

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday March 28th, 2023, 5:30 P.M.
City Hall Council Chambers
115 N 3rd Street

The Council of the City of Oregon met Tuesday March 28th, 2023, at 5:30 P.M.

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

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

Mayor Ken Williams called the meeting to order.

City Clerk Cheryl Hilton started the pledge of allegiance.

Commissioner Kurt Wilson moved to approve the March 14th, 2023, minutes, Seconded by Commissioner Terry Schuster.

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

Commissioner Terry Schuster moved to approve the March 16th, 2023, minutes, Seconded by Commissioner Tim Krug.

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

Commissioner Terry Schuster moved to approve payroll in the amount of \$55,230.16 and the current warrants as listed:

Aegis Construction, Inc	\$13,200.00
AEP Energy	\$7,442.61
Bill Covell	\$40.00
Bobcat of Dixon	\$336.29
Bonnell Industries	\$113.27
Brayden Schlaf	\$66.87
Butitta Bros. Automotive - Oregon	\$395.92
Casper's Home Inspection LLC	\$1,450.00
Certified Balance & Scale Corp	\$1,257.00
Cheryl Hilton	\$56.07
City of Oregon	\$30.00
City of Oregon	\$45.00
City of Oregon	\$5,000.00
City of Oregon	\$50,400.00

City of Rockford	\$19.00
Comcast	\$893.23
Comcast	\$2,445.70
ComEd	\$646.23
ComEd	\$91.95
Constellation NewEnergy, Inc	\$3,914.50
Dekalb Implement	\$223.83
Devin DeHaan	\$40.00
Dustin Runyon	\$40.00
Eastern Illinois University	\$70.00
Euclid Managers	\$1,866.22
Ferguson Enterprises LLC #3325	\$846.85
Frontier	\$72.47
Hach Company	\$491.85
Jayce Gusloff	\$40.00
Jeff Pennington	\$40.00
Jordan Plock	\$40.00
Joseph Brooks	\$70.00
Josh Lee	\$40.00
Josiah Flanagan	\$40.00
Kaleel's Clothing	\$282.00
Ken Williams	\$109.29
Kunes Country Auto Group	\$129.95
Kunes Country Auto Group	\$341.00
Kunes Country Auto Group	\$30,842.26
Kurt Wilson	\$65.00
Liz Hiemstra	\$312.50
Lynn Baylor Zies	\$40.00
Maison Crawford	\$40.00
Maison Crawford	\$87.25
Manheim Solutions, Inc.	\$2,592.00
Mark Nehrkorn	\$4,009.90
Mary Elliott	\$40.00
Matt Kalnins	\$50.00
Melanie Cozzi	\$65.00
Menards	\$131.94
Moring Disposal	\$20,344.80
Motorola - Starcom21 Network	\$162.00
Northern Illinois University	\$11,860.00
NW Illinois Law Enforcement Exe Assoc	\$50.00
Ogle County Sheriff's Dept	\$4,878.30
Oregon Snyder	\$247.75
Oregon SuperValu	\$22.43
Postmaster	\$744.00
Radar Man Inc	\$350.00
Scott Wallace	\$40.00
Share Corp	\$173.17

Skyler Bethel	\$40.00
Stillman BancCorp	\$2,036.03
Sun Life Financial	\$586.08
Tad Dominski	\$40.00
Terry Lester	\$40.00
Terry Schuster	\$397.90
Tim Brechon	\$16.08
Tim Brechon	\$40.00
Tim Krug	\$40.00
Verizon	\$466.75
Village of Progress	\$960.00
Ward, Murray, Pace & Johnson P.C.	\$63.00
Willett Hofmann & Associates Inc	\$2,059.70
Zach McKean	\$40.00
	\$176,600.94

Seconded by Commissioner Kurt Wilson.

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

Commissioner Tim Krug moved to approve Oregon Tree Board Recommendation to apply for Tree City USA, Seconded by Commissioner Kurt Wilson.

Discussion: City Administrator Darin DeHaan said there are additional steps that the city will need to take to have the designation. This includes annual approval of a proclamation, at least two dollars per resident will need to be spent on tree removals, pruning and planting, and have a Tree Board in place. This designation will allow the city to apply for grants and receive support from Morton Arboretum. Commissioner Tim Krug said this will be good for everyone. City Administrator Darin DeHaan said the city will miss the designation for 2023 but will start next year. The city has also received funds in the amount of \$4,700 for the tree inventory. He also said the city will need to find ways to educate the public on the processes for replacing trees in the terrace. The Tree Board will help with the education process. This is only for terrace trees. Mayor Ken Williams said a part of the community is driving down tree lined streets and we want to continue to move forward with this.

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

Commissioner Kurt Wilson moved to approve Short-Term Rental submitted by Bronwyn Sill for the property located at 511 N. 5th Street, Oregon, IL Pin # 16-03-110-003, Seconded by Commissioner Tim Krug.

Discussion: Commissioner Kurt Wilson said the request was approved unanimously at the Planning Committee meeting. The only concerns discussed at that time were how many short-term rentals are too many within the city. Mayor Ken Williams said there were two neighbors present at the meeting to show support to the applicants. He also stated the city needs to be cognizant of the balance of short-term rentals. Commissioner Tim Krug stated this adds value for tourism as well. Commissioner Terry Schuster said it also supports local businesses.

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

Commissioner Terry Schuster moved to approve a Commercial Lease Subsidy Grant for White Pine Mercantile in the amount of fifty percent of the lease up to \$600.00, Seconded by Commissioner Kurt Wilson.

Discussion: Commissioner Terry Schuster said business will be in the old O's Bakery location. The applicants submitted a business plan and were interviewed by the grant sub-committee. The merchandise will be similar to what Simply Home offered. City Administrator Darin DeHaan said the language used was due to the lease terms, the length of the lease subsidy grant will go into the owners second year of the lease. Mayor Ken Williams said we always welcome more retail stores downtown.

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

Commissioner Terry Schuster moved to approve the Proposal from LAI, Ltd. for two Blowers for the Wastewater Treatment Plant for no more than \$120,000.00 which would include a contingency for rented blowers in an emergency, Seconded by Commissioner Tim Krug.

Discussion: Commissioner Terry Schuster stated this may seem unusual for the motion to be made by the finance commissioner. This is a large expenditure that was not anticipated. Public Works Director Bill Covell said the amount should be \$140,000.00.

Commissioner Tim Krug moved to approve to amend the original motion from \$120,000.00 to \$140,000.00 for the proposal from LAI, Ltd, for two blowers for the Wastewater Treatment Plan which would include a contingency for rented blowers in an emergency, Seconded by Commissioner Terry Schuster.

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

Commissioner Terry Schuster moved to approve the Proposal from LAI, Ltd. for two Blowers for the Wastewater Treatment Plant for no more than \$140,000.00 which would include a contingency for rented blowers in an emergency, Seconded by Commissioner Tim Krug.

Discussion: Commissioner Tim Krug said this will be state of the art equipment, the latest technology pieces out there. Mayor Ken Williams said the city is receiving some money back. Public Works Director Bill Covell said yes we will receive some money back and will save money on utility costs going forward. City Administrator Darin DeHaan said this will work with the Scada system and give much clearer reports.

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

Public Works Director Bill Covell stated the Public Works Department did an awesome job on the recent snow removal. He said they saved money by not contracting out the work. The department will be looking at ways to do more things in house to save money in the future. He also said Scott Wallace fixed the roto mat at the Sewer Treatment Plant.

City Administrator Darin DeHaan thanked Public Works Director Bill Covell for making the decision to have city staff do the downtown cleanup. He said in previous years the smallest amount billed for the downtown cleanup was for \$2,800.00. The public works department was able to do the pickup for about \$360.00. This was a significant savings and the employee's additional skill sets. He thanked Bill for having the leadership to make that decision, it is great for the city and the citizens. He also said Chapter 2 in the city code will need to be changed due to the new form of government. He asked the council to review Chapter 5 from the City of Dixon and contact him with any recommendations. He said the current Chapter 2 can be repealed and the new chapter adopted.

Mayor Ken Williams thanked everyone at the council meeting. He said there are two more meetings to go and then all the changes will begin to occur. He also thanked Public Works Director Bill Covell for his work in the formation of the Public Works Department. He said combining both departments has been very efficient in saving the city money and a lot of new ideas have been presented.

Mayor Ken Williams stated the City Council would be going into Executive Session to discuss an Employment Compensation Contract. There will be no action taken after Executive Session.

Commissioner Terry Schuster moved to go into Executive Session at 5:50 pm, Seconded by Commissioner Tim Krug.

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

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

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

Adjourn: 6:22 P.M.

Ken Williams, Mayor

Attest: _____
Cheryl Hilton, City Clerk