - Check on crew installing slurry seal
 - Notify public of project
- 2025 East Side Sidewalk
 - Review plan and help design in the field
 - Review drainage issues
 - Notify business owners
- Pedestrian Crossing
 - Requested prices on RRFB's
- Emailed IDOT for approval
- Help with new hire paperwork and administration duties
- Compared city code to other municipalities

C. Meetings

- Department Head
- Safety Meeting
- Bid Openings

D. Miscellaneous

- Worked on Fulcrum report



Street Department Submitted by Jordan Plock

A. Daily Tasks

- Trash pickup of city trash cans
- Crew has started the yearly mowing projects.

B. Projects

- Crew prepared multiple areas to be patched in the city streets
- Crew repaired 3 storm inlets that had failed and created sink holes.
- Crew completed the monthly city wide brush pickup.
- Crew helped with some saw cutting on the East side sidewalk project.
- Crew ran new safety LED lights on multiple vehicles.

C. Training

- Had weekly safety training on jobsite awareness.
- Worked on weekly safety training
- Foreman worked on continuing education classes
- Worked on updating our list of required OSHA training for the year.

D. General

- Street Foreman worked with Public Works Director and Fehr Graham on different aspects of the East Side sidewalk project as well as the Century Hills mill and overlay project.
- Crew put out notices to residents that are impacted by the various projects.



Sewer Department Submitted by Scott Wallace

A. Daily tasks

- Daily chores
- Testing full set (process control/EPA Required Monitoring)
- Half testing (process control)
- Pumped Sludge
- Cleaned bar screens, netting of tanks, multiple times daily due to rags, debris
- Daily reporting of National Weather Service recordings
- Lift Station usage recording
- Assisted the Water Department
- Monthly reports to the EPA
- Generator/ Well checks
- Worked with various customers on water and sewer issues (leaks, sewer backups)

B. Head Works

- Nothing new at this time

C. Scada Upgrade

- Metro Cloud, Nothing new at this time

D. Training

- Safety Training, Lifting
- Miss-Rock Joint training

E. General

- Fire hosed Both Clarifiers
- Worked with contractors on N. 7th St. Watermain Project
- Boil orders as a part of 7th st project, all samples came back good and all boil orders have been lifted.
- Chemical delivery, Full Delivery
- Submitted monthly reports to IEPA
- New Pressure pump at well #5
- Swapped out RAS pump with back up pump
- Took in RAS pump for repairs
- Clogged hopper on North Clarifier due to rags and debris (this has been fixed)

Water Department Submitted by Aidan Ellsworth

A. Daily Tasks

- Chores
- Daily Testing
- Julie Locates
- Final reads
- Water turn-ons
- Water shut-offs
- Generator checks

B. Wells

- Repaired Chemical feed pump parts as needed
- Received Chemical delivery from Hawkins for process control
- Ordered replacement parts for Chemical feed pumps
- Adjust chemical feed pump to account for temperature change

C. Meter Replacement Program

- Got 6 meters replaced this week with quite a few appointments scheduled for next week .

D. EPA compliance

- Completed Monthly Bac-t/ Fluoride sampling for Epa compliance
- Completed Monthly Operating Reports for July 2026 Epa compliance..
- Sampled for PFAS all were satisfactory.
- Continued with Lead sampling more than 65% complete still waiting on some samples to be returned to us.

E. Training

- Worked with Cody on meters.
- Training AI and risks of new technologies
- Safety Training, Lifting

F. General

- Assisted the Sewer department when needed
- Worked with customers and plumbers on water leaks.
- Worked with customers on meter repairs, and replacement of meters.
- Fielded phone calls related to 7th st.
- Locates and Tracing for 7th st water main project

Police Department Submitted by Chief Matthew Kalnins
