



Our Mission: To foster an environment of economic growth and opportunity through effective partnerships with our citizens, businesses, and visitors while maintaining a high standard for quality of life in a progressive community which embraces its heritage.

CITY OF OREGON

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To: Mayor Ken Williams & Oregon City Council

From: Darin J. DeHaan, City Manager

Re: Bi-monthly Report

DATE: Dec 12, 2023

I am pleased to provide Mayor Williams and the Oregon City Council with the following synopsis of City Business for – Nov 25, 2023 – Dec 8, 2023

Submitted by Darin DeHaan - City Manager:

- I met with Public Works department heads and we have begun the process of prioritizing public works projects for FY25 in preparation for the bid process next year. I have asked Department Heads to also look at their Capital Vehicle replacement needs going forward.
- I attended a webinar on financial internal controls for the City. Cheryl and I are working with our auditors to make sure we have the best system of checks and balances that we can have.
- I joined Dep Chief Kalnins and Randy Cropp on a drive to Salem Indiana to pick up two new squad cars. After a 3 hour traffic jam we were finally able to take possession of the new squads. This has been a three year struggle to get new squad cars, due to lack of availability to replace some of our aging fleet. I'm working with Dep Chief Kalnins on equipment and other needs for budget purposes.
- We are taking a TEAM approach to apply for a Tourism Grant for CMAAA and the Oregon Coliseum for structural improvements and enhancing ADA access to the building. Huge thank you to everyone involved in this process.
- I worked through a few citizen concerns over the past few weeks. I'm always thankful when we can have good communication and work through any potential issues.
- I'm working with Liz Vos Marketing to complete the city newsletter. We are nearing the final draft and I hope to get that pushed out to the community before the Holidays. We are also discussing some marketing strategies for the future for Oregon.
- The Exec Board of the Ogle County Economic Development Corporation held interviews for the position of Executive Director. We have narrowed our selection to three candidates for in-person interviews which we hope to complete on December 18th.
- I worked with Mayor Williams and Council Member Schuster to do a finite review of the new comprehensive plan. We provided NIU with 53 notes and details to look over for revisions. I hope to have the plan ready for public review the 1st of the year.

- I met with Blackhawk Regional Council to go over the software their grant provided for our Capital Improvement Plan updates. I think this is going to be a great process for our community and will provide good interactive digital access to our plan for our citizens going forward.
- Thank you to CMAAA for allowing US Solar to host a meeting with the residents next to their Solar Farm project which will be going in on Oregon Trail Road. Residents should receive notice from US Solar with meeting information. They will be working on landscaping and visual barriers with the affected residents.
- We are contemplating working with NIU graduate students for a Capstone project this semester. We see a need to take a deeper dive into our housing crisis and try to formulate a plan to meet the needs of our community.
- I continue to work with the Ogle County Economic Development Corporation board of directors on several initiatives. We have a meeting coming up on the Next Move Group to look at our candidates for our 1st Executive Director. I look forward to getting a professional in place to help lead this organization forward and to look at innovative ways to spur appropriate economic development projects throughout Ogle County.

City Hall:

- City Hall will be closed Monday December 25th for Christmas Day.
- City Hall continues to field questions about emailing options for water bills. We have interest in providing this service, but staff are still working out the new system.

Sustainability Committee:

Next meeting 12/11/2023 9:00 a.m.

We will be meeting with Region 1 Planning at the December meeting to work on the Sustainability Plan.

Economic and Community Development Committee:

Next meeting 1/2/24 at 5:00 p.m. Oregon City Hall Conference Room

City Council Meeting:

Next meeting 1/9/24 at 5:30 p.m. Oregon City Hall Council Chambers

Planning & Zoning:

Next meeting 1/16/2024 at 5:30 p.m. Oregon City Hall Council Chambers

Tree Board:

Next Meeting TBD

Public Art Commission:

Next Meeting TBD

Submitted by Bill Covell - Director of Public Works:

Street Department:

- Finished columns for posts at Sara Phelps
- Street Sweeping
- Maintenance on trucks
- Snow plow prep
- IML Regional Training
- Restored office floors at street department building



Water / Sewer Departments:

- Julie locates for due to fiber optic installation
- Daily chores and samples
- Pump sludge
- Monthly samples
- Monthly reports
- IML Regional Training

Director of Public Works:

- IML Regional Training
- Observed and helped with the generator issues
- Observed road work at Trestle Ridge
- Pay estimate for striping on mill & overlay projects



Submitted by Deputy Chief Matthew Kalnins:

Police Department:

- After about 3 years of trying to obtain new squad cars for the police department, we were able to purchase 2 new Dodge Durangos. They will be fitted with lights and side decals in the coming months and assigned to patrol. Thank you Randy Cropp and Darin DeHaan for enduring the trip down, 3 hour delay in traffic and the trip back.



- On 12-02-2023 Detective Crawford and Officer Lester attended Shop with a Cop with several area agencies in Freeport. Shop with a Cop is a great organization that provides gifts for local children during the holiday season.

