



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: Nov 12, 2024

I am pleased to provide Mayor Williams and the Oregon City Council with the following synopsis of City Business for – **Oct 19, 2024 – Nov 8, 2024**

Submitted by Darin DeHaan - City Manager:

- We received a resignation from an employee of our water department. We are working to fill that position again. Please check indeed if you have anyone who might be interested.
- Mayor Williams and I continue to meet with individuals and discuss strategies for Taft Campus. Mayor Williams received the following information:
 - A full accounting of the \$12 million stated backlog of repairs and rehab needed on the Taft campus. I was told it's a combination of very aged infrastructure, deferred maintenance, and annual costs to maintain the land.
 - There are no legacy rights to the property. NIU will remain the owner of the property until such a time that they deem it appropriate to transfer that land to (in all likelihood) another State agency.
 - IDNR has a very specific procedure they have to go through to evaluate property and determine if they want to have ownership transferred to them. There is no way to know where they are in that process or what the end result will be.
 - There is no telling at this point where the property will end up. Conjecture about what kind of property it *may* become *if* a specific agency took it over would be a guess.
- I assisted in the interview process for the Police Department candidates. We still have two open positions for patrol officers. I appreciate all of the work that Chief Kalnins has put in trying to get back to full staff.
- We held a quick meeting with Fehr Graham to discuss funding options for the Headworks Project.
- As City Manager I'm blessed to see so many positive things that happen "behind the scenes," that not everyone is aware of. Oregon continues to push to be an absolute premier community to live, work, visit, and conduct business in. Recently, we held an

Economic Development workshop with John Greuling leading our group toward the "what's next" for our community. Some great vision and opportunities were developed. We never rest and work hard to strategize for the future of Oregon. I look forward to working with everyone to bring some new ideas and goals to fruition. For those who attended and participated, I can't thank you enough. Mayor Williams and I truly appreciate your time. We have great local leaders in business, economic development, local government, and volunteer organizations willing to come to the table to help solidify our next steps.



- I met with a strategy group who are working on possible opportunities for the Mt. Morris Clinic building. A lot of great ideas were vetted during the brainstorming session.

- I attended the public information meeting for the potential solar farm project on South Rt2.
- Attended a few meetings on several projects that we are working on.
- I'm working to prepare numbers as we enter negotiations with the Fraternal Order of Police for 2025 and 2026 salaries which remained open after our last negotiation.
- I provided initial Tax Levy numbers which have been reviewed by Mayor Williams and Councilman Schuster. I will make some final adjustments for council review.
- I met with US Solar and discussed some potential residential programs for solar credits. I will gather some more information and will present this to the City Council in the near future.
- I provided a few items that I wanted Public Works to address. I want to recognize how quickly they responded and addressed the issues. Great job crew!
- I had a lot of positive comments about the Halloween event on 13th and 14th Street. This is a great exercise in cooperation with citizens and staff to help create fun and safe space for the community celebrating Halloween. Again thank you to the Rebers who plan this each year, to Public Works, Police, Park District and Schools for making this a success again this year. Excellent work all around!
- Our new doors were put in at City Hall. The front door now has ADA access with an opener. We also replaced the two doors on the PD side as they were no longer energy efficient and allowed a ton of cold and hot air into the building. Thank you to Dixon Glass for great work!
- We are looking at some other minor upgrades/repairs to City Hall this year.
- I've been working with area realtors in reference to strategic properties that are for sale around Oregon.

City Hall - Cheryl Hilton - City Clerk:

- The last brush pickup is scheduled for November 25th.
- 14 Building Permits were issued in October.
- Recycling totals for the month of October - 32,980 lbs.
- Please contact City Hall if you would like to start direct debit or email billing for your water/sewer/garbage bill.

MEETING INFORMATION

Sustainability Committee:

Next meeting: Nov 18, 2024 at 9am Oregon City Hall Conference Room

Planning & Zoning:

Next meeting Nov 19, 2024 at 5:30pm Oregon City Hall Council Chambers.

Tree Board:

Next meeting Nov 19, 2024 at 4:30pm at Oregon City Hall Conference Room

City Council Meeting:

Next meeting Nov 26, 2024 at 5:30pm Oregon City Hall Council Chambers

Economic and Community Development Committee:

Next meeting: Dec 3, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. City Hall Conference Room

Public Art Commission:

Next Meeting TBD

PUBLIC WORKS:

Director of Public Works Submitted by Bill Covell:

- Monthly Fuel Reports
- Approve driveway, sewer, and tree permits
- Frontier Communications
 - Prepare Punch List
- Trestle Ridge
 - Communicate about required sewer testing
 - Check As-builts
- Daily Scheduling
- Headworks Project
 - Reviewed 30% plans submitted by Fehr Graham
- Streetscape Project
 - Final quantity review
- Lead Service Inventory
 - Updated list for IEPA
 - Review new rules for inventory
 - Work with Fehr Graham on new Lead Inventory Grant
- MFT
 - Final quantity review.
- Pedestrian Crossings
 - Emailed IDOT and received verbal approval for new pedestrian crossing locations

- Prepared bills for payment
- SCADA Upgrades
 - Worked with Scott to get work scheduled
- 2025 Street Projects
 - Completed rough quantities for South 10th Street with alternate
 - Completed rough quantities for South 2nd Street
 - Began quantities for sidewalk on East Washington Street
 - Completed rough quantities for Jefferson Street
 - Completed rough quantities for 8th Street
 - Completed rough quantities of Monroe Street
- Conference in Rockford
- Call in Julies for sidewalk removals and sign installation

Street Department Submitted by Jordan Plock:

- Crew continued street sweeping in heavy areas.
- Street Department Foreman continued with his continuing education classes
- Crew is continuing with stump removal and restoration of the terrace.
- Crew is working on trimming low hanging branches and brush throughout the city.
- Crew completed the monthly brush pickup.
- Crew trimmed trees on South 4th Street
- Josh completed CDL written test
- Crew patched two areas of town after sinkhole repairs
- Crew installed flags for Veterans Day

Sewer Department Submitted by Scott Wallace:

- Daily chores
- Full testing (process control/EPA Monitoring)
- Half testing (process control)
- Pumped Sludge
- Cleaned bar screens multiple times a day due
- Daily netting of Tanks
- Daily reporting of National weather service recordings
- Lift Station usage recording
- Assisted Water department when needed
- Cleaned clarifiers (weirs, and channels)
- Generator/ Well checks
- Worked with various customers on water and sewer issues(leaks, sewer backups)
- Monthly reports to EPA

- Chemical Delivery
- Worked on Management classes
- Hauled sludge with Wastewater management
- Scheduled blower maintenance- Greasing
- Pulled Influent pump at Influent Station due to rags
- Repaired Influent pump wiring due to breakage
- End of season tasks
- Prepared buildings for winter season
- Unclogged Clarifier Scum trough due to rags, pine needles, leaves

Water Department Submitted by Jeff Pennington:

- Daily water chores
- Daily water testing
- Repair and Replacement of Chemical feed pump issues as needed
- Chemical Delivery
- Julie Locates
- Worked on Monthly paperwork for EPA compliance
- Assisted Sewer department when needed
- Water shutoffs
- Water turn-ons
- Final reads
- Worked with various customers on water and sewer issues (leaks, sewer backups)
- Generator/ Well checks
- Worked on Management classes
- Working on EPA updating of multiple monitoring programs and New regulations for EPA compliance.

Submitted by Chief Matthew Kalnins: Police Department:

- Thank you to Kristen Reber for putting on a safe and fun Halloween event on 13th and 14th St.
- We would also would like to thank the Oregon Street Department for helping with this even by blocking off the roadways and keeping everyone safe
- Just an update on Officer Buckwalter. She is in her 6th week of the Sauk Valley Police Academy. Officer Buckwalter has learned several topics including law, patrol strategies and driving under the influence of alcohol. We were advised that just this past week recruits went through the pepper spray class. This is always a great class due to each recruit having to go through being sprayed with pepper spray to learn the effects it has on a person. Officer Buckwalter continues to work hard and is excited to graduate from the police academy and start patrolling the City of Oregon.