

COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
Thursday March 16th, 2023, 5:00 P.M.
City Hall Council Chambers
115 N 3rd Street

The Council of the City of Oregon met Thursday March 16th, 2023, at 5:00 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 Administrator Darin DeHaan
Police Chief Joe Brooks
City Clerk Cheryl Hilton
Also Present: Public Works Director Bill Covell.
Present via Zoom: Alexa Zoellner.

Mayor Ken Williams called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Melanie Cozzi started the pledge of allegiance.

Commissioner Terry Schuster moved to approve the Purchase of a 2017 Chevy Silverado for \$30,842.26 for the Public Works Department, Seconded by Commissioner Kurt Wilson.

Discussion: City Administrator Darin DeHaan said the vehicle will be used by the Public Works Director.

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

Review FY24 Road Project Suggestions: The City Council discussed five potential road projects for the upcoming fiscal year. Commissioner Terry Schuster stated funds for road projects are paid for with Motor Fuel Tax funds and 1% Sales Tax. Both funds combined have an available balance of \$800,000.00 to use towards road projects in the next fiscal year. Potential projects include mill and overlay on Monroe Street from 7th Street to Rt. 64, approximate cost of \$120,000.00; mill and overlay with some designated parking on the 100 block of N. 2nd Street, approximate cost of \$43,000.00; full mill and overlay for parking on the 100 block of Franklin Street, approximate cost of \$30,200.00; complete reconstruction of the 100 block of N. 3rd Street, approximate cost of \$382,000.00, cost could be higher if storm sewer is needed. They also discussed S. 9th Street, the project included the addition of sidewalks in areas, widening the street, and chip and seal. Commissioner Terry Schuster stated without the 1% Sales Tax revenue, these projects would not be able to be completed.

Council-Manager Form of Government – Required Changes: Mayor Ken Williams said this change will take effect with the first meeting in May. The City Council discussed the creation of committees, such as a finance committee, election terms, and the City Council's role in legislative actions.

Amend Building Permit Fees to include Solar: The City Council discussed adding a fee for solar to the existing building permit fee schedule. The City Council will ask for a recommendation from the Planning Commission, where fee structure can be discussed. They would like the fees to be affordable for residents.

Adding a Fee for Storm Sewer Infrastructure: City Administrator Darin DeHaan stated the city storm sewer infrastructure system is aged and in need of repair. This is a major infrastructure issue as there have been collapses over the past couple of years that the city was not prepared for. This would affect residential and commercial property. He asked for direction on how the city would like to move forward with budgeting for this expense. Mayor Ken Williams said a flat fee per residence could be added to the city utility bill. Commissioner Terry Schuster compared the fee to the garbage fee. The fee is not based on volume but the service being provided. The fee would be identified as storm sewer and funds received would go to repairing and maintaining the infrastructure. The revenue would be held in a separate fund. City Administrator Darin DeHaan will do more research and report back to the City Council on options that are available.

Ground Solar Inside City Limits: City Administrator Darin DeHaan said he has been approached by a resident as well as LOTS, Lee Ogle Transportation System, regarding ground solar. Ground solar was previously discussed at a Planning Commission meeting. The Planning Committee discussed how to regulate the location of the solar panels and amount of square footage allowed. Mayor Ken Williams stated we need to legislate solar because it is going to get more popular, there is going to be requests for residential and commercial. He asked to have the Planning Commission review the options. He also said the State of Illinois has mandated that solar and wind are allowable.

Commissioner Terry Schuster provided the City Council with informational spreadsheets that have been useful financial and budgeting tools. These spreadsheets showed the City Council where the revenue the city receives comes from.

City Administrator Darin DeHaan said he has received a proposed landscape plan for the Coliseum. The current landscape contains mostly perennial plants that require little to no maintenance. Mayor Ken Williams said there will be beautification meeting held soon to discuss the plans and budget for summer.

Commissioner Terry Schuster moved to adjourn the meeting, Seconded by Commissioner Melanie Cozzi.

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

Adjourn: 6:32 P.M.

Ken Williams, Mayor

Attest: _____
Cheryl Hilton, City Clerk