

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 5:30 P.M.  
City Hall Council Chambers  
115 N 3<sup>rd</sup> Street

The Council of the City of Oregon met Tuesday March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 5:30 P.M.

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

Present: Mayor Ken Williams  
Council Member Tim Krug  
Council Member Terry Schuster  
Council Member Kurt Wilson  
City Manager Darin DeHaan  
Sergeant Tad Dominski  
City Clerk Cheryl Hilton

Absent: Council Member Melanie Cozzi and City Attorney Paul Chadwick.

Also Present: Mike Bowers and George Howe.

Present via Zoom: Lynn Baylor-Zies and Bill Covell.

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

Council Member Tim Krug started the pledge of allegiance.

Council Members Krug, Schuster, Wilson, and Mayor Williams answered roll call. A quorum was present. Council Member Melanie Cozzi was absent.

**Public Comment**

None.

**Presentations**

Mike Bowers presented the City Council with two signs that were designed by himself and Roger Cain for the Phelps Kitchen and the Steve Benesh Bench. He said Terry Schuster had expressed concern over the size and the amount of wording on the initial sign designs. He did not want the new signs to overshadow what was already there or lose interest while reading the sign. Mike stated they will be looking into concerns made by Council Member Terry Schuster. Both signs would be constructed of aluminum material and approximately 18 x 24 inches. The Benesh family will be providing the funding for the Benesh bench sign, and the Phelps Summer Kitchen fund will be providing the funding for the Phelps Kitchen sign with money left over from moving the building. He said they are not asking for any funding to be provided by the city. He asked the City Council for their approval of the project.

**Approval of Minutes**

Council Member Tim Krug moved to approve the March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024, minutes, Seconded by Council Member Kurt Wilson.

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

### Approval of Warrants & Payroll

Council Member Kurt Wilson moved to approve payroll in the amount of \$59,437.77 and the current warrants as listed:

Altorfer	\$25.50
Ancil Glink P. C.	\$55.00
Blue Cross Blue Shield	\$16,673.50
Caspers Home Inspection LLC	\$1,500.00
City of Oregon	\$5,000.00
Comcast	\$797.30
Comcast	\$849.96
ComEd	\$26.20
ComEd	\$239.81
ComEd	\$795.64
Constellation	\$637.57
Discover Dixon	\$1,000.00
Euclid Managers	\$1,632.02
Fearer, Nye & Chadwick	\$4,232.15
Fehr Graham	\$3,500.00
Fehr Graham	\$4,000.00
Fehr Graham	\$7,290.00
Fehr Graham	\$7,800.00
Fischer's, Inc	\$804.02
Frontier	\$77.37
Fyr Fyter	\$116.35
Hometown Auto Repair, LLC	\$150.62
Illinois EPA	\$58,374.60
Illinois Office of the State Fire Marshal	\$75.00
Illinois State Police	\$20.00
Ken Williams	\$50.00
Maison Crawford	\$204.00
Manheim Solutions	\$2,592.00
NAPA	\$423.20
Nicor	\$369.64
No Stone Unturned Crystals & More LLC	\$225.00
Northern Illinois Mayors Association	\$125.00
Plum Electric, Inc	\$584.98
Polo Cooperative	\$3,128.68
Postmaster	\$680.00
Postmaster	\$750.48
Stillman Bancorp	\$2,036.03
Sun Life Financial	\$385.56
Terry Lester	\$14.00
Terry Schuster	\$25.00
Tonya Hardy Happily Handmade	\$600.00
Verizon	\$634.28
Village of Progress	\$1,280.00
Visa	\$295.14
Visa	\$403.28
Visa	\$2,382.12
White Pine Mercantile, LLC	\$395.00

**\$133,256.00**

Seconded by Council Member Tim Krug.

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

**Business Items**

Council Member Tim Krug moved to approve the Signs for the Phelps Kitchen and Benesh Bench in concept, Seconded by Council Member Terry Schuster.

**Discussion:** Mayor Ken Williams said he liked the comments made by Council Member Terry Schuster regarding the size and wording. He said the signs will be a great addition and enhance the area. City Manager Darin DeHaan said public interest is gaining in those green spaces, such as the Sarah Phelps Plaza.

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

**Proclamations, Commendations, etc.**

None.

**Discussion Items**

**Update Ordinance 14.24.110 Brush and Yard Waste – Placing Leaf Bags in the**

**Street:** City Manager Darin DeHaan stated the Planning Commission has reviewed and discussed the current ordinance multiple times. A resident presented to the Planning Commission his view at their last meeting. The resident was concerned the leaf bags were obstructing the street and minimizing parking. The Planning Commission recommended the City Council discuss and review the current ordinance but made no decision on the matter. City Manager Darin DeHaan said some locations within the city cannot put leaf bags on terraces due to the slope of the terrace. He has also looked at other communities for reference and could not find any examples to bring to the City Council for review. Council Member Terry Schuster said there really is no other community regulating this by ordinance. If we do create an ordinance, we have no idea what the impact or burden will be on other residents in the community. He asked if this is really something the entire city needs. Council Member Tim Krug thought residents should be allowed to put the yard waste in the street for collection purposes. He also said the paper bags sitting out there for four or five days does create a problem. City Manager Darin DeHaan said the north end of town is also very heavily populated with trees. A lot of those residents have tons of leaves to bag and put on the terrace, he felt asking those residents to move fifteen to twenty bags of leaves twice would be burdensome. He said there will be implications trying to solve one person's issue in one area. He has collaborated with this resident multiple times to resolve the issue and the Planning Commission has reviewed this issue three times. Mayor Ken Williams said to also keep in mind residents use garbage cans with an X on them instead of paper bags. He asked the Council to consider the implications of creating something for one occurrence that may ricochet into multiple other occurrences. Mayor Williams suggested either leaving things as they are, add a time restriction and or add a placement restriction. The City Council advised City Manager Darin DeHaan not to take action or change the current ordinance. Mayor Ken Williams asked if the issue were to become more prevalent within the community, that the City Council be notified.



### Committee Reports

**Economic and Community Development:** Current projects include boosting tourism and affordable housing. Mayor Ken Williams said a meeting has been scheduled with officials from the City of Rockford to discuss a unique housing program they offer. Mayor Ken Williams also stated Blackhawk Statue would be added to the state highway tourism sign on Rt. 39. Council Member Terry Schusted said to try to increase visibility of local businesses in town, the city will be purchasing stands called Zappy Cards, for customers to scan. The Zappy Cards will allow for the customer to easily leave a Google Review for the business. The review can then be seen on Google Maps and over time a “pin” to be created for the business. These “pins” can then be seen by people traveling through the area, making the business more visible. The Chamber of Commerce is connecting with local businesses and educating them on the program.

**Finance:** Mayor Ken Williams said the end of the fiscal year is April 30<sup>th</sup>. Year-end transfers will also be completed at the end of the month. The new fiscal year begins May 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Tree Board:** City Manager Darin DeHaan said the Tree USA application is still at the committee for review.

### Department Reports

**Police Sergeant Tad Dominski:** The department has been performing interviews and has three possible candidates.

**Public Works Director Bill Covell:** The department is currently looking for summer help. He also said one of the new blowers is up and running at the treatment plant. He thanked Scott Wallace and Jeff Pennington for all their hard work on the project. They are also working on the sidewalk program and street sweeping.

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

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

Adjourn: 5:58 P.M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ken Williams, Mayor

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