

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday October 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 October 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  
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: Bill Covell and George Howe.

Present via Zoom: Lynn Baylor-Zies and Earleen Hinton.

Mayor Ken Williams called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

Council Member Terry Schuster started the pledge of allegiance.

Council Members Cozzi, Krug, Schuster, Wilson, and Williams answered roll call.

**Presentations**

None

**Public Comment**

None

**Approval of Minutes**

Council Member Kurt Wilson moved to approve the September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023, minutes,  
Seconded by Council Member Tim Krug.

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

**Approval of Warrants & Payroll**

Council Member Melanie Cozzi moved to approve payroll in the amount of \$57,600.12  
and the current warrants as listed:

Ace Hardware & Outdoor Center	\$267.99
AEP Energy	\$3,495.44
Bill Covell	\$100.00
Blue Cross Blue Shield	\$14,149.43
Comcast	\$1,028.20
Dixon Glass Co	\$557.09
Ehmen	\$1,355.77

Envision Healthcare	\$210.00
Ferguson Waterworks	\$335.93
Fidelity Security Life Insurance	\$158.82
Fischer's	\$355.60
Frontier	\$117.36
Hagemann Horticulture LLC	\$2,300.00
Hometown Auto Repair, LLC	\$163.76
Illinois EPA	\$58,374.60
Iwater	\$1,666.67
James Taylor	\$480.00
Liz Hiemstra	\$312.50
Maison Crawford	\$47.02
Manheim Solutions	\$2,592.00
Mark Nehrkorn	\$600.00
Mark Nehrkorn	\$2,065.54
Mark Nehrkorn	\$13,565.31
Martin and Company	\$525.28
Menards	\$136.56
NAPA	\$193.45
Oregon Area Chamber of Commerce	\$140.00
Oregon Rotary Club	\$115.00
Oregon SuperValu	\$21.04
Pace Analytical Services	\$2,088.10
Polo Cooperative Association	\$5,776.10
Postmaster	\$11.11
Postmaster	\$51.36
Quill	\$242.49
Republic Services #721	\$68.00
Roger's Ready Mix	\$1,120.50
Shaw Media/Sauk Valley Media	\$218.40
SynConn Solutions Inc	\$1,125.00
Uniform Den	\$171.00
Verdin Company	\$4,355.00
Visa	\$1,222.68
White Pines Mercantile, LLC	\$395.00
Willett Hofmann & Associates	\$7,885.20
Zarnoth Brush Works	\$418.70
Zoro Tools, Inc	\$305.24
	<b>\$130,884.24</b>

Seconded by Council Member Kurt Wilson.

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

### **Business Items**

Council Member Tim Krug moved to approve the new Public Art Commission members Chloe Metz, Shirley Battin, and Randee Mennenga, Seconded by Council Member Kurt Wilson.

**Discussion:** City Manager Darin DeHaan said this now completes the number of commission members needed.

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

Council Member Tim Krug moved to accept the Resignation of Darin DeHaan and Terry Schuster from the Public Art Commission, Seconded by Council Member Melanie Cozzi.

**Discussion:** Mayor Ken Williams thanked them for filling the position temporarily.

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

Council Member Terry Schuster moved to approve a Community Art ARPA Grant of \$5,000 to the Oregon Area Chamber of Commerce for the mural to be located at 122 N. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Seconded by Council Member Kurt Wilson.

**Discussion:** City Manager Darin DeHaan said the application for the mural was submitted before the grant program was in place. The mural has a broad representation of the area and was approved unanimously by the Public Art Commission.

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

Council Member Tim Krug moved to approve a Community Art ARPA Grant of \$5,000 to Merlin Hagemann for the mural to be located at 301 Mix Street, Seconded by Council Member Melanie Cozzi.

**Discussion:** City Manager Darin DeHaan said the artist of the proposed work is self-taught out of Polo. The location of the mural will be on the Other Side Boutique and face Merlin's Greenhouse. The building is corrugated metal, and each panel will be painted. The members of the Public Art Commission were familiar with the artists' work and approved the recommendation of the mural.

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

Council Member Terry Schuster moved to approve a Community Art ARPA Grant of \$5,000 to Nora Balayti and Liz Hiemstra for the mural to be located at 101 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Seconded by Council Member Tim Krug.

**Discussion:** Mayor Ken Williams said this mural will be located on the side of the Village Bakery building. City Manager Darin DeHaan said the Public Art Commission was concerned with the layout of the mural. He said the design is more simplistic to encourage involvement of the Village Bakery employees. The mural that is currently located on the building will be refreshed by John Barnhart and moved to another location.



The location has not yet been determined. The current condition of the brick on the building is also a concern.

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

**Proclamations, Commendations, etc.**

None

**Discussion Items**

**Update and Discuss Bad Ash Cigars mural and elements of advertising:** City

Manager Darin DeHaan said he spoke with Josh last week. Josh stated they are having issues getting the artist back to make the necessary changes to the mural. He spoke with Brian today, and he said the cigar should be removed in 7 to 10 days. He said they will be fined if the cigar is not removed after 10 days. Mayor Ken Williams stated a formalized letter will be written to notify the owners. The intention of the owners is to place the cigar back on the mural as a sign. A building permit will need to be submitted to the City Building Inspector for review and approval.

**Committee Reports**

**Planning:** Planning Commission toured the Moring Property located at 309 S. 1<sup>st</sup> Street. Sally Moring has submitted an application to use the property as a Short-Term rental. The area being used as a Short-Term rental is separate from the old manufacturing space and has a separate entrance.

**Economic and Community Development:** City Manager Darin DeHaan said the Ogle County Economic Development Coalition has finished the bylaws and business plan. He also made a presentation earlier tonight to the County Finance Committee to request county funding of the coalition. The hope is to have an Economic Development Executive Director that acts county wide.

Mayor Ken Williams said the building across the street has been completely remodeled and is very neat and upscale. The old dentist's office will be available for rent at the end of the month. The façade of the H&R Block building is being reconstructed, and they are applying for a façade grant. The old Mississippi building located at 125 S 4<sup>th</sup> Street will be the new location for Beam Beauty Bar. A wedding shop is due to be in the old Savings Bank building at the end of the month. Council Member Terry Schuster asked about Ogle County Brewery and their intentions of being a canning facility. Mayor Ken Williams said a special license is needed from the state to make and can the product at the same time. It is a production license. The state has been delayed for about 6 months.

**Finance:** City Manager Darin DeHaan said he will be scheduling quarterly budget meetings with department heads soon.

**Sustainability:** Council Member Melanie Cozzi said the committee met with Region One planning today and they laid out the groundwork for developing the plan for Oregon. They will be presenting statistics, doing community surveys, and work on community outreach and then start to refine the plan moving forward.

**Tree Board:** City Manager Darin DeHaan said he received a possible grant from Morton Arboretum for tree planting. The grant would pay for at least a year of tree planting.

**Public Arts Commission:** None.

**Other:** City Manager Darin DeHaan said he just received a rough draft of the Comprehensive Plan from NIU. They would like any comments or suggestions to be back to them soon so they can finish the first draft.

#### **Department Reports**

**Deputy Chief of Police Matt Kalnins:** Thanked the public works department for all the help during AOP. He also thanked City Manager Darin DeHaan for taking control of the command center. The Ogle County ERT team was also present during AOP for security.

**Public Works Director Bill Covell:** Thanked the public works department, the Oregon Police Department, and the Ogle County Sheriff's Department for all the help during AOP. Council Member Terry Schuster asked about construction on 9<sup>th</sup> Street. Bill Covell stated the project will not be completed this year. He said he is preparing projects now so they can go out to bid earlier next year. He is also working with GIS for barricade locations for next year during AOP. Comcast and ComEd will be coming into town to clean up loose and low hanging wires. He also welcomed Corey, Aaron, and Josh to the department.

**City Clerk Cheryl Hilton:** Annual treasurer's report is in the packet for review. She also welcomed Lisa Payne to City Hall staff.

**City Attorney Paul Chadwick:** He will be attending an ordinance violation hearing tomorrow.

**City Manager Darin DeHaan:** He said he saw great coordination with all the departments during AOP. It takes a lot to pull off a large festival like that.

#### **Council Reports**

**Council Member Kurt Wilson:** Thanked everyone for the service provided during AOP.

**Council Member Melanie Cozzi:** Thanked everyone for a wonderful AOP festival.

**Mayor Ken Williams:** Thanked everyone for all the extra time and work that went into AOP.

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

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

Adjourn: 6:33 P.M.

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Ken Williams, Mayor

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