

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday September 22nd, 2026, 5:30 P.M.
City Hall Council Chambers
115 N 3rd Street

The Council of the City of Oregon met Tuesday September 22nd, 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 Josiah Flanagan
Council Member Tim Krug
City Manager Darin DeHaan
Chief of Police Matt Kalnins
City Attorney Paul Chadwick
City Clerk Cheryl Hilton

Also Present: Mike Arians, Bill Covell, John Dickson, Earleen Hinton, Mike Moore, Randy O' Brien, Josh Pickering, and Luke Ziegler.

Absent: Council Member Melanie Cozzi

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

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

Chief of Police Matt Kalnins started the pledge of allegiance.

Proclamations, Commendations, Swear In, Etc.

None.

Presentations

None.

Public Comment

John Dickson asked if recreational vehicles were going to be a discussion topic this evening. City Manager Darin DeHaan said yes, the ordinance being discussed later focuses on aesthetics and care and maintenance. Mayor Ken Williams said the city council will have a first reading of the ordinance this evening which will include discussion. There will be no voting on the ordinance this evening. John Dickson also stated there is an unsightly vehicle at the post office. He said if the city is going to look at recreational vehicles a conversation with the post office should be had. He said it has been there for longer than a year and is a continual eye sore.

Approval of Minutes

Council Member Tim Krug moved to approve September 8th, 2026, minutes, Seconded by Council Member Terry Schuster.

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

Approval of Warrants & Payroll

Council Member Terry Schuster moved to approve payroll in the amount of \$70,015.79 and the current warrants as listed:

a5 Branding & Digital	\$16,364.75
Ace Hardware & Outdoor Center	\$2,958.83
AG View FS, Inc	\$6,259.74
Amazon Capital Services, Inc	\$895.74
Casper Home Inspection LLC	\$1,550.00
Cintas	\$269.50
City of Oregon	\$5,500.00
Comcast	\$850.86
Comcast	\$1,037.20
ComEd	\$5,986.14
Core & Main	\$12,079.04
Ecolab	\$173.12
EM Benefits	\$1,822.66
Fehr Graham & Associates LLC	\$668.50
Ferguson Waterworks #2516	\$3,684.22
Fischer's	\$1,649.60
Frontier	\$129.99
Galls LLC	\$80.09
Gregory Spencer	\$250.66
Hach Company	\$2,159.79
Hawkins, Inc	\$2,652.61
High Star Traffic	\$1,005.80
Lanelight Traffic Technologies, Inc	\$7,439.34
Martin & Company Excavating	\$280.84
Martin & Company Excavating	\$235,934.17
Melanie Cozzi	\$25.00
Menards	\$101.07
Metropolitan Industries Inc	\$35,000.00
Motorola-Starcom 21 Network	\$3,348.00
NAPA Auto Parts	\$195.99
Nicor	\$40.77
Oregon Rotary Club	\$115.00
Oregon Snyder's	\$228.62
OSF Healthcare	\$194.89
P.F. Pettibone & Co	\$79.90
Postmaster	\$876.20
Quill	\$135.49
Sam Hermes	\$380.00
Sealmaster Chicago	\$4,035.00
Stillman BancCorp	\$2,627.01
Struck & Irwin Paving, Inc	\$128,088.97
Taryn Bradley	\$41.67
Van Buren Equipment Services LLC	\$4,976.52
Verizon	\$925.43
Ward, Murray, Pace & Johnson, P.C.	\$106.00
Waste Water Management of Northern Illinois LLC	\$13,000.00
Wipfli	\$15,989.79
	\$522,194.51

Seconded by Council Member Josiah Flanagan.

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

Ordinances

Recreational Vehicle Ordinance – 1st Reading: City Manager Darin DeHaan said there are two main areas of concern; dilapidated trailers, RVs, etc. and campers and trailers being used as permanent housing. The proposed ordinance would allow recreational vehicles to be temporarily occupied by visitors for no more than fourteen days in a six-month period. An extension could be authorized for extenuating circumstances with notification to the city. He stated the ordinance previously reviewed by city council was just too broad, the proposed ordinance narrows the focus to the repetitive complaints he has heard from residents. The city council discussed parking, costs associated with installing a paved or concrete parking area, and allowing trailers, RVs, and campers to be parked on well-maintained surfaces, they cannot be parked over sidewalks. Mayor Ken Williams said recreational vehicles must also follow current ordinances regarding registration and licensing. The city council will vote on the ordinance at the next meeting.

Resolutions

Council Member Terry Schuster moved to approve Resolution 2026-11 in Support of an Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) Grant Application for Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements along S 3rd Street from W Washington Street to Jefferson Street, Seconded by Council Member Tim Krug.

Discussion: Mayor Ken Williams said the city is applying for a grant. Every two years, an ITEP grant can be applied for. The city always likes to apply whether or not it gets approved will be up to the state. City Manager Darin DeHaan said part of the process is the city needs to complete a public survey, which was launched today on Facebook, Instagram, and the city website. Anyone who lives within city limits is encouraged to take the survey. This project is specific to streetscape in the historic downtown, like what was previously completed on Rt 2 and Rt 64. He said he believes the city has an aggressive sidewalk replacement program through the public works department. The public works department continues to replace sidewalks throughout the community.

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

Motions

Council Member Tim Krug moved to approve the Proposal for Civil Engineering Services with Fehr Graham & Associates - Oregon Street Department Demolition Planning & Assistance and Authorize the City Manager to Execute the Agreement on behalf of the City, including any necessary amendments or modifications related to the project and agreement, Seconded by Council Member Josiah Flanagan.

Discussion: City Manager Darin DeHaan said this is part of the progress on riverfront development. This is the last large outbuilding that was part of the Dayton property and is in major disrepair. This is the next step in getting bids for the cost to take that building down. Council Member Terry Schuster said the building would eventually need to be removed for the riverfront walking path project.

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

Council Member Tim Krug moved to approve 7th Street Watermain Replacement Project Engineer's Pay Estimate #1 to Martin and Company Excavating in the amount of \$171,342.66, Seconded by Council Member Josiah Flanagan.

Discussion: Public Works Director Bill Covell said this includes the watermain boring and pipe work. He said they unexpectedly hit rock, and it added additional costs.

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

Council Member Tim Krug moved to approve an Agreement with IDOT for Improvements to Parking Lanes - IL 2 from Jefferson Street to Fair Street and IL 64 from East of Rock River to Estimated City Limits and Authorize the City Manager to Execute the Agreement on behalf of the City, including any necessary amendments or modifications related to the project and agreement – Estimated Cost to City \$18,500.00, Seconded by Council Member Terry Schuster.

Discussion: Mayor Ken Williams said we have done this before. The state is doing the project, and the city would be paying to complete improvements to the parking lanes. Public Works Director Bill Covell said a city project will need to be completed before the IDOT project, he is working with IDOT on the dates. Mayor Ken Williams asked for the dates of the project to be put on the city website when available.

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

Council Member Terry Schuster moved to approve the motion to amend the City Code Required CPI Increase to Zero Percent for Elected Officials Pay, Seconded by Council Member Tim Krug.

Mayor Ken Williams said by city code an increase in the incoming city council's salary is increased automatically by the CPI. There is also a state code that says any increase by a city council must be approved in open meeting. There are several options, one would be to approve the increase, the other would be to amend the increase by zero dollars. City Attorney Paul Chadwick said the statute also requires any changes made must be made for the next term. Council Member Terry Schuster asked what the estimated cost increase would be. Council Member Josiah Flanagan said he would like to go with the second option; he would like to see the public get better use out of taxpayer dollars for services the city provides for them. Council Member Terry Schuster said he is still trying to figure out the increase, and the increase of 3.2 percent would be over four years. Mayor Ken Williams said 3.2 percent is a four-year average increase. The increase is less than 1 percent per year.

Roll Call: Flanagan, Yea. Krug, Nay. Schuster, Nay. Williams, Yea. The motion failed.

Council Member Terry Schuster moved to approve the City Council of the City of Oregon, Illinois, Motion to Allow Code Required CPI Increase of 3.2 percent for Elected Officials Pay, No Second.

Discussion: Mayor Ken Williams said the increase is an automatic increase by city code; it's not a choice the council has. City Attorney Paul Chadwick read the ordinance. He asked if the council was looking to do a variance. Mayor Ken Williams said yes because the ordinance says to do it and the variance was defeated. City Attorney Paul Chadwick said the ordinance is already in place, and it speaks for itself, it is automatic. There is no motion to be made unless the intent is to vary and amend the ordinance itself.

Mayor Ken Williams made a motion to table the City Council of the City of Oregon, Illinois, Motion to Allow Code Required CPI Increase of 3.2 percent for Elected Officials Pay until the next meeting, Seconded by Council Member Tim Krug.

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

Council Member Terry Schuster moved to approve the Mutual Release and Settlement Agreement with Willett Hofmann & Associates, Seconded by Council Member Tim Krug.

Mayor Ken Williams stated a settlement agreement resolving the City's lawsuit in Ogle County Case Number 2024 LA 15, titled *City of Oregon, Illinois v. Willett, Hofmann & Associates, Inc., and Civil Constructors, Inc., doing business as Helm Civil*.

City Attorney Paul Chadwick said by way of background back in 2022, the City engaged Willett Hofmann for engineering services, and Helm Civil for construction work, on a City roadway resurfacing project. A dispute later arose between the City and those firms concerning that project, and in 2024 the City filed a lawsuit to protect its interests. The City previously approved a settlement with Helm Civil. After reviewing the matter with the City's attorneys and weighing the time, expense, and uncertainty of continued litigation, the parties have now negotiated a settlement with Willett Hofmann that the City's counsel recommends. The proposed agreement fully and finally resolves all of the City's claims against Willett Hofmann in this lawsuit. It is a compromise of disputed claims and is not an admission of liability or fault by any party. The settlement agreement is a public record. Any member of the public who wishes to review its terms, including the financial terms, may obtain a copy from the City by submitting a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

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

Discussion Items

East Side Watermain Replacement: City Manager Darin DeHaan said the public works department responded to a watermain break in an eight-inch pipe that runs along east Mix Lane and Hastings. While working on that, a second watermain break occurred about twenty feet away. They replaced about two hundred feet of six-inch pipe that runs along Hastings. A third watermain break was discovered on N Etnyre Ave. Additional watermain breaks then occurred back up on Mix Lane. He shared photos of the watermain breaks and the condition of the pipe. Public Works Director Bill Covell said the ductile pipe in those exposed areas is down to the concrete liner and is very fragile. The pipes were installed in the late eighties. Eighty-five hundred feet of pipe were installed at about the same time. He said there is something in the soil that has degraded the pipe and we are dealing with electrolysis; there will be more breaks. The current breaks have cost the city approximately fifty thousand dollars. Mayor Ken Williams said the pipes were installed shortly after the East side was annexed into the city. City Manager Darin DeHaan said preliminary estimates to replace the entire infrastructure is 3.8 million plus engineering costs. He said the city council had previously approved investigative engineering with Fehr Graham for storm water infrastructure. He asked the city council to consider doing both projects together to avoid having to replace roads multiple times. He presented two options, one would be to continue to react and chase repairs, has a lower initial cost and could wait for EPA funding. EPA funding is not guaranteed. Staffing and continued water interruptions for residents would be issues with this option. The second option is to complete a full or partial replacement with local funds/savings account. Getting the project started quickly would be a pro for this option. Cons would include no forgiveness for the money used out of the saving accounts and those fund balances would not be replenished quickly. Luke Ziegler with Fehr Graham gave an overview of how EPA funding works. He said funding for the project could not be submitted until March of 2028 for construction. The city council discussed financing options, such as bonds, loans, and water/sewer bill increases. Public Works Director Bill Covell said this is some of the newer infrastructure in the city. He said the degradation of the pipes was not due to neglect by the city. He also said lining could be an option. The city council agreed to proceed with engineering,

which will take several months. Mayor Ken Williams said he would like to see engineering and lining costs brought to the city council for review.

Board & Commission Reports

Main Street: City Manager Darin DeHaan said Destini did a good job helping with the Reagan Mass Transit ribbon cutting. He appreciated her working with Greg on that project.

Sustainability: City Manager Darin DeHaan thanked the committee, volunteers, and organizations, that were involved with the Rock River sweep. An amazing amount of trash was picked up.

Tree Board: The last meeting was cancelled due to lack of a quorum, working to reschedule.

Bird City: Mounting new Bird City signs. Two more signs need to be ordered.

Department & Officer Reports

Public Works Director Bill Covell: Thanked the public works department. He said they have been working a lot of late nights and early mornings. He awarded Cody and Aidan with Employee Recognition coins for their hard work.

City Manager Darin DeHaan: He asked Matt to supply ordinance violations to the city council. He said the police officers have taken over this responsibility since Randy's retirement. He thanked Bill for keeping him informed, he said he is right there in the trenches with the guys working those late nights. He said he is very appreciative of everyone.

Council Reports

Council Member Tim Krug: Thanked all the people who helped with the Rock River Sweep picking up trash this past Saturday. It helps keep our community beautiful.

Mayor Ken Williams: He said hopefully the next meeting will be a little more up and there will be less problems. The Rock River cleanup was very nice, had a good crew out there. Having the Reagan Mass Transit buses here locally means better response times.

Council Member Tim Krug moved to adjourn the meeting, Seconded by Council Member Josiah Flanagan.

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

Adjourn: 6:33 P.M.

Ken Williams, Mayor

Attest: _____
Cheryl Hilton, City Clerk