

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday April 11th, 2023, 5:30 P.M.
City Hall Council Chambers
115 N 3rd Street

The Council of the City of Oregon met Tuesday April 11th, 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 Kurt Wilson
Commissioner Terry Schuster
City Attorney Paul Chadwick
City Administrator Darin DeHaan
Chief Joe Brooks
City Clerk Cheryl Hilton
Also Present: Public Works Director Bill Covell and George Howe.
Present via Zoom: Corey Buck and Earleen Hinton.
Absent: Commissioner Tim Krug.

Mayor Ken Williams called the meeting to order.

Mayor Ken Williams started the pledge of allegiance.

Commissioner Kurt Wilson moved to approve the March 28th, 2023, minutes, Seconded by Commissioner Terry Schuster.

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

Commissioner Terry Schuster moved to approve payroll in the amount of \$55,790.37 and the current warrants as listed:

AEP Energy	\$6,682.98
Blue Cross Blue Shield	\$19,872.04
Bonnell Industries	\$84.16
Byron Bank	\$2,450.02
Central Square	\$4,878.30
Comcast	\$257.19
Envision Healthcare, Inc	\$199.00
Ferguson Enterprises LLC #3325	\$222.65
Fidelity Security Life Insurance	\$175.50
Fischer's	\$2,571.00
Frontier	\$117.36
Hawkins, Inc	\$392.00
Helm Civil	\$985.57
Illinois Office of the State Fire Marshal	\$75.00
Know Be4, Inc	\$1,483.72
Laura Medlar	\$217.00
Liz Hiemstra	\$312.50
MCS Advertising	\$75.00

Menards	\$375.89
Nicor	\$444.00
NW Illinois Criminal Justice Commission	\$827.48
Ogle County Brewery, LLC	\$45,000.00
Ogle County Drug Traffic Prevention Fund	\$487.75
Oregon Community Unit School Dist. #220	\$11,558.24
Pace Analytical Services	\$1,026.50
Pirtek	\$837.11
Polo Cooperative Assoc	\$4,200.19
Secretary of State	\$8.00
Secretary of State	\$29.00
Steve Benesh & Sons	\$2,033.16
USA Bluebook	\$78.24
Wastewater Management of Northern IL	\$15,750.00
Willett Hofmann & Associates	\$1,260.35
	\$124,966.90

Seconded by Commissioner Kurt Wilson.

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

Commissioner Kurt Wilson moved to approve a Raffle License for the Oregon Lions Club, Seconded by Commissioner Melanie Cozzi.

Discussion: Commissioner Kurt Wilson stated everything was in order and turned in on time.

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

Commissioner Terry Schuster moved to approve Ordinance 2023-008 an Ordinance Approving and Authorizing the Execution of a TIF Redevelopment Agreement between the City of Oregon and White Pine Mercantile, LLC and Robert Miller and Sheri Donaldson, Seconded by Commissioner Melanie Cozzi.

Discussion: Commissioner Terry Schuster stated this is a new retail business that will be in the downtown area. The opening date has not been set yet. Mayor Ken Williams said this is a lease subsidy grant in the amount of six hundred dollars per month. Commissioner Terry Schuster said the first year is extremely difficult for a new business and the lease subsidy grant is very helpful.

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

Mayor Ken Williams moved to approve the FOP Contract, Seconded by Commissioner Terry Schuster.

Discussion: Mayor Ken Williams said this contract was discussed during the executive session at a previous meeting. City Administrator Darin DeHaan reminded the City Council that the contract is for four years except for the portion regarding salaries. That portion of the contract will be reviewed in two years. The contract will also be available on the City website as well as at City Hall.

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

1st Reading of Ordinance 2023-007 Updates to Chapter 2 of City Code regarding Change of Government. City Administrator Darin DeHaan said he researched other communities who have a Council Manager Form of Government. The proposed changes are for structural changes pertaining to the new form of government. The changes include electronic attendance at meetings, guidance for public comment, city council meetings and structure, independent audits, emergency succession, and meeting disturbances. Mayor Ken Williams asked the council members to review the ordinance.

1st Reading of Ordinance 2023-009 Updates to City Code to reflect Change of Government. City Administrator Darin DeHaan said anything within the city code that referenced commissioner has been amended to council member. The specific roles that a commissioner would have had in the old code will no longer be in place, instead the department head will take over those responsibilities. Some positions in the old code no longer exist. Mayor Ken Williams said the changes are shown throughout the ordinance. He asked the council members to review the ordinance.

Mayor Ken Williams proclaimed April 28th, 2023 as Arbor Day within the City of Oregon.

City Administrator Darin DeHaan said this proclamation is getting the city prepared to be a Tree City USA city. The Tree Board is very excited to see this vision come to fruition. Commissioner Terry Schuster said the city is prepared and has funds set aside to cover the costs to replace trees that have been removed from the city terraces. He hopes there is a way to educate and communicate this to residents. Mayor Ken Williams said a spring newsletter will be going out and could include the information regarding the tree replacement program. The newsletter will also contain information about upcoming street projects.

Public Works Director Bill Covell said he has a meeting tomorrow with LAI about the blowers at the treatment plant. He thanked the public works department for keeping the streets open with the recent hailstorm.

City Administrator Darin DeHaan said the exterior vision of the Sarah Phelps Plaza is almost completed. He also said the public works department is going to complete the work on the deck at the Coliseum. This will be one of the final steps for the fire egress at the Coliseum.

Commissioner Terry Schuster said the Oregon Park District received a grant that will provide funding for a multi-use path along River Road. This path will connect the city to Lowden State Park. The city completed the first part behind the fire department last year. The city will also have to engineer and fund a section of path by the gas station at River Road and Rt. 64. This will also be connected to the city river walk. The city's request for a grant was denied. Once the city receives the IEPA report for the old Dayton Superior location, a few of the old buildings along the river can be taken down. Eventually the river walk will be constructed on city and park district property and use existing streets to connect the downtown to the Oregon Depot Museum.

Commissioner Melanie Cozzi congratulated the City Council members on their re-elections. She also thanked everyone for providing leadership and guidance to her during her first term as a commissioner. She said she is working on proposals for the Farmer's Market and will be sharing those with the council soon.

City Attorney Paul Chadwick is continuing to work with BNSF on the railroad property that is located at the Public Works department. Mayor Ken Williams said BNSF has accepted the city offer, now it is just housekeeping to get the documentation together.

Mayor Ken Williams thanked everyone and is looking forward to a new term. He said the Comprehensive Plan will provide the city with direction from residents on how to shape the future of the city. He is looking forward to the next four years. He said it has been a great council to work with.

Commissioner Kurt Wilson moved to adjourn the meeting, Seconded by Commissioner Melanie Cozzi.

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

Adjourn: 6:03 P.M.

Ken Williams, Mayor

Attest: _____
Cheryl Hilton, City Clerk