

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday November 12th, 2024, 5:30 P.M.
City Hall Council Chambers
115 N 3rd Street

The Council of the City of Oregon met Tuesday November 12th, 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 Kurt Wilson
City Manager Darin DeHaan
Chief of Police Matt Kalnins
City Clerk Cheryl Hilton

Also Present: Earleen Hinton, George Howe, and Chad Ryan.

Present via Zoom: City Attorney Paul Chadwick and Council Member Terry Schuster.

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

City Clerk Cheryl Hilton started the pledge of allegiance.

Council Members Cozzi, Krug, Wilson, and Mayor Williams answered roll call. A quorum was present. Council Member Terry Schuster was present via zoom as a non-voting member.

Presentation

None.

Public Comment

None.

Approval of Minutes

Council Member Kurt Wilson moved to approve the October 22nd, 2024, minutes, Seconded by Council Member Tim Krug.

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

Approval of Warrants & Payroll

Council Member Tim Krug moved to approve payroll in the amount of \$56,236.11 and the current warrants as listed:

Blue Cross Blue Shield	\$17,934.30
Butitta Bros. Automotive - Oregon	\$632.62
Butitta Bros. Automotive - Oregon	\$1,602.64
Chamber of Commerce	\$200.00
Cheryl Hilton	\$10.80
Cintas	\$147.18
City of Oregon	\$360,000.00

Comcast	\$249.20
ComEd	\$6,195.72
Ecolab	\$166.46
Envision Healthcare	\$196.00
Ferguson Waterworks #2516	\$3,200.69
Fidelity Security Life Insurance	\$164.42
Fischer's	\$622.42
Frontier	\$226.06
Hach Company	\$794.85
Hawkins, Inc	\$1,721.57
Illinois EPA	\$13,033.16
Illinois Municipal League	\$99,911.34
JEG 360, LLC	\$1,370.60
Ken Williams	\$33.07
Ken Williams	\$50.00
Kunes Country Auto Group	\$124.86
Lexipol LLC	\$999.00
Locis	\$132.75
MCS	\$145.00
Menards	\$423.02
NAPA	\$228.77
No Stone Unturned Crystals & More LLC	\$225.00
Ogle County Clerk and Recorder	\$60.00
Ogle County Clerk and Recorder	\$60.00
Old National Bank	\$1,925.60
Oregon Area Chamber of Commerce	\$70.00
Polo Cooperative Association	\$6,966.04
Postmaster	\$9.96
Republic Services #721	\$68.00
Republic Services #721	\$20,550.40
Shaw Media/ Sauk Valley Media	\$368.75
Shawn Melville	\$250.00
Snyder's Pharmacy	\$379.05
Stratus Network Inc	\$39.29
Sun Life Financial	\$299.84
Sundog IT	\$2,459.00
Terry Schuster	\$25.00
Uniform Den East, Inc	\$112.99
Verdin Company	\$720.00
Visa	\$751.48
Visa	\$3,084.93
Waste Water Management of Northern IL	\$16,560.00
Water Solutions Unlimited Inc	\$2,520.00
Zions Bank	\$124,010.00
Zions Bank	\$302,033.50
Zoro Tools, Inc	\$258.90
	\$994,324.23

Seconded by Council Member Melanie Cozzi.

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

Business Items

Council Member Melanie Cozzi moved to approve Ordinance 2024-015 updating City Code 14.24 Solid Waste, Seconded by Council Member Kurt Wilson.

Discussion: City Manager Darin DeHaan said technical changes were made due to the new garbage contract. Better definition to what the city will pick up regarding the brush program are also included in the changes. Information will be provided to residents to educate them on the changes made in the ordinance.

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

Council Member Tim Krug moved to approve Ordinance 2024-016 abating Tax for General Obligation Bonds, Seconded by Council Member Kurt Wilson.

Discussion: Mayor Ken Williams said this ordinance is done every year. He said the city can pay the bonds with fees collected. If the city does not pass the ordinance, they automatically add this to the property taxes.

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

Proclamations, Commendations, Etc.

None.

Discussion Items

Pilot Solar Project: Mayor Ken Williams handed out a map of the proposed location of the solar farm. He said the property has been zoned industrial since 1965. Many years ago, cities and villages placed industry on the riverfront. Cities and villages now see the value in riverfront property. He stated there are more suitable locations for solar. He said the city supports solar farms, just not on riverfront property. He said there is potential for environmental issues, sediment runoff, chemical leaks, and improper maintenance. The process for the solar project would start with the county, a public hearing would be held, and a meeting with the community that they join. They held a meeting at the Coliseum but there was no discussion, no public input or questions asked. He said he would like the council to think about this and have something in place, either a letter or resolution, stating the cities position. This could then be presented to the county for consideration. City Manager Darin DeHaan said he has stated the cities position on the river front property with the solar company. Council Member Melanie Cozzi expressed concern for the future growth of the city. She said this could potentially land lock the city for the next 40 years. Mayor Ken Williams said he will contact the city attorney for guidance on how to proceed.

Committee Reports

Planning: Potential variance request from the Oregon Fire Department for expansion.

Finance: Working on creating a quarterly report to provide an overview to City Council.

Sustainability: Create the “next steps” at the upcoming meeting.

Department Reports

Police Chief Matt Kalnins: Taylor Buckwalter is about a month away from graduation. She just completed her pepper spray class.

Public Works: City Manager Darin DeHaan said there will be an overview of Capital Improvement projects at the next meeting.

City Clerk Cheryl Hilton: Three petition packets were turned in for the upcoming election. There are two open council member positions available.

Council Reports

Mayor Ken Williams: Stated he would not like to see the solar farm at the south end of town.

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

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

Adjourn: 5:58 P.M.

Ken Williams, Mayor

Attest: _____
Cheryl Hilton, City Clerk