

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 5:30 P.M.  
City Hall Council Chambers  
115 N 3<sup>rd</sup> Street

The Council of the City of Oregon met Tuesday January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 5:30 P.M.

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

Present: Mayor Ken Williams  
Commissioner Melanie Cozzi  
Commissioner Tim Krug  
Commissioner Kurt Wilson  
Commissioner Terry Schuster  
City Attorney Paul Chadwick  
City Administrator Darin DeHaan  
Police Chief Joe Brooks  
City Clerk Cheryl Hilton  
Also Present: Public Works Director Bill Covell, George Howe, and Bea Orsted.  
Present via Zoom: Corey Buck and Alexa Zoellner.

Mayor Ken Williams called the meeting to order.

Chief Joe Brooks started the pledge of allegiance.

Mayor Ken Williams presented Bea Orsted with a plaque in recognition of twenty-eight years serving the community as a school crossing guard.

Mayor Ken Williams postponed the introduction of Municipal Service Manager Jim Pozzi with Republic Services.

Commissioner Kurt Wilson moved to approve the December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022, minutes,  
Seconded by Commissioner Terry Schuster.

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

Commissioner Terry Schuster moved to approve payroll in the amount of \$55,819.15 and the current warrants as listed:

Bill Covell	\$100.00
Blue Cross Blue Shield	\$13,647.47
Butitta Bros. Automotive - Oregon	\$23.75
Butitta Bros. Automotive - Oregon	\$674.92
Byron Bank	\$172.91
Byron Bank	\$125.13
Byron Bank	\$181.22
Cassandra Chapman	\$600.00
Cheryl Hilton	\$100.00
Cintas	\$65.66
Comcast	\$368.00

ComEd	\$59.20
Constellation NewEnergy, Inc	\$3,446.10
Critical Reach	\$110.00
Darin DeHaan	\$68.32
Darin DeHaan	\$100.00
Devin DeHaan	\$99.97
Devin DeHaan	\$100.00
Drydon/A DXP Company	\$2,485.85
Dustin Runyon	\$15.76
Dustin Runyon	\$100.00
Ehmen	\$280.00
Ehmen	\$1,042.00
Euclid Managers	\$1,311.92
Ferguson Waterworks #2516	\$1,476.88
Ferguson Waterworks #2516	\$1,700.12
Fidelity Security Life Insurance	\$143.54
Fischer's	\$2,310.54
Frontier	\$71.18
Frontier	\$422.47
Fyr-Fyter, Inc	\$502.30
Gregory Spencer	\$100.00
Hach Company	\$2,225.07
Hector's Cocina	\$300.00
Illinois EPA	\$17,833.19
Illinois EPA	\$35,143.19
IP Communications	\$636.75
Jasman Martin	\$400.00
Jayce Gusloff	\$100.00
Jeff Pennington	\$100.00
Joe Brooks	\$100.00
Josiah Flanagan	\$100.00
Josh Lee	\$100.00
Law Enforcement Systems	\$86.00
Luke Ellis	\$100.00
Luke Ellis	\$131.57
Lynn Baylor Zies	\$100.00
Maison Crawford	\$100.00
Manheim Solutions, Inc	\$2,592.00
Martin and Company	\$11,600.00
Martin and Company	\$11,600.00
Mary Elliott	\$100.00
Matt Kalnins	\$100.00
MCS Advertising	\$75.00
Menards	\$5,153.53
Metropolitan Industries, Inc	\$3,511.00
Moring Disposal	\$68.00

Moring Disposal	\$19,610.20
Mototola-Starcom21 Network	\$162.00
NAPA	\$1,208.82
Nicor	\$3,190.59
Oregon SuperValu	\$40.70
Polo Cooperative Associates	\$6,032.44
Postmaster	\$7.85
Postmaster	\$31.68
Postmaster	\$600.00
Postmaster	\$725.12
Randy Cropp	\$100.00
Ray O'Herron Co, Inc	\$187.96
Rockford Tech-Systems, Inc	\$4,087.02
Scott Wallace	\$100.00
Shawn Melville	\$20,000.00
Shawn Melville	\$59,897.61
Stillman BancCorp	\$2,036.03
Sun Life Financial	\$345.58
SynConn Solutions Inc	\$300.00
Tad Dominski	\$100.00
Tim Brechon	\$100.00
Uniform Den East, Inc	\$478.70
Verizon	\$463.27
Waste Water Management of Northern Illinois	\$2,250.00
Wes Hughes	\$1,650.00
Willetts Hofmann & Associates	\$630.00
Zach McKean	\$100.00
	<b>\$248,796.08</b>

Seconded by Commissioner Tim Krug.

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

Mayor Ken Williams moved to approve Ordinance 2023-001 Providing for and Creating the Office of City Manager under Council/Manager Form of Government, Seconded by Kurt Wilson.

**Discussion:** Mayor Ken Williams stated the people of the community voted for this change and this starts the process. There will be several steps as the city moves forward with this change.

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

Commissioner Terry Schuster moved to approve a Lease Subsidy Grant for Happily Handmade for \$600.00 per month, Seconded by Commissioner Melanie Cozzi.

**Discussion:** Commissioner Terry Schuster said Happily Handmade is a new type of retail outlet for artists. This will add something unique to the downtown. City Administrator

Darin DeHaan said this passed unanimously through the Grant Subcommittee and the Economic Development Committee.

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

Mayor Ken Williams moved to approve the Job Description for Deputy Chief of Police, Seconded by Commissioner Tim Krug.

**Discussion:** Mayor Ken Williams said the lieutenant position will change to Deputy Chief due to how the union contract is set up. This will give the police department some flexibility in managing their department. City Administrator Darin DeHaan said the Deputy Chief position has existed historically since 2003. This position will work under a contract but will not be represented by the FOP.

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

Commissioner Tim Krug moved to approve the Job Description for Public Works Mechanic/Heavy Equipment Operator, Seconded by Commissioner Melanie Cozzi.

**Discussion:** Commissioner Tim Krug said this position will be for an automotive tech to provide mechanical work to city vehicles. Public Works Director Bill Covell said the department has already serviced many of the squad cars allowing the city to save money and time. This position will not be for a full-time mechanic, the person will also have to spend time out in the field performing public work duties. City Administrator Darin DeHaan said this is building better administration. Public Works Director Bill Covell said they are also looking into career building and expanding on day to day knowledge for the public works department. City Administrator Darin DeHaan said the key to this position is having someone knowledgeable to guide the other departments. Commissioner Tim Krug said the person hired for this position will have a mechanical skill set. The person will be used to train other employees in the department. Commissioner Melanie Cozzi asked how many hours this person would be devoted to the automotive aspect of the position. City Administrator Darin DeHaan said approximately six hundred and fifty hours per year. Public Works Director Bill Covell said this could turn into a full-time automotive tech position in the future. Commissioner Kurt Wilson asked about CDL certifications for this position. Public Works Director Bill Covell said he would prefer an A license but really only needs a B license. He has went through the process with the State of Illinois, and the city will be a CDL training facility. Commissioner Terry Schuster thanked Commissioner Tim Krug, his background in mechanics has been extremely helpful. Mayor Ken Williams asked if there is an open position currently. Public Works Directed Bill Covell stated there are currently two open positions. Mayor Ken Williams said the city is not creating new positions, but trying to fill open positions that have been vacated. City Administrator Darin DeHaan also stated the council authorized an additional position on the water side that has not been filled since the Public Works Department was created.

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

Mayor Ken Williams moved to approve, in concept, the Elevations and Water Line for Dollar General, Seconded by Commissioner Terry Schuster.

**Discussion:** Mayor Ken Williams said he is asking for advice, consent, and if the City Council approves the concept of the Dollar General Store. City Administrator Darin DeHaan has been in discussions with Dollar General for the last six months. They are looking to bring a new store into Oregon and are looking at purchasing the property located in front of the metal reclaiming facility on Rt 64 before the quarry. He showed the City Council the preliminary elevations plan for the store. He reminded the City Council that the city did not seek out Dollar General but the city was approached by Dollar General for this development. He also stated the city wanted to make sure this was an upscale building since this would be at an entry point to the city. The developers have also asked to be hooked on to the city watermain. The watermain is about three hundred feet from the new development. He explained the city does not want to spend any money towards hooking them on to the water main. They proposed running a one-inch line to the watermain. Mayor Ken Williams said they will be required to hook on to the watermain with their own funds. This Dollar General location would be around ten thousand square feet, which would be larger than the location on Pines Road. City Administrator Darin DeHaan also stated this is not a done deal. They are asking for approval of how the layout and color scheme look. If this is approved they will have their engineers and architects put the project together and present it to Dollar General. He also expressed to the developer about the interest in a market type location. The developer thought there was potential for a market location. Mayor Ken Williams said the City Council is only approving the design of the building, an annexation agreement would need to be voted on before Dollar General could begin building. They are only asking for approval of the design before they spend the money on architects and engineers. He also said Dollar General would perform an EPA audit on the property before they begin construction. Commissioner Terry Schuster said this is step one in about a dozen more steps.

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

Mayor Ken Williams moved to approve Resolution 2023-1 in Support of Tax Increment Financing, Seconded by Commissioner Kurt Wilson.

**Discussion:** Mayor Ken Williams stated IML sent a resolution to all municipalities. The state legislature is looking at amending some of the TIF requirements. These requirements would be detrimental to the way this city and many other cities have their TIF set up. IML sent a sample resolution for municipalities to approve to keep TIF the way it currently is.

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

Mayor Ken Williams asked for a copy of the approved resolution to be sent to IML, State Legislator, and State Senator.

City Administrator Darin DeHaan said City Hall will be closed on Monday for Martin Luther King Day. He has been working with Corey Buck from Willett Hofmann on the electric vehicle project in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Street parking lot. He is also working with City Attorney Paul Chadwick on some complexities with the BNSF property.

Commissioner Kurt Wilson said every year the city receives a letter from Morning Disposal regarding an inflation increase in the garbage rates. The cost to the city is going to increase however this will not be passed along to the residents. Commissioner Terry Schuster asked what the inflationary increase would have been. Commissioner Kurt Wilson said about seventy-five cents to one dollar. His concern is with the recycling program. The city does an amazing job with recycling and the new company is looking into different avenues to continue to provide affordable recycling services to the city. Commissioner Melanie Cozzi asked if there was a potential for Unimen to crush glass for the community. She will present this to the Sustainability Committee and research the possibility.

Public Works Director Bill Covell said the Public Works Department survived the first snowfall with many of them being new drivers, everything went really well. He also said the water department has had a few watermain breaks.

Commissioner Tim Krug talked about the accident that happened at Ogle County Brewery. They are currently working with IDOT to see if barrier poles could be put in there as well as on the Iron Mike side. He stated how lucky no one was seated at a curb side table during this accident. Mayor Ken Williams said the barrier poles were designed for the Iron Mike project. However they were never installed due Iron Mike setting back farther from the road. He said IDOT approval is necessary. He said they recognize this as a potential problem and we have to look at all the options to keep the residents safe. Commissioner Terry Schuster said he believes providing safety is worth the effort in pursuing different safety options.

Mayor Ken Williams wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Commissioner Kurt Wilson moved to adjourn the meeting, Seconded by Commissioner Terry Schuster.

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

Adjourn: 6:12 P.M.

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Ken Williams, Mayor

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