

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021 5:30 P.M.  
City Hall Council Chambers  
115 N 3<sup>rd</sup> Street

The Council of the City of Oregon met Tuesday April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 5:30 P.M.

The meeting was held on Zoom, Commissioner Terry Schuster was present in the Council Room at City Hall.

Present: Mayor Ken Williams  
Commissioner Tim Krug  
Commissioner Terry Schuster  
Commissioner Kurt Wilson  
City Administrator Darin DeHaan  
Police Chief Shawn Melville  
City Attorney Paul Chadwick  
City Clerk Cheryl Hilton

Present via Zoom: Corey Buck, Jeff Helfrich, Dave Kent, Terry Plemmons, and Steve Rypkema.

Absent: Commissioner Melanie Cozzi.

Mayor Ken Williams started the pledge of allegiance.

Steve Rypkema spoke on behalf of the Rock River Sweep Organization. The sweep began in 2009 with a committee called Forward Oregon to help preserve the Rock River and its tributaries for WI and IL. It has been a struggle to keep the organization going and they have decided to dissolve the organization. The organization would like to donate \$5,000.00 to the City of Oregon for the future river front walking path. Mayor Ken Williams thanked Steve for the generosity towards the citizens and community to help provide seed money to get the first section of the path started.

No public comment.

Commissioner Terry Schuster moved to approve the March 23rd, minutes, Seconded by Commissioner Kurt Wilson.

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

Commissioner Terry Schuster moved to approve payroll in the amount of \$54,463.54 and the current warrants as listed:

Aegis Construction, Inc	\$11,506.00
American Trailer Pro's LLC	\$2,551.00
Azavar Audit	\$288.25
Beesing Welding	\$58.60
Bergy's Automotive	\$53.32
Blue Cross Blue Shield	\$19,885.80
C & R Services	\$5,742.50
Central Bank Illinois	\$935.77
City of Oregon	\$9,514.24
Comcast	\$248.93
ComEd	\$3,345.97
Constellation New Energy, Inc	\$3,350.44
DFC Fence, Inc	\$14,125.00
D-Technology Systems	\$2,349.36
Eastern Illinois University	\$70.00

Ehmen	\$1,133.27
Envision Healthcare, Inc	\$216.00
Ferguson Waterworks #2516	\$3,758.88
Fidelity Security Life Insurance	\$205.08
Fischer's	\$151.58
Frontier	\$367.07
Hach Company	\$1,883.83
Harvard State Bank	\$889.21
Harvard State Bank	\$10.00
Illinois EPA	\$58,374.60
Kunes Country Auto Group	\$276.17
Laura Medlar	\$105.00
MCS Advertising	\$75.00
Menards	\$124.29
Moring Disposal	\$163.00
Northern Illinois University	\$360.00
Ogle County Clerk & Recorder	\$180.00
Ogle County Clerk & Recorder	\$60.00
Ogle County Sheriff's Dept	\$394.50
Oregon Fire Department	\$275.66
Oregon Snyder	\$90.62
Pollard Water	\$794.81
Postmaster	\$515.90
Postmaster	\$825.00
Quill	\$338.68
Scott Wallace	\$222.02
Steve Benesh & Sons	\$92.90
Stillman BancCorp	\$1,797.25
Stillman BancCorp	\$675.48
Sun Life Financial	\$382.58
Thompson-Hopps Pumps	\$2,837.72
Village of Progress	\$894.60
Vos Marketing & Events	\$381.00
Wastewater Management of Northern Illinois	\$10,575.00
Willett Hofmann & Associates	\$24,312.26
Willett Hofmann & Associates	\$1,134.95
	<b>\$188,899.09</b>

Seconded by Commissioner Kurt Wilson.

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

Commissioner Kurt Wilson moved to approve a Raffle License for Oregon Lions Club, Seconded by Commissioner Tim Krug.

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

Commissioner Terry Schuster started the report on Stonegate Fund Recovery. He said the property was in foreclosure and the City reached out to the bank. On a recovery basis from ComEd and Nicor, the city was able to provide infrastructure at no cost to residents. Currently the city has received enough repayments from the utility companies to pay off the low interest loan the city had on the property. Funds that come into the city now can go towards future developments. Mayor Ken Williams said at the time the bank did not want to invest in utilities on the property. With the recovery basis and low interest loan the city was able to provide utilities and even door to door fiber.

Mayor Ken Williams moved to table the Approval of an Additional Water Sewer Employee, Seconded by Commissioner Terry Schuster.

**Discussion:** Commissioner Tim Krug asked if the position would be a seasonal or full time with benefits position. Mayor Ken Williams replied each commissioner will receive a report on the position at the next Council meeting which will include a job description and funding for the additional employee.

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

Commissioner Terry Schuster reported on the City Finances. He expected to have a deficit in the general fund due to Covid-19. He explained the general fund is the "mother" fund, it collects shared revenue and can then be transferred to help supplement lower revenue funds. He believes the city will be able to add 75 to 80 thousand dollars to the general fund this year with a stronger year ahead. He is proud of our community for shopping local and to the city departments for being frugal. He also said there was a lot of online shopping due to Covid-19 and the state shares a portion of the local use tax with the city. City Administrator Darin DeHaan said the community really came together to support local businesses. Mayor Ken Williams mentioned that there will be a report on the bonds at the next Council meeting.

City Administrator Darin DeHaan is waiting on the approval with BNSF on the lease agreement. There will also be additional lighting added at the Depot which will be beneficial when the railcar is moved to the area. CMAAA has contracted work for the display cases in the museum, new doors have been ordered, and the AOP office is being worked on. An ADA compliant ramp will also be installed soon.

Commissioner Kurt Wilson is hopeful the city zoning map will be completed by the 19<sup>th</sup>. He also wants to remind residents to remove garbage and recycling cans as soon as possible after Moring picks up. If the cans are not removed it causes problems with other city services.

Commissioner Terry Schuster said the city plans on purchasing new 42" gray planters to replace old exposed aggregate ones that are in the downtown. They will provide more curb appeal when someone comes into town. They will be replaced in early May.

Water Sewer Superintendent Dave Kent said the water department has been busy flushing fire hydrants and Martins are almost finished with Phase 2 watermain replacement.

Commissioner Tim Krug said the street department has installed LED lighting on the Welcome to Oregon signs and put up a newspaper box at City Hall. He also said the first brush pickup was completed March 29<sup>th</sup> and the next pickup will be April 26<sup>th</sup>. He wants to remind residents to get driveway permits if they plan on doing a large driveway project, to not blow yard clippings onto the city streets when mowing, and to follow all parking regulations.

Mayor Ken Williams said the city has gained 7 new businesses and looking to add more in a time when other communities were losing businesses. He would like to discuss a special program for businesses to lease property at the next Council meeting.

Commissioner Kurt Wilson moved to adjourn the meeting, Seconded by Commissioner Tim Krug.

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

Adjourn: 6:02 P.M.

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Ken Williams, Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cheryl Hilton, City Clerk