

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday May 27<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 27<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: Public Works Director Bill Covell.

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

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

City Manager Darin DeHaan started the pledge of allegiance.

**Presentation**

None.

**Proclamations, Commendations, Etc.**

Mayor Ken Williams thanked Water/Wastewater Operator Scott Wallace for ten years of dedicated service to the City of Oregon and to the residents of the community. City Manager Darin DeHaan complimented Scott. Council Member Terry Schuster said he appreciates the knowledge and service Scott provides to the community.

**Public Comment**

Public comments were made regarding ordinance 2025-011 Public Demonstration. Comments included the lack of appeal and structure of the permit process.

**Approval of Minutes**

Council Member Terry Schuster moved to approve May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025, minutes, Seconded by Council Member Josiah Flanagan.

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

**Approval of Warrants & Payroll**

Council Member Josiah Flanagan moved to approve payroll in the amount of \$61,240.77 and the current warrants as listed:

a5 Branding & Digital	\$16,712.50
Aerzen USA Corp	\$4,834.20
Alexandra Thayer	\$250.00

Amazon Capital Services, Inc	\$1,273.62
Ancel Glink, P.C.	\$2,080.00
Anderson Plumbing & Heating, Inc	\$1,193.55
Blue Cross Blue Shield	\$18,299.15
Bobcat of Dixon	\$245.61
Boot Barn, Inc	\$139.49
Brooks Jewelers	\$225.00
Caspers Home Inspection LLC	\$1,550.00
Cintas	\$147.18
Chicago WGN-Nextstar	\$5,500.00
City of Oregon	\$4.00
City of Oregon	\$730,000.00
Coliseum Museum Art, Antiques & Americana	\$4,053.33
ComEd	\$7,010.27
Comcast	\$1,014.51
Comcast	\$1,063.56
Conserv FS Inc	\$98.97
Ecolab	\$166.46
EM Benefits	\$1,865.91
Fastenal	\$331.79
Frontier	\$92.18
Gregory Spencer	\$80.00
Hawkins, Inc	\$4,050.00
Hawkins, Inc	\$6,329.87
Helm Civil	\$1,507.00
Helm Civil	\$4,007.00
Highstar Traffic	\$1,997.50
Illinois EPA	\$10.00
Illinois Office of the State Fire Marshal	\$75.00
Illinois State Police	\$10.00
Locis	\$300.00
Lonnie's Carpet Max	\$6,018.47
Martin and Company Excavating	\$1,670.25
Menards	\$2,300.44
Northern Illinois Mayors Association	\$125.00
Nicor	\$282.47
Oregon Area Chamber of Commerce	\$4,000.00
Oregon Rotary Club	\$115.00
Pace Analytical Services	\$344.00
Polo Cooperative Association	\$4,654.89
Postmaster	\$758.24
Quill	\$770.64
Ray O'Herron Co	\$115.66
Stillman BancCorp	\$2,036.03
Shawn Melville	\$250.00
State of Illinois Treasurer	\$10.00
Tom Kleiber	\$300.00
Sun Life Financial	\$434.01
The Blue Line	\$397.00
Uniform Den East, Inc	\$148.00

Verizon	\$748.43
Village of Progress	\$1,280.00
Visa	\$1,728.86
Visa	\$2,513.03
Waste Water Management of Northern Illinois	\$9,690.00
Zoro Tools, Inc	\$50.85
	<b>\$857,258.92</b>

Seconded by Council Member Tim Krug.

**Discussion:** Council Member Terry Schuster said sometimes the city has other sources of revenue other than the cities revenues, this is the case for a5 Branding & Digital.

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

### **Ordinances**

Council Member Josiah Flanagan moved to approve Ordinance 2025-009 an ordinance amending Oregon City Code Title 26.16 Fences to include Cattle or “Country” fencing, Seconded by Council Member Terry Schuster.

**Discussion:** City Manager Darin DeHaan said the Planning Commission reviewed the ordinance. The committee was agreeable to the cattle or country fencing but would like to see a top railing that covered all sides of the fencing.

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

Council Member Josiah Flanagan moved to approve Ordinance 2025-001 an ordinance implementing a Municipal Grocery Retailers’ Occupation Tax and a Municipal Grocery Service Occupation Tax for the City of Oregon, Seconded by Council Member Terry Schuster.

**Discussion:** City Manager Darin DeHaan said the State of Illinois eliminated the grocery tax. Cities can implement a one percent grocery tax by ordinance. The potential loss to the city is about forty to fifty thousand dollars in revenue annually. Council Member Melanie Cozzi asked where the one percent tax goes and if it needs to be approved annually. Mayor Ken Williams stated the tax goes into the general fund. Once the ordinance to collect the tax is approved, it stays. Council Member Terry Schuster said if the city loses forty to fifty thousand dollars from the budget, cuts will have to be made somewhere. Council Member Melanie Cozzi said groceries are only getting more expensive.

Council Member Tim Krug moved to table Ordinance 2025-001 an ordinance implementing a Municipal Grocery Retailers’ Occupation Tax and a Municipal Grocery Service Occupation Tax for the City of Oregon, Seconded by Council Member Melanie Cozzi.

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

### **Resolutions**

None.

### **Motions**

None.

## **Discussion Items**

**Ordinance 2025-011 an Ordinance adding Public Demonstration Permit:** Mayor Ken Williams said the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment gives us all the right to peaceably assemble. Police and other government officials are allowed to place narrower restrictions and require a permit. The supreme court has taken this up nine times for guidance and they have come up with the idea of time, place, and manner. The State of Illinois does not require a permit except for parades, which the city does for AOP because of the road closures. The state also requires a permit for a large rally with PA system's and for public demonstrations in public parks if there are fifty or more people. Permit process requires five days advance notice. How does this affect the City of Oregon. The city has a very attractive sight with two highways and nice sidewalks. The sidewalks are the cities, not the counties. The city worked extremely well with the people who held the last demonstration. He said the city really appreciated what they did. The whole idea was to find a way for the city to help by putting up pedestrian signs, opening the public restroom, basically just trying to assist. He also said over the last ten years, he feels the city has built up trust with the citizens. That has happened by being open, straight forward, and by letting the citizens know the how and the why to the actions of the city. The city has done three referendums and every time the residents voted yes. He said he didn't think the city needed another ordinance. He opened the floor to City Council discussion.

Council Member Tim Krug made the motion to postpone Ordinance 2025-011 indefinitely,  
Seconded by Council Member Melanie Cozzi.

**Discussion:** Council Member Terry Schuster said he liked the public comment that was made about a process to request services and support. There is no other intent of this ordinance.

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

## **Committee Reports**

**Planning:** A public hearing will be held to clean up a planning map error for three parcels on South 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and a variance request for a fence at the corner of 7<sup>th</sup> and Washington Street.

**Finance:** Waiting for final FOP contract.

**Sustainability:** A River Sweep is being organized for September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The rain date will be September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025. ComEd is also offering an EV grant. The information has been shared with the sustainability committee. The EV charging stations could be in the downtown area, local parks, or municipal lots.

**Tree Board:** Another tree replacement application was approved today. Supports are being ordered for the newly planted trees. The public works department is also working on tree stump removal.

**Public Art Commission:** Working on the city welcome signs.

## **Department Reports**

**City Manager Darin DeHaan:** a5 Marketing was here working with WGN as part of the marketing program. Christy Sitze was the spokesperson and has done an interview with them. The segment launches in June.

## **Council Reports**

**Council Member Melanie Cozzi:** She recognized Public Works Director Bill Covell. She recently attended an AOP Board meeting. The board members had nothing but positive things to say about him. They said he is receptive and has positive interactions within the community.

**Mayor Ken Williams:** He said he appreciated everyone's time and work spent on the public demonstration ordinance.

Mayor Ken Williams said the City Council will be going into Executive Session to discuss human resources; discussion of employee contracts and personnel.

Council Member Tim Krug moved to go into Executive Session at 6:09 pm. to discuss human resources; discussion of employee contracts and personnel, Seconded by Council Member Melanie Cozzi.

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

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: 7:01 P.M.

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Ken Williams, Mayor

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