

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday September 8th, 2026, 5:30 P.M.
City Hall Council Chambers
115 N 3rd Street

The Council of the City of Oregon met Tuesday September 8th, 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 Terry Schuster
Council Member Melanie Cozzi
Council Member Josiah Flanagan
Council Member Tim Krug
City Manager Darin DeHaan
Sergeant Eric Higby
City Attorney Paul Chadwick
City Clerk Cheryl Hilton

Also Present: Bill Covell, John Dickson, Liz Hiemstra, Caleb Jenks, Jennifer Kuroda, Tom Pacey, Josh Pickering, and Brent Suter.

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.

Mayor Ken Williams asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of 9/11. Council Member Melanie Cozzi started the pledge of allegiance.

Proclamations, Commendations, Swear In, Etc.

None.

Presentations

Jennifer Kuroda, Board President of the Sinnissippi Audubon Society, presented the City Council with the official Bird City Certificate and designation. Oregon is the seventeenth city in Illinois with the designation. Council Member Terry Schuster said it was a collaborative project. Tom Pacey, City of Oregon Sustainability member, thanked the multiple people and organizations involved with the designation. Mayor Ken Williams said the community is very active and really comes together.

Public Comment

None.

Approval of Minutes

Council Member Tim Krug moved to approve August 25th, 2026, minutes, Seconded by Council Member Terry Schuster.

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

Approval of Warrants & Payroll

Council Member Terry Schuster moved to approve payroll in the amount of \$73,841.27 and the current warrants as listed:

Black Diamond Plumbing and Mechanical Inc	\$1,976.00
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Box Materials LLC	\$1,475.00
Comcast	\$285.47
ComEd	\$3,757.33
Ecolab	\$150.00
Envision Healthcare	\$235.00
Fehr Graham	\$1,200.00
Ferguson Enterprises LLC dba Pollardwater	\$644.84
Fidelity Security Life Insurance	\$175.40
Frontier	\$375.48
Frontier	\$477.34
Getz Fire Equipment	\$433.75
Hawkins, Inc	\$726.84
High Star Traffic	\$5,164.10
Kaleel's Clothing	\$519.00
Ken Williams	\$33.07
Martin & Company Excavating	\$1,500.00
MCS	\$145.00
Menards	\$148.99
Merlin's Greenhouse and Flowers	\$8,700.00
Mobile Electronics Inc	\$599.50
Northern Illinois Disposal Services	\$25,667.28
Old National Bank	\$2,030.14
Oregon Candlelight Walk	\$300.00
Oregon SuperValu	\$18.32
Pace Analytical Services	\$1,765.00
Rockford Tech-Systems, Inc	\$715.50
Shawn Melville	\$250.00
Stillman BancCorp	\$4,028.74
Stratus Networks, Inc	\$66.18
Sun Life Financial	\$452.51
SundogIT, LLC	\$2,641.22
Taft's Tavern LLC	\$50,000.00
Townsquare Media LLC	\$854.00
Trails of Two LLC	\$750.00
Uniform Den East, Inc	\$240.60
Village of Progress	\$1,280.00
Visa	\$1,244.19
Visa	\$2,030.35
Water Solutions Unlimited Inc	\$2,765.00
Welch Bros Inc	\$1,056.00
	\$126,877.14

Seconded by Council Member Tim Krug.

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

Ordinances

Council Member Tim Krug moved to approve Ordinance 2026-012 an Ordinance adding Koontz Subdivison as an Exception to the Mass Gathering Ordinance, Seconded by Council Member Melanie Cozzi.

Discussion: City Manager Darin DeHaan said the subdivision has really come together to create an annual event for Halloween. Over the last couple of years, the city has worked with members of the

subdivision, the Oregon Park District, and the Oregon School District to create a safer environment for the large number of people who attend trick or treating there. The ordinance would exempt the subdivision from the mass gathering requirements. Other events exempt from the mass gathering requirements are Autumn on Parade and Candlelight Walk. The city would continue to provide barricades and street closures for the event.

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

Resolutions

None.

Motions

Council Member Josiah Flanagan moved to approve Engineers Pay Estimate #1 to Martin & Company Excavating in the amount of \$235,934.17 for the Streets General Maintenance Project, Seconded by Council Member Tim Krug.

Discussion: Public Works Director Bill Covell said five percent was withheld until the final manhole is complete, everything else is completed.

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

Council Member Tim Krug moved to approve Change Order #1 in the amount of \$6,187.32 for the 2026 MFT Project 26-00000-00-GM – Total Project Cost 134,830.50, Seconded by Council Member Melanie Cozzi.

Discussion: Public Works Director Bill Covell said they swapped out seal coating the parking lot at the street garage because with the gravel, a micro-seal would be necessary. All of Adams Street and an additional block of 8th Street were completed.

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

Council Member Melanie Cozzi moved to approve Engineers Pay Estimate #1 to Struck & Irwin Paving, Inc. in the amount of \$128,088.97 for the 2026 MFT Project 26-00000-00-GM, Seconded by Council Member Josiah Flanagan.

Discussion: Public Works Director Bill Covell said the city is holding five percent until the punch list is completed on the slurry seal project. Council Member Terry Schuster said the cost is for two years of seal coat projects. Mayor Ken Williams said this was done to keep costs down.

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

Council Member Terry Schuster moved to approve the City of Oregon FY26 Audit Financial Report, Seconded by Council Member Tim Krug.

Discussion: Mayor Ken Williams said the city received a clean audit and has 2.4 million in general reserves. The city has been allocating funds to the IL Funds which has a much higher interest rate. Total government funds of 5.6 million. He said the city is in very solid financial condition. Council Member Terry Schuster said there were also improvements in safeguards. City Manager Darin DeHaan said the city has historically had a deficiency due to staffing, this year that deficiency was removed from the audit. The draft audit also has a section showing the city had an overage in appropriations; this was inaccurate and the auditors removed that section. Very clean overall audit.

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

Discussion Items

Standard Operating Procedures: Mayor Ken Williams said there are over one hundred pages of operational procedures. About three years ago the city started revising and formalizing these processes. This is the next step in that process. Council Member Terry Schuster said the city is standardizing how certain projects are done and creating checklists because these are best practices. He said it keeps us accountable and makes sure we continue to do it the right way and the same way each year. He said it is a wonderful thing and keeps the city efficient and operating well. Public Works Director Bill Covell said he wanted to standardize everything, so everyone is doing these tasks the same way. The procedures also include PPE that is necessary for each project. He said the public works employees are learning valuable skills. He is working on more for City Council review. The City Council would like to wait and approve all standard operating procedures at one time. Council Member Tim Krug said that more projects are being completed in-house which is great. Mayor Ken Williams asked if there would be an increase in cost to implement the procedures. Public Works Director Bill Covell said there will be no increase in costs. City Manager Darin DeHaan said these are the ways things should be done, the procedures are creating a guideline for staff. Council Member Terry Schuster said it may decrease costs because there is less confusion.

Coliseum Capital Projects – 124 N 4th Street: City Manager Darin DeHaan said there are some significant things going on with maintaining the Coliseum building. Current fund balance for the Coliseum is one hundred and fifty-four thousand dollars. There is significant water damage upstairs. He believes the damage is related to the roof. Air conditioners and dehumidifiers are being utilized. The city council discussed how to proceed. Step one would be to have the roof inspected. Other issues at the Coliseum are the utility ramp and furnaces. He said the city should do things at the coliseum that are good for the future of the coliseum. Whether trying to get equipment into the building for a performance or maintenance on the building. The utility ramp is how equipment would get into the building. The estimated cost to repair the ramp is about fourteen thousand five hundred dollars. Another issue at the coliseum is the HVAC units. There are four units, one has a freon leak, one unit is completely offline, and one unit only cools. The last unit is basically running for them all. It was also hard to find someone to service the units because they are hard to get to. The space the units are in is used for public performances and the units are very noisy. Multiple options have been looked at. One recommendation was to replace the current units with two new roof units. Two 7 ½ ton units would cost approximately ninety-four thousand seven hundred and ten dollars, or two ten-ton units would cost one hundred and one thousand eight hundred dollars. He said he wanted to get the city council's thoughts on the projects. Council Member Terry Schuster said this is the communities building and we need to maintain and expand its use. Mayor Ken Williams said we need to prioritize the projects. He said the immediate concern is the water damage. He asked for an estimate to get this taken care of. He said short term the ramp should be completed and is probably in the budget to be completed this year. The HVAC system may take a couple of years to be completed. Council Member Terry Schuster said the community contributes tax money to the coliseum on an annual basis, and the fund will grow over time. He said completing the projects in phases over a couple years will make the projects affordable. The annual tax levy for the coliseum is about forty-seven thousand dollars. The City Council agreed to start on the ramp project and to get estimates on the water incursion issue.

Board & Commission Reports

Main Street: Destini has taken the lead on Candlelight Walk, continues to work on AOP, completed and submitted grants for funding, and continues to meet with business owners.

Planning: The county has a petition to replat a subdivision outside city limits within a mile and a half. City Manager Darin DeHaan is waiting to discuss this with the city attorney before presenting to planning.

Economic and Community Development: Liz Hiemstra said she is looking forward to a couple new businesses opening in the next few months. The IDHA community meeting was held on Friday to go over the results of the housing study that was completed over the last few months. She thanked all who attended the meeting. The next step is the housing stock survey, and they are looking for volunteers to help score every building/property within city limits.

Sustainability: Rock River Sweep is this Saturday from 8am to 1pm. Volunteers are still needed. Check in locations will be at Kiwanis Park, Castle Rock boat launch, and the boat launch on N Rt 2.

Tree Board: The board would like community input on designating a city tree. City Manager Darin DeHaan is finalizing some survey items before launching.

Department & Officer Reports

Public Works Director Bill Covell: The east side sidewalk project is still ongoing. The Century Hills and slurry seal projects are complete. The 7th Street project should be completed next week.

City Clerk Cheryl Hilton: Petition packets are available on the State Board of Elections website or can be picked up at City Hall. The city has three open positions. Completed applications will be accepted at City Hall October 19th 2026 through October 26th 2026.

City Manager Darin DeHaan: He said it was great to look around Oregon on a holiday weekend and see so many people in town on boats, floating down the river, people in the parks and in the downtown. It was a reminder of the amenities we have here and nice to see people enjoying it.

Council Reports

Council Member Terry Schuster: Roughly three hundred and fifty bicyclists were in town for an annual event. He said people ride bikes at nighttime and there are two routes, a forty mile or a sixty-mile route. They held an after party at Franklin Street pub. He said the event was a great way to show off the community and the county. Council Member Melanie Cozzi said Terry Schuster and Liz Hiemstra are big volunteers for the program. She said this is an event that she and her husband put on and is called Dust at Dusk, and this is the tenth year of them doing this. She said people come from all over the tri-state area.

Mayor Ken Williams: He said there was a decent turnout for the community housing needs presentation. He also said he is very pleased with the Bird City Designation.

Council Member Melanie Cozzi moved to adjourn the meeting, Seconded by Council Member Tim Krug.

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

Adjourn: 6:18 P.M.

Ken Williams, Mayor

Attest: _____
Cheryl Hilton, City Clerk