

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday August 27th, 2024, 5:30 P.M.
City Hall Council Chambers
115 N 3rd Street

The Council of the City of Oregon met Tuesday August 27th, 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 Melanie Cozzi
Council Member Tim Krug
Council Member Terry Schuster
Council Member Kurt Wilson
City Manager Darin DeHaan
City Attorney Paul Chadwick
Chief of Police Matt Kalnins
City Clerk Cheryl Hilton

Also Present: Bill Covell, Mark Herman, Brian Wynn, Taylor Buckwalter and friends/family.

Present via Zoom: Jordan Plock.

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

Chief of Police Matt Kalnins started the pledge of allegiance.

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

Presentation

None.

Public Comment

A member of Taylor Buckwalter's family thanked the City Council for their hospitality.

Approval of Minutes

Council Member Kurt Wilson moved to approve the August 13th, 2024, 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 \$67,864.25 and the current warrants as listed:

All Occasions Flowers & Gifts	\$66.90
Ancel Glink, P.C.	\$1,265.00
Autumn on Parade	\$2,000.00
Axon Enterprise Inc	\$5,976.00
Black Diamond & Mechanical Inc	\$165.00
Blue Cross Blue Shield	\$17,747.37
Butitta Bros. Automotive - Oregon	\$282.58
Caspers Home Inspection LLC	\$1,550.00

City of Oregon	\$5,500.00
Comcast	\$827.51
Comcast	\$850.91
ComEd	\$456.96
ComEd	\$1,436.99
Constellation	\$4,196.17
Dash Medical Gloves	\$106.90
Ecolab	\$166.46
EM Benefits	\$1,643.38
Ferguson Enterprises LLC #3325 dba Pollard water	\$1,120.42
Ferguson Waterworks #2516	\$52.80
Frontier	\$91.33
Glenwood Center	\$450.00
Hackbarth Truck & Equipment	\$704.12
Hagemann Horticulture LLC	\$8,200.00
Helm Civil	\$652.10
Helm Civil	\$1,768.09
Hometown Auto Repair, LLC	\$9,253.37
James Taylor	\$800.00
Jen's Artisan Breads Ltd	\$750.00
Kunes Country Auto Group	\$148.57
LAI, LLC	\$35,986.27
Linda S Pieczynski	\$86.00
Liz Hiemstra	\$571.43
Martin and Company Excavating	\$308.04
Midco Diving & Marine Services, Inc	\$7,782.00
Morton Salt	\$6,489.14
Nicor	\$102.60
Nora Kate Paints	\$3,000.00
Polo Cooperative Association	\$5,525.43
Postmaster	\$19.64
Postmaster	\$776.16
Ratworx Warehouse	\$25.00
Republic Services	\$20,550.40
Shaw Media/ Sauk Valley Media	\$244.40
Slim and Hanks	\$8,025.25
Snyder's Pharmacy	\$1,181.58
Steve Benesh & Sons	\$850.00
Stillman BankCorp	\$2,036.03
Stratus Network Inc	\$167.29
Sun Life Financial	\$490.03
Taryn Bradley	\$250.00
UNLINE	\$254.82
Verizon	\$815.93
Village of Progress	\$1,280.00
Visa	\$61.10
Visa	\$2,040.30
Ward, Murray, Pace & Johnson, P.C.	\$312.00
Wipfli	\$18,000.00
Zoro Tools, Inc	\$145.99

\$185,605.76

Seconded by Council Member Kurt Wilson.

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

Business Items

Police Chief Matt Kalnins said Taylor Buckwalter is a lifelong resident of Rochelle. She has a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from the University of Platteville. She will be attending the Sauk Valley Community College Police Academy for sixteen weeks. Field training will begin in January.

Mayor Ken Williams swore in Taylor Buckwalter as a Police Officer for the City of Oregon.

Council Member Melanie Cozzi moved to approve Ordinance 2024-014 Intergovernmental Agreement by and between the Board of Education of the Oregon Community Unit School District No. 220 and the City of Oregon for a School District Property Tax Refund, Seconded by Council Member Tim Krug.

Discussion: Mayor Ken Williams said there were no changes made to the ordinance since the last review by council. The incentive is for a maximum of ten homes. The program still needs to be approved by the Oregon School Board.

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

Council Member Terry Schuster moved to approve a Special Use request for a Short-Term Rental - Cornerstone Construction – 114 River Road, Oregon – Parcel #16-03-251-001 with the condition that all late fees and fines be received by the city, Seconded by Council Member Kurt Wilson.

Discussion: Mayor Ken Williams said the owners of the property have done many good things for the community. He said the city has partnered with them for many events. He asked the owner to work together and follow the processes that are in place. He said fines and fees in the amount of two thousand three hundred dollars have been assessed to the owner and will go into the tourism fund.

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

Council Member Tim Krug moved to approve the FY24 Annual Audit/Financial Report, Seconded by Council Member Kurt Wilson.

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

Council Member Kurt Wilson moved to approve the bid for Curbside Waste Collection, Seconded by Council Member Melanie Cozzi.

Discussion: City Manager Darin DeHaan stated a subcommittee consisting of himself, Council Member Cozzi, and Council Member Wilson reviewed the bids received by all the waste collection companies. Their recommendation is to approve a contract with

Northern Illinois Disposal. Council Member Kurt Wilson said when they were reviewing the contracts, the most important aspect was to do the best for the residents that we could. Council Member Melanie Cozzi said she had reached out to other communities regarding every other week recycling. They reported that residents had transitioned to the change with no problems. They also discussed cost savings to residents, days of pickup, toter size, and educational materials being provided to residents.

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

Council Member Terry Schuster moved to approve the Purchase of a Bobcat L28 Small Articulated Loader as quoted MB639885, Seconded by Council Member Tim Krug.

Discussion: Public Works Director Bill Covell said the Bobcat will fit on any of the ADA Ramps and sidewalks within the city. He said that the public works department will be able to tackle downtown snow removal, clean catch basins, and clean roads for paving. City Manager Darin DeHaan said business owners will still need to help with the removal of snow downtown. The equipment was budgeted for and is in front of City Hall for anyone who wishes to try it out. Council Member Kurt Wilson asked if residents have been interested in the Adopt A Grate program. Public Works Director Bill Covell said he had one resident sign up but there are a lot of residents who already maintain the catch basins on their own.

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

Council Member Kurt Wilson moved to approve the appointment of Street Foreman Jordan Plock to the Tree Board, Seconded by Council Member Tim Krug.

Discussion: City Manager Darin DeHaan said the Tree Board is losing a member and Jordan seemed like the right fit.

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

Council Member Melanie Cozzi moved to approve Resolution 2024-07 AOP Road Closure, Seconded by Council Member Tim Krug.

Discussion: City Manager Darin DeHaan said the southern detour has been moved back to the original turn onto Webster Street.

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

Council Member Tim Krug moved to approve a Commercial Lease Subsidy Grant for Brooks Jewelers Inc., Seconded by Council Member Melanie Cozzi.

Discussion: City Manager Darin DeHaan said the location the business will be going into has been empty for a while. The owner will be providing custom jewelry, repairs, and cleaning. This is a unique business the city does not currently have.

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

Council Member Terry Schuster moved to approve Ordinance 2024-012 Approving and Authorizing the Execution of a TIF Redevelopment Agreement by and between the City of Oregon, Brooks Jewelers Inc., and Jennifer & Nicholas Brooks, Seconded by Council Member Tim Krug.

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

Council Member Terry Schuster moved to approve a Façade Grant for Jen's Artisan Breads Ltd., Seconded by Council Member Melanie Cozzi.

Discussion: Council Member Melanie Cozzi said the word in her signage is German. She also likes the perpendicular signs she has used. Mayor Ken Williams said the perpendicular signs are easier to see, especially from the highway. He encourages more downtown businesses to do the same.

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

Proclamations, Commendations, Etc.

Mayor Ken Williams proclaimed September 6th and 7th as Intellectually Disabled Days also known as Tootsie Roll Days. He asked for the community to drive carefully.

Discussion Items

Ordinance 2024-013 Pedal Bus License and Operation – 1st Reading: City Manager Darin DeHaan said AOP has decided not to have a pedal bus during the festival however the owner of the pedal bus is still interested in providing the service to the community. Winnebago and Byron have both approved an ordinance regarding pedal buses. The Planning Commission recommended the city council consider not allowing alcohol to be served or brought on to the pedal bus. The Oregon Park District and the Oregon School District are both agreeable to allowing a pedal bus on their property, however no alcohol would be allowed. Council Member Tim Krug said this would be good for tourism.

Discuss Food Truck request to park at Sarah Phelps Plaza: City Manager Darin DeHaan said the city received a request from a food truck owner to park at Sarah Phelps Plaza on 5th Street. He was initially concerned with taking up a parking space, but three parking spaces have been added to RT 64. Council Member Melanie Cozzi said many food trucks are located on a main highway. Could the food truck be allowed to park on RT 64 and face Sarah Phelps Plaza. City Manager Darin DeHaan said we do not want to affect downtown businesses. There could potentially be a line-of-sight issue if a food truck is allowed to park on RT 64 in front of Sarah Phelps Plaza. Mayor Ken Williams said Sarah Phelps Plaza is a prime location, and the city should look to provide unique food truck vendors that provide for example, ice cream or something not available from a local business. Council Member Tim Krug said good competition is good for all, he suggested limiting the days and times the food truck could provide services from the Sarah Phelps location. Council Member Melanie Cozzi said it would encourage downtown traffic.

Committee Reports

Economic and Community Development: Planning an offsite meeting. Focus on Comprehensive Plan and Economic Development ideas.

Sustainability: A public presentation will be held September 4th from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. at City Hall. This will be the first viewing of the plan for community feedback.

Tree Board: Tree City USA application renews annually in September.

Public Art Commission: A citizen is interested in changing the banners in the downtown area.

Department Reports

Chief of Police Matt Kalnins: Thanked the City Council for supporting his decision to bring Taylor Buckwalter on board with the Police Department.

Public Works Director Bill Covell: RT 64 will be paved tomorrow; intersections will be open for the holiday weekend. He is working with Fehr Graham on more funding ideas for the Headworks Project. Sweeping chip sealed areas and applying fog coat begins next week. Council Member Melanie Cozzi said the chip sealing and providing parking areas on 9th Street has really helped with traffic. Bill commended Scott Wallace for an exceptional job working with the IEPA on permits.

Council Reports

Council Member Terry Schuster: He stated the chain surrounding the Sarah Phelps Plaza was up around the entire area and was not very welcoming. He suggested leaving some of the chains down to invite people to utilize the area.

Council Member Melanie Cozzi: Stated the Sarah Phelps Plaza is very eye catching, great improvements to the area.

Council Member Tim Krug: Said it will be nice to help with the cleanup of the downtown sidewalks this year with the purchase of the new equipment.

Mayor Ken Williams: National Night Out was well done and well attended. He said the handprints on the plow should last through the winter.

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: 6:31 P.M.

Ken Williams, Mayor

Attest: _____
Cheryl Hilton, City Clerk