

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday September 24th, 2024, 5:30 P.M.
City Hall Council Chambers
115 N 3rd Street

The Council of the City of Oregon met Tuesday September 24th, 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, Lauren Kleve, Joyce Lewis, Steve Rypkema, Chad Ryan.

Present via Zoom: Brian Linzer.

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

Council Member Kurt Wilson started the pledge of allegiance.

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

Presentation

Brian Linzer with US Solar gave a summary of the opportunity available to the city to participate in a Community Solar Garden. The program being offered to the city is for municipal owned accounts and will provide a fifteen percent discount through the life of the solar garden, about twenty years.

Lauren Kleve with Region One Planning gave an overview of the Sustainability Plan to the City Council. She has been collaborating with the Sustainability Committee for a year now to complete the plan. The plan consists of public engagement, education, city operations, community wide efforts, and implementation. The Sustainability Committee plans to meet quarterly as well as have an annual review of the plan.

Public Comment

None.

Approval of Minutes

Council Member Kurt Wilson moved to approve the September 10th, 2024, minutes,
Seconded by Council Member Tim Krug.

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

Approval of Warrants & Payroll

Council Member Tim Krug moved to approve payroll in the amount of \$63,550.13 and the current warrants as listed:

Butitta Bros. Automotive - Oregon	\$206.60
Butitta Bros. Automotive - Oregon	\$831.78
Casper's Home Inspection LLC	\$1,550.00
Cintas	\$147.18
City of Oregon	\$5,500.00
City of Oregon	\$14,549.77
Comcast	\$827.51
Comcast	\$850.91
ComEd	\$223.12
ComEd	\$693.02
Cyndi Gelande	\$100.00
EM Benefits	\$1,877.64
Fastenal	\$37.01
Fehr Graham	\$4,000.00
Fehr Graham	\$4,007.25
Fehr Graham	\$8,911.50
Helm Civil	\$2,747.50
Illinois EPA	\$58,374.60
Illinois State Treasurer	\$18.97
Joe Brooks	\$20,000.00
P.F. Pettibone & Co	\$516.20
Physicians Immediate Care	\$235.00
Plum Electric, Inc	\$225.00
Postmaster	\$780.08
R.N.O.W.	\$400.00
Republic Service #721	\$20,550.40
Scott Wallace	\$200.00
Share Corp	\$191.74
Shaw Media/Sauk Valley Media	\$324.20
Shawn Melville	\$250.00
Snyder's Pharmacy	\$855.70
Steve Benesh & Sons	\$2,685.00
Stillman BancCorp	\$2,036.03
Stratus Network Inc	\$24.80
Sun Life Financial	\$415.57
The Police & Sheriff's Press	\$167.60
Uniform Den East, Inc	\$369.92
Uniform Den East, Inc	\$1,000.09
Verizon	\$490.16
Verizon Connect	\$2,782.14
Village of Progress	\$1,280.00
VisitNW Illinois	\$30.00
Zoro Tools , Inc	\$275.81

\$161,539.80

Seconded by Council Member Kurt Wilson.

Discussion: Council Member Tim Krug asked about the expenses to Republic Service and Sun Life Financial. City Manager Darin DeHaan stated the Republic expense is for services provided for city waste collection and the Sun Life expense is for city employee life insurance.

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

Business Items

Council Member Terry Schuster moved to approve the Bid Proposal and Award Sarah Phelps Community Plaza LED Message Sign Project to Golden Rule Signs in the amount of \$43,904.85 and Authorize the City Manager to execute any contracts or project related documents, Seconded by Council Member Tim Krug.

Discussion: City Manager Darin DeHaan said the city received two bids. He has been working with Golden Rule Signs and they had the lowest bid. After City Council approval, he will begin working with the company to complete the project. Council Member Melanie Cozzi was concerned about the brightness of the sign. Council Member Tim Krug asked if tech support is provided. City Manager Darin DeHaan said the brightness of the sign can be adjusted and tech support is provided by the company. Mayor Ken Williams said a variance for the sign was necessary to allow the LED sign in the downtown historic district. All required processes were followed.

Council Member Terry Schuster moved to Approve Proposal for Professional Services from Willett Hofmann and Associates Inc. for the Safe Routes to School Project and Authorize the City Manager to execute any contracts or project related documents, Seconded by Council Member Melanie Cozzi.

Discussion: City Manager Darin DeHaan said the city received federal funds for this project. He said there is a lot of work that needs to be done before the sidewalks can be installed. Council Member Melanie Cozzi asked who would be maintaining the sidewalks. City Manager Darin DeHaan stated they are city sidewalks however the school district has agreed to maintain them in the winter.

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

Council Member Kurt Wilson moved to approve an Agreement with RRD Holding Company for the Collection, Hauling, and Disposal of Municipal Solid Waste and Recyclable Materials, Seconded by Council Member Tim Krug.

Discussion: City Manager Darin DeHaan said once the agreement is approved, the new toters will be ordered. He said the company has been responsive and very easy to work. Council Member Terry Schuster asked if the company has enough staff and equipment to handle an entire city. City Manager Darin DeHaan said yes. Council Member Melanie Cozzi said educating residents on acceptable recycling materials is important. She asked if recycling guidelines could be printed on the water bills. City Manager Darin DeHaan said Northern Illinois Disposal will work with the city on educational materials or

magnets to provide to the residents. Council Member Kurt Wilson said seasonal reminders for recycling would be good to send out to residents as well. City Manager Darin DeHaan also wanted to remind residents the contract with Moring Disposal was very old. He said there have been concerns over the cost to citizens. He said the city will reduce what it takes in to offset operational costs. There will be a slight increase in the garbage rate to residents.

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

Council Member Melanie Cozzi moved to approve Resolution 2024-05 Disposal of Surplus Property, Seconded by Council Member Kurt Wilson.

Discussion: City Manager said the resolution is the legal way for the city to dispose of surplus property.

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

Proclamations, Commendations, Etc.

None.

Discussion Items

None.

Committee Reports

Planning: A public hearing for a variance request submitted for a sign at Conover Square Mall will be held at the next meeting.

Economic and Community Development: An outside consultant will be speaking to the Economic Development Committee at a work group meeting being held on October 23rd.

Tree Board: Tree Replacement program information is being pushed out on social media to educate citizens on the program. There are currently three tree plantings in the que. The city also has the opportunity to add a second designation as a "Growth Community." The Tree Board discussed applying for this designation next year. Council Member Melanie Cozzi asked which company the trees were being purchased from. Public Works Director Bill Covell said Anne's in Dixon or a local nursery.

Department Reports

Public Works Director Bill Covell: The public works department completed sidewalk repairs and held a competition on which sidewalk was completed the best. He said their current focus is preparing for Autumn on Parade weekend.

City Manager Darin DeHaan: Commended Chief Matt Kalnins on the department's response to the recent threat at the school. He thanked Chief Matt Kalnins on his guidance and leadership.

Council Reports

Council Member Terry Schuster: Spoke regarding the recent news of the Taft campus closure. He said the campus is a part of the cities identity. He said it is his belief that the city will do what it can to help preserve the history and heritage of the area.

Council Member Melanie Cozzi: Thanked Chief of Police Matt Kalnins on a phenomenal job at the school. She also said the last Farmer's Market is Thursday.

Mayor Ken Williams: He has spoken to the outreach director for Taft campus. He said they are in the beginning stages of this process. The campus ran into problems with infrastructure and the buildings need major repairs. They are looking at approximately twelve to fifteen million dollars in renovations. The city along with other local communities have started looking into what can be done. He said the city and the other communities will not just forget about it.

Council Member Tim Krug 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.

Ken Williams, Mayor

Attest: _____
Cheryl Hilton, City Clerk