

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday August 22nd, 2023, 5:30 P.M.
City Hall Council Chambers
115 N 3rd Street

The Council of the City of Oregon met Tuesday August 22nd, 2023, at 5:30 P.M.

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

Present: Mayor Ken Williams
Council Member Melanie Cozzi
Council Member Tim Krug
Council Member Terry Schuster
Council Member Kurt Wilson
City Manager Darin DeHaan
Deputy Chief of Police Matt Kalnins
City Attorney Paul Chadwick
City Clerk Cheryl Hilton

Also Present: Jacy Bradley, Public Works Director Bill Covell, Mark Herman,
Liz Hiemstra, Mark & Annette Johnson, Kim Krug, Denise &
Brody Massole, Aaron Mudge, Northwest Area Realtors, Liz Vos,
Nicole Wesselman, and Brian Wynn.

Present via Zoom: Lynn Baylor-Zies, Dominic Cozzi, Earleen Hinton, and Joy
Schuble.

Mayor Ken Williams called the meeting to order.

Council Member Melanie Cozzi started the pledge of allegiance.

Members of the Northwest Illinois Alliance of Realtors presented a check to the city for seven thousand five hundred dollars for the Sarah Phelps Community Plaza.

Public Comment: City Manager Darin DeHaan read a public comment submitted by Jean Suneson regarding the change to the AOP route. Jacy Bradley asked what the reasoning behind the change was. Mayor Ken Williams stated the city was approached by the Sheriff with safety concerns. He said the world we live in today is not the same as it used to be. City Manager Darin DeHaan said he has had this concern for many years. He said no community is immune from the potential of a bad actor. Senior officers with experience and inside information on what is going on in the country came together to make a reasonable plan for this event. The parade route was changed to allow heavy barricades to be put into place to prevent parade interference. There have been many occasions where an unauthorized vehicle has entered the parade route. Dennis Massole asked if making the area smaller was safer. City Manager Darin DeHaan said the overall space is not confining people to a certain area. Nicole Wesselman asked why the public was not notified of the changes and allowed to express their opinion on the change. Other concerns included the detour route, and increased traffic and parking on Monroe Street. Dennis Massole asked about the old Dayton Superior property. Mayor Ken Williams stated the property is now owned by the City of Oregon and used by the street department. The old foundry there is collapsing and needs to be torn down. An EPA study was conducted to make sure there were no contaminates in the soil. The study came back clean and now the buildings can be torn down. Brody Massole asked why the

fundraiser signs were removed from the terraces. Mayor Ken Williams said no signs are allowed to be on city terraces. If a sign is found on the terrace, it is removed and stored at City Hall. City Manager Darin DeHaan said when a sign is removed it becomes an educational process. The sign is removed and then the ordinance is explained to the person who collects the sign from City Hall. The signs were never thrown in the garbage.

Council Member Kurt Wilson moved to approve the August 8th, 2023, minutes, Seconded by Council Member Melanie Cozzi.

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

Council Member Terry Schuster moved to approve payroll in the amount of \$58,564.28 and the current warrants as listed:

AEP Energy	\$2,817.15
Alavardo Plumbing, Inc	\$1,410.00
Altum Star, Inc	\$30,000.00
Arm Scor Cartridge Inc	\$270.00
Ancel Glink P.C.	\$120.00
Bufalo Contracting	\$28,779.28
Caspers Home Inspection LLC	\$1,500.00
Cheryl Hilton	\$115.70
Cintas	\$105.94
City of Oregon	\$5,000.00
City of Oregon	\$12,861.70
City of Oregon	\$50,400.00
Civic Plus LLC	\$2,700.00
Comcast	\$844.53
ComEd	\$76.93
ComEd	\$456.22
Conserv FS	\$208.93
Constellation	\$3,307.56
Dixon Glass Co	\$5,951.24
Ecolab	\$157.04
Ehmen	\$203.14
Ehmen	\$3,450.00
Eric Higby	\$3,000.00
Ferguson Enterprises LLC #3325	\$623.75
Freeport Industrial Roofing Inc	\$78,612.50
Hagemann Horticulture LLC	\$22,519.59
Jasman Martin	\$250.00
John Ebens	\$4,860.00
Ken Williams	\$22.89
Know B 4	\$1,483.72
Kurt Wilson	\$25.00
Liz Hiemstra	\$312.50
Mark Nehr Korn	\$600.00
Mark Nehr Korn	\$8,687.07
Melanie Cozzi	\$25.00
Merlin's Greenhouse and Flowers	\$60.00

Mid-West Truckers Association, Inc	\$90.00
Nicholson 1 Communications	\$45.00
Ogle County Economic Development Corporation	\$23,500.00
Old National Bank	\$1,925.60
Pace Analytical Services	\$45.00
Republic Services #721	\$20,344.80
Postmaster	\$828.75
Rockford Tech-Systems, Inc	\$727.50
Sauk Valley Media	\$51.85
Stillman BancCorp	\$2,036.03
Sun Life Financial	\$339.03
SuperValu	\$90.63
Terry Schuster	\$368.19
Terry Weil	\$200.00
Tonya Hardy	\$600.00
Verizon	\$466.72
Village of Progress	\$1,050.00
Wipfli	\$11,900.00
	\$336,426.48

Seconded by Council Member Kurt Wilson.

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

Council Member Terry Schuster moved to approve a Variance of Sign Ordinance request submitted by Ogle County Brewery for the property located at 110 N 4th Street parcel #16-03-159-009, Seconded by Council Member Kurt Wilson.

Discussion: Brian Wynn thanked Mayor Ken Williams and City Manager Darin DeHaan. He said things posted on social media had gotten out of control. He said the response from the social media post was very encouraging and supportive. He said Mayor Williams provided clarification on the social media post which was very helpful. He said he appreciates all the help and support. City Manager Darin DeHaan said the variance request submitted for 110 N 4th Street is a variation of the city code to exceed the fifty square foot maximum size of a commercial sign. The issue is the size of the sign, not the content. Under the city code, the cigar itself is advertising. A plain mural is not considered a sign. Once the advertisement is added to the mural, the entire mural becomes a sign per city code and requires a variance. Mayor Ken Williams said a variance would not be required if the signs were a separate constructed material attached to the building and less than fifty square feet. Council Member Tim Krug thanked Brian Wynn for the investment he is making in the community. He asked what the other alternatives are for this building and what additional signage would be added. He has seen several different ideas. He asked what the final rendition would look like. Brian Wynn said due to damage caused to the front of the building by the marquee a lot of work needed to be completed on the structure. The structural damage to the brick has been repaired but he is hesitant to add anything of weight to the front of the building. He also stated it would be very costly to rework the mural. Council Member Melanie Cozzi said the original communication needs to be discussed. She said we need to get back to the root cause of why the cigar is on the mural and a variance is now being applied for. She said initial communication stated the Bad Ash Cigar, lounge or cigar could not be added to the mural, as those are all advertisements. Bryan Wynn said they believed the cigar to

be artwork. Mayor Ken Williams said the City Council has the option to approve, deny, or resubmit the application to the Planning Commission for them to further investigate. He also stated this could be tabled with a specific date in mind to be resolved later. Council Member Melanie Cozzi stated that before the consideration to table the motion, a discussion needs to be had regarding the advertisement and FDA regulations. She said there are required warning statements that would need to be added to the advertisement regarding tobacco products. Bryan Wynn said he would like the additional time to consult with his partners.

Council Member Tim Krug moved to table the Variance of Sign Ordinance request submitted by Ogle County Brewery for the property located at 110 N 4th Street parcel #16-03-159-009 till the next Council Meeting, Seconded by Mayor Ken Williams.

Discussion: Council Member Terry Schuster said it is his understanding that the variance request is being tabled. Mayor Ken Williams said yes, the request would be tabled until the next meeting. Council Member Terry Schuster said if before the next meeting a request for signage is received that makes the variance request moot, then the request for a variance just disappears. The application is considered withdrawn.

Roll Call: Cozzi, Nay. Krug, Yea. Schuster, Nay. Wilson, Nay. Williams, Nay. Motion Denied.

Council Member Terry Schuster said he voted no to table the variance because the intention of Bryan Wynn is to fix this and create signs that would be attached to the building. Mayor Ken Williams said the City Council could agree that no action would be taken against what's there now and a grace period of thirty days for resubmission. Brian Wynn thanked Council Member Melanie Cozzi for looking into the FDA regulations, he said that is something they missed. He said they will need time to make alterations and come up with a new design that fits within the parameters.

Council Member Terry Schuster moved to approve a Variance of Sign Ordinance request submitted by Ogle County Brewery for the property located at 110 N 4th Street parcel #16-03-159-009, Seconded by Council Member Kurt Wilson.

Roll Call: Cozzi, Nay. Krug, Nay. Schuster, Nay. Wilson, Yea. Williams, Nay. Motion denied.

Mayor Ken Williams made a motion that action by the city will be held for thirty days subject to reworking a new sign design and resubmitting an application for a sign permit or another variance, Seconded by Council Member Tim Krug.

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

Council Member Tim Krug moved to approve Pay Estimate #8 to O'Brien Civil Works Inc. in the amount of \$64,464.61 for 3rd Street Reconstruction Project, Seconded by Council Member Terry Schuster.

Discussion: Public Works Director Bill Covell stated this is not the final pay estimate.

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

Council Member Kurt Wilson moved to approve Resolution 2023-3 in Support of Participation in the Safe Routes to School Program within the City of Oregon, Seconded by Council Member Melanie Cozzi.

Discussion: City Manager Darin DeHaan said there is two hundred thousand dollars available in grant money for safe routes to school. If the grant is approved, walking paths would be installed along Koontz Place and Jefferson Street. He has been collaborating on this project with the Oregon School District and the Oregon Park District. Council Member Melanie Cozzi said she frequently walks along Hawk Drive to Park West; due to the ditch and traffic it can be unsafe. She said this will be much nicer and safer for the community.

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

Council Member Melanie Cozzi moved to approve Resolution 2023-4 AOP Parade Route, Seconded by Council Member Kurt Wilson.

Discussion: City Manager Darin DeHaan said he will do his best to answer any questions received by the public. Council Member Terry Schuster stated this was a decision made by collaborating with many entities within the city such as the Sheriff Department, the AOP Committee, and the Oregon Fire Department. Council Member Melanie Cozzi asked if an officer could be stationed at River Road and Rt 64 to help direct traffic. Deputy Chief of Police Matt Kalnins said he would work on this.

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

Council Member Kurt Wilson moved to approve a Raffle License for Oregon Area Chamber of Commerce, Seconded by Council Member Tim Krug.

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

Council Member Tim Krug moved to approve Ordinance 2023-015 Raffle Licenses, Seconded by Council Member Terry Schuster.

Discussion: City Manager Darin DeHaan said this will help expedite the process.

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

Mayor Ken Williams proclaimed September 8th and 9th 2023 as Intellectually Disabled Days.

Work Session: Downtown Weed Control Plan

City Manager Darin DeHaan said in a previous Council meeting, there was discussion of the Public Works Department taking over weed control in the downtown. He reviewed the existing snow removal guidelines for reference, there would be approximately one and a half miles of road and sidewalks for the public works department to maintain. Council Member Terry Schuster suggested minimizing and using an overlay map of the downtown historic district. He said this would save time for staff and be beneficial to the

downtown businesses. Mayor Ken Williams also said the use of pre-emergent would be helpful. Public Works Director Bill Covell said the side-by-side will be used in the weed control maintenance in the future. Council Member Terry Schuster also mentioned licenses for spraying weeds was also an issue. Public Works Director Bill Covell said they are waiting to receive certification cards. City Manager Darin DeHaan said he will bring a plan with an overlay of the historic district back to City Council for review.

Reports:

Public Works Director Bill Covell said construction is going well and on time. Concrete work should be completed next week. Pavement completion within the next couple of weeks. Monroe and 2nd Street will be milled so pavement can be done at the same time. He also met with Martin's about 8th Street. The generator project begins this week as well as the EV project.

City Manager Darin DeHaan received a thank you letter from the Historical Society for the ARPA funds provided for the repair to their porch.

Mayor Ken Williams thanked everyone. A lot of issues were discussed. He stated local businesses and merchants are a high priority because we succeed when our businesses succeed.

Council Member Melanie Cozzi moved to adjourn the meeting, Seconded by Council Member Tim Krug.

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

Adjourn: 7:01 P.M.

Ken Williams, Mayor

Attest: _____
Cheryl Hilton, City Clerk