

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 5:30 P.M.  
City Hall Council Chambers  
115 N 3<sup>rd</sup> Street

The Council of the City of Oregon met Tuesday May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 5:30 P.M.

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

Present: Mayor Ken Williams  
Council Member Terry Schuster  
Council Member Melanie Cozzi  
Council Member Tim Krug  
Council Member Josiah Flanagan  
City Manager Darin DeHaan  
Chief of Police Matt Kalnins  
City Attorney Paul Chadwick  
City Clerk Cheryl Hilton

Also Present: Joshua Cofield, Bill Covell, Mary Elliott, and Luke Ziegler.

Present via Zoom: City Attorney Paul Chadwick and Lynn Baylor Zies.

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

Judge Lindsey swore in the newly elected officials Timothy Krug and Josiah Flanagan.

Mayor Ken Williams swore in Joshua Cofield as a City of Oregon Police Officer.

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

Chief of Police Matt Kalnins started the pledge of allegiance.

**Presentation**

None.

**Proclamations, Commendations, Etc.**

Mayor Ken Williams commended Mary Elliott for her recognition from ILESTB, 2025 Women in Criminal Justice Conference Award Honorable Mention. He thanked her for all she has done for the city. Chief Matt Kalnins said Mary has stepped in and helped with the additional work required by the State of Illinois. He said he did not think the department would be where they are without Mary.

Mayor Ken Williams read the Bird City Proclamation declaring May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025 as World Migratory Bird Day in the City of Oregon.

**Public Comment**

Public comments were made regarding ordinance 2025-011 Public Demonstration. Comments made were against the proposed ordinance. Each speaker stated the importance of protecting freedom of speech and to defend the first amendment.

A member of Together for Taft also made public comment. The board is working to save Taft as an outdoor education center.

Mayor Ken Williams thanked everyone who attended the meeting. He said so often people do not care enough to stand up to say what they believe or what they think. It makes a difference to those

who sit around the table. He said that is the reason this is a second reading. The city council wants to hear the thoughts from the community. The city council will not be voting on the ordinance tonight.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Council Member Terry Schuster moved to approve April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025, minutes, Seconded by Council Member Melanie Cozzi.

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

### **Approval of Warrants & Payroll**

Council Member Tim Krug moved to approve payroll in the amount of \$62,458.97 and the current warrants as listed:

Aaron Montoya	\$61.35
Aaron Montoya	\$320.00
Advanced Automation & Controls	\$66.76
Aidan Ellsworth	\$320.00
Airgas USA , LLC	\$388.65
Altorfer, Inc	\$1,938.47
Anne's Landscape Supply	\$3,067.33
B & B Truck Crane	\$14,578.00
Badger Chevrolet, LLC	\$57,174.00
Badger Chevrolet, LLC	\$64,910.00
Bill Covell	\$320.00
Blue Cross Blue Shield	\$18,239.13
Breanna Wakeland	\$320.00
Brooks Jewelers	\$225.00
Butitta Bros. Automotive - Oregon	\$2,388.81
Cheryl Hilton	\$320.00
Cintas	\$147.18
City of Oregon	\$13,026.05
Comcast	\$330.22
Comcast	\$1,063.56
ComEd	\$4,144.62
ComEd	\$8,627.16
Corey Fry	\$320.00
Devin DeHaan	\$320.00
Dixon Paint Co	\$462.00
Ehmen	\$201.25
Ehmen	\$1,587.00
EM Benefits	\$1,867.85
Envision Healthcare	\$251.00
Eric Higby	\$320.00
Fearer, Nye & Chadwick	\$3,133.32
Fehr Graham	\$229.25
Fehr Graham	\$676.50
Fehr Graham	\$2,439.75
Fehr Graham	\$11,393.25
Ferguson Waterworks #2516	\$146.34
Fidelity Security Life Insurance	\$175.40
Fischer's	\$716.23
Frontier	\$108.70

Frontier	\$117.68
Gasvoda & Associates, Inc	\$3,140.00
Harbor Freight Tools	\$1,129.98
Helm Civil	\$1,930.00
ICMA Membership	\$613.60
Illinois EPA	\$13,033.16
Jacob & Klein, Ltd	\$573.50
James Taylor	\$320.00
Jeff Pennington	\$320.00
Jen's Artisan Breads Ltd	\$375.00
Jordan Plock	\$320.00
Josh Pickering	\$320.00
Joshua Colfield	\$320.00
Josiah Flangan	\$320.00
Ken Williams	\$320.00
Laura Buick GMC	\$29,720.00
Lisa Payne	\$320.00
Lynn Baylor Zies	\$320.00
Manheim Solutions	\$2,592.00
Mary Elliott	\$320.00
Matthew Kalnins	\$560.00
MCS	\$120.00
Melanie Cozzi	\$320.00
Menards	\$13.97
Menards	\$2,355.02
Menards	\$3,904.64
Morton Salt	\$5,767.81
NAPA	\$234.30
Nicor	\$85.33
Northern Illinois Disposal Services	\$24,568.80
Northern Illinois Mayors Association	\$125.00
Ogle County Clerk and Recorder	\$60.00
Old National Bank	\$1,925.60
Oregon Area Chamber of Commerce	\$100.00
Oregon Park District	\$1,850.00
Oregon SuperValu	\$13.14
Quill	\$55.99
Rat Worx, Inc	\$56.00
Ray O'Herron Co., Inc	\$16.99
Raynor Door Authority	\$1,800.00
Scott Wallace	\$320.00
Skyler Bethel	\$320.00
Snyder's Pharmacy	\$235.53
Stillman BancCorp	\$20.00
Stratus Network, Inc	\$64.09
Sun Life Financial	\$434.01
SundogIT	\$2,673.15
Taylor Buckwalter	\$320.00
Terry Lester	\$320.00
Terry Schuster	\$320.00



The Economic Development Group	\$2,294.00
Tim Krug	\$320.00
Timothy Brechon	\$320.00
Uniform Den	\$28.00
Visa	\$476.92
Visa	\$1,415.57
Visa	\$2,768.18
Visa	\$3,378.27
Waste Water Management of Northern Illinois	\$9,000.00
Willett Hofmann & Associates	\$548.45
Zachary McKean	\$320.00
Zions Bank	\$6,058.50
Zions Bank	\$19,485.00
Zoro Tools, Inc	\$24.95
	<b>\$368,146.26</b>

Seconded by Council Member Josiah Flanagan.

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

### **Ordinances**

Council Member Terry Schuster moved to approve Ordinance 2025-010 authorizing the Execution of a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District Redevelopment Agreement between the City of Oregon and Alexandra Thayer D.B.A. FodMART in the amount of three thousand dollars over twelve months, two hundred and fifty dollars per month, Seconded by Council Member Melanie Cozzi.

**Discussion:** Mayor Ken Williams said this is for rent support for new businesses. The city offers this to encourage retail business and to shop locally.

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

Ordinance 2025-011 Public Demonstration - 2nd Reading.

**Discussion:** Council Member Terry Schuster asked if there were any significant changes since the last review of the ordinance. City Manager Darin DeHaan stated no structural changes. He is waiting to review the ordinance with the city legal consultant. Council Member Terry Schuster asked if there was anything about the ordinance that would restrict the demonstrations that have occurred over the last several months. City Manager Darin DeHaan said no. Council Member Terry Schuster asked if there was anything in the ordinance that would restrict a spontaneous gathering or protest. City Manager Darin DeHaan said no, it is specifically stated in subsection B.7. The intent is to ask for notification to the city if there is a need for police services or escorts. It does not stop any spontaneous gathering or protest. Council Member Terry Schuster said his understanding of the ordinance is to provide police safety, ease of movement for those involved. City Manager Darin DeHaan said the city gets a lot of requests. The city has had events where a church wants to do a march around the community, the city has to organize police presence to shut down intersections. The city is just asking for notification. Council Member Terry Schuster asked about the time period needed prior to the event. City Manager Darin DeHaan said it depends on the size of the event and the number of resources the city would need to provide. The city has nine officers that cover twenty-four-seven shifts. We are a small community with limited resources. Council Member Melanie Cozzi said she is blurred on the part where you can have a spontaneous gathering and what triggers the permit process. What is the difference between a group coming to demonstrate their position and saying this is a spontaneous event, so we are not notifying you versus requesting a permit. City Manager Darin DeHaan said according to the ordinance, public demonstrations do not include



spontaneous events. If it is an organized gathering or protest, there is a lot that goes into organizing those. The large, organized events would require the permit process. Council Member Melanie Cozzi said when we do have protests in town, is the city being notified by the organizers of the event. City Manager Darin DeHaan said the last group did a fantastic job. The city and the organizers sat down and worked through any issues, down to response to slips and falls. There have been groups in Oregon and the city has no idea of the size of the group or if there are going to be counter protests. Most of the concern is with counter protesters. In the most recent events, the city has worked in the background to create a plan of action for counter protests. Allowing both groups to have their own separate safe spaces and protect the rights of both groups. Council Member Terry Schuster asked if a counter protest were being planned would they also need to get a permit. City Manager Darin DeHaan said by this ordinance, yes. It would allow for guidance, safety, and direction. An event was held in the past by a neo-Nazi group and counter protesters. Fifth Street was closed, and each group had their own space. Mayor Ken Williams asked if there was prior notification of the event. City Manager Darin DeHaan said the city received a week's notice. Council Member Melanie Cozzi asked under this ordinance if she did not submit a permit application if she would be subject to removal. City Manager Darin DeHaan said no if it is a spontaneous popup event. The city is trying to cover an influx that would increase the population by ten to twenty percent. Council Member Terry Schuster said the way he sees this whole process being is a way of making sure there are good manners. What we want are good manners on the part of the people who are planning to come in to stage a protest. The ordinance basically says this is what we consider good manners. He said he does not know if it needs to be a rigorous permit but what it shows is whoever comes in without a permit is basically not demonstrating good manners. He does not know how we can do that without infringing on the right of the people. He also asked if the organizer could be fined. City Manager Darin DeHaan said these are things the city council will need to consider. He said he does not want to sweep a group of cooperative citizens that are not having an issue. No one wants to infringe on the first amendment rights of the people. Council Member Tim Krug said he is confused on a spontaneous event and an organized one and how they will be differentiated. City Manager Darin DeHaan said more research with the city attorney is needed. Council Member Tim Krug asked what the course of action would be for a spontaneous event that happens without a permit. City Manager Darin DeHaan said that will be up to the city council to determine. Those are things that need to be discussed and decided. The city will need our city attorney to guide us in what those elements are. Council Member Melanie Cozzi asked if there is any guidance from the state. City Manager Darin DeHaan said he will do more research. He wants the ordinance to be right and be able to provide the safest environment for protesters. Mayor Ken Williams said there will be no action taken tonight and more discussion is needed. He said if you have a spontaneous ad-hoc demonstration and you don't need anything then why have a permit. He said the city is reluctant to add more city code if it is not needed. He said the city received a nice thank you card from the group that was here for the last three gatherings for assistance and cooperation. By providing notice prior to the event, the city is able to put up crossing signs. He also said he can remember previous demonstrations but none of them had gotten out of control. He said times have changed. We have never had an armed officer in our schools. Now we do. The people voted yes by referendum to pay additional taxes to put a school resource officer in our schools. As a council, we have been given marching orders to protect the people and make sure things are done right. There is a lot to consider yet.

### **Resolutions**

Council Member Melanie Cozzi moved to approve Resolution 2025-4 Bird City, Seconded by Council Member Josiah Flanagan.

**Discussion:** Mayor Ken Williams said the resolution allows the City Manager to pursue Bird City certification. Council Member Terry Schuster said the recognition could draw people to Oregon. On Saturday, an event was held to visit multiple places in the city. The group identified forty-seven



different species of birds. There are ten Bird Cities in the State of Illinois and three of those are in Northern Illinois. Oregon would be the fourth.

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

Council Member Tim Krug moved to approve Resolution 2025-2 authorizing Investment of Monies in the Illinois Funds for the City of Oregon, Seconded by Council Member Josiah Flanagan.

**Discussion:** Mayor Ken Williams said the city is authorized by city code to invest money in Illinois Funds. Illinois funds are paying six and a half percent, which will potentially be two hundred thousand dollars a year in additional revenue. Only a portion of city funds will be invested. This is a wise way to make the best use of the funds for the citizens. Council Member Terry Schuster said this is a wise choice since the city does not immediately need access to those funds.

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

### **Motions**

Council Member Tim Krug moved to approve a mural grant for Rebecca Hazzard-108 N. 4th Street, Seconded by Council Member Josiah Flanagan.

**Discussion:** City Manager Darin DeHaan said the Public Art Commission approved recommendation of the mural. The Public Art Commission gave the artist additional guidance on the mural. The mural will be located on the back of the building where Toasty Noodles is located. ARPA funds will be used for the project and Chloe Metz is the artist. Council Member Melanie Cozzi expressed concern over another mural in town that says Oregon since there are already so many. She does not want to see the theme of every mural in town saying our town's name. City Manager Darin DeHaan said the Art Commission also commented on the same issue.

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

Council Member Tim Krug moved to approve a Facade Grant for Allure Aesthetics & Beauty-217 W. Washington Street, Seconded by Council Member Josiah Flanagan.

**Discussion:** City Manager Darin DeHaan said the buildings are known as the Three Sisters. These buildings are important as they are located at the entrance to the city's downtown historic district. The city's portion of the grant would be fifty percent of the total costs. The city allocates twenty-five thousand dollars per fiscal year for facade grants.

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

Council Member Terry Schuster moved to approve a Facade Grant for Vicarioustyle / Vicarioussalon-219 & 221 W. Washington Street, Seconded by Council Member Josiah Flanagan.

**Discussion:** 219 and 221 W. Washington Street are the next two buildings known as the Three Sisters.

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

Council Member Tim Krug moved to approve and award bid to Struck & Irwin Paving, Inc. for the 2025 Motor Fuel Tax Streets Program 25-00000-00-GM in the amount of \$133,483.16, Seconded by Council Member Josiah Flanagan.

**Discussion:** The bid from Struck & Irwin Paving, Inc. was significantly lower than the other two bids received by the city. Public Works Director Bill Covell and the city engineers have reviewed and approve of the contractor. The bid also meets IDOT specifications. Council Member Melanie Cozzi asked if it was normal for a company from out of state to submit a bid. Public Works Director Bill Covell said yes, it is normal. A preconstruction meeting will be scheduled if the City Council approves the bid.

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

Council Member Tim Krug moved to approve and award bid to Martin and Company for the 2025 Streets General Maintenance Streets Project in the amount of \$387,951.00, Seconded by Council Member Josiah Flanagan.

**Discussion:** City Manager Darin DeHaan said included in the project is Jefferson Street by the school district as well as 10th Street, 2nd Street, Monroe Street, and 8th Street. Public Works Director Bill Covell will also be working with O'Brien to repair the sidewalk in front of the high school. The bid from Martin and Company was five thousand dollars more than the lowest bid, however Martin and Company has local access to asphalt and the other company does not. The project will be offset with Rebuild Illinois funds which need to be spent by July.

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

Council Member Terry Schuster moved to approve FY25 Year End Transfers, Seconded by Council Member Josiah Flanagan.

**Discussion:** City Manager Darin DeHaan said the increase in the transfer for the street department was due to the purchase of equipment.

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

Council Member Tim Krug moved to approve the City of Oregon Vision Statement-Uphold a high-quality standard of living for our community while providing exceptional transparent services through strong partnerships that drive lasting progress, Seconded by Council Member Josiah Flanagan.

**Discussion:** City Manager Darin DeHaan said this has been a project for the leadership team. The vision statement would be something each employee would think about when starting their day and keep in mind when serving the public. The leadership team came up with the vision statement after multiple reiterations and it was then presented to all employees.

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

#### **Discussion Items**

None.

#### **Committee Reports**

**Planning:** Will be setting a date for public hearings as well as reviewing the fence ordinance.

**Economic and Community Development:** Reviewed facade grants.

**Finance:** Meetings held with department heads. Budget completion soon.

**Sustainability:** The committee discussed and set new objectives. A community river cleanup event is one of the objectives to be completed.



**Tree Board:** The public works department is working on the removal of tree stumps along Rt. 64. The city still has some free trees if residents are interested. Residents are encouraged to reach out about the tree replacement program.

**Public Art Commission:** The committee is working on new designs for the city signs.

### **Department Reports**

**Public Works Director Bill Covell:** Thanked Aaron, Scott, Josh, Corey, and Devin for all their work at the wastewater treatment plant. He also thanked the City Council and City Manager Darin DeHaan for vehicle replacements for the public works department.

### **Council Reports**

**Council Member Terry Schuster:** This Sunday will be the first home game for the Oregon Ganymede Vintage Baseball team playing by 1860 rules. It will not be held at the Chana School because of construction. Instead, it will be held at Park West by the waterpark.

**Council Member Melanie Cozzi:** The Farmers Market kickoff will be on the 5th of June.

**Council Member Josiah Flanagan:** He looks forward to working with the City Council and serving the public.

**Mayor Ken Williams:** Thanked everyone for attending and speaking at the meeting. He said democracy works when we hear from our people.

Council Member Tim Krug moved to adjourn the meeting, Seconded by Council Member Melanie Cozzi.

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

Adjourn: 6:43 P.M.

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

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