



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

115 N. 3rd Street, Oregon, IL 61061

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To: Mayor Ken Williams & Oregon City Council

From: Darin J. DeHaan, City Manager & Staff

DATE: Aug 26, 2025

I am pleased to provide Mayor Williams and the Oregon City Council with the following synopsis of City Business for – Aug 9, 2025 – Aug 23, 2025

Submitted by Darin DeHaan - City Manager:

- I completed a great webinar through ICMA - Strategies for Keeping your Best Talent.
- We continue to move forward on several potential development projects. The City Council will be making some decisions on possible property purchases through our TIF redevelopment funds. These are strategic purchases for long range re-development plans. The purchase of 131 South 3rd Street has been completed and I have been working with the previous home owner to make a smooth transition. I will present a RFP for demolition on the property later this year. A quick reminder that this purchase was made with TIF funds which are designated for redevelopment within the city's TIF District.
- We have been working through a few citizen requests for city services. We always try our best to help where we can, but sometimes requests are outside the scope of what the City can provide.
- I'm working with Together for Taft for a 5k run on Saturday of Autumn on Parade. Last year the 5k was not offered. We have an upcoming meeting to organize city resources for the event on 08/20/25.
- We have a few Facade Grants applications in the queue for Council approval. We have seen some great upgrades to the facades of many downtown buildings over the past few years. I'm always appreciative of our property owners when they invest in our beautiful downtown.
- We have completed the review of this year's audit. Once again I have to give a shout out to Cheryl, our City Clerk for her due diligence and all of her hard work gathering the immense amount of records that our auditors request for review. We are in the final stages of finishing things up then the audit will go to the City Council for final review.
- I want to recognize our public works department for all of their hard work in the heat, not only keeping up with general maintenance and other projects but getting a large amount of sidewalk replacement completed this year again. We have been laser focused

on improving walkability throughout our community and this team has been getting it done! Always more to do, but a great job so far!

- I continue to work with Chief Kalnins in trying to hire another police officer to fill the last open position that we have. I can't say enough about the dedication of our police force. They have filled many hours of overtime, covered major events, and continue to serve our community with integrity and excellent service.
- I've met with a couple potential new business owners. We are helping to coordinate with them on their business plans.
- We continue to strategize on the headworks project for the waste water treatment plant. Understanding the high cost we have to make the best financial decision for funding this project. The Council will be provided additional information as we work through this future project. Thank you to Bill, Scott and Jeff for their expertise in helping understand the issues related to the plant headworks and working through various options going forward.
- I want to recognize Officer Terry Lester for his 1st year as our School Resource Officer. This position is vital to not only maintain safety in our schools, but forming a bond with students, staff and parents that allow better communication and problem solving in the school and beyond those walls. I can't say enough how effective I've seen this position become over the years. Thank you SRO Lester! Go Hawks!



City Hall - Cheryl Hilton - City Clerk:

- City Hall will be closed Monday September 1st in observance of Labor Day.
- The next brush pickup is scheduled for September 29th.
- Residents can now view their utility bill on the city website. Please reach out to City Hall staff to get more information on accessing this feature.

MEETING INFORMATION

Sustainability Committee:

Next meeting: Sep 8, 2025 at 9am Oregon City Hall Conference Room

City Council Meeting:

Next meeting Sep 9, 2025 at 5:30pm Oregon City Hall Council Chambers

Tree Board:

Next meeting Sep 16, 2025 at 4:30pm at Oregon City Hall Conference Room

Planning & Zoning:

Next meeting Sep 16, 2025 at 5:30pm Oregon City Hall Council Chambers

Economic and Community Development Committee:

Next meeting TBD

Public Art Commission:

Next meeting TBD

PUBLIC WORKS:

Director of Public Works Submitted by Bill Covell:

- a. Help Schedule
- b. Approve Bills
- c. Purchased supplies
- d. Monthly Fuel Reports
- e. Safety Training
- f. Train Summer Help

2. Projects

- a. I Fiber
 - i. Reviewed permit
- b. Headworks Project
 - i. Reviewed plans and invoices

- ii. Set up a meeting to discuss funding
- c. Lead Service Inventory
 - i. Updated invoice
 - ii. Worked on the public notice
 - iii. Scheduled meeting with IEPA
- d. 2025 Local Road Project
 - i. Observation on milling
 - ii. Prepare homeowner notification letter
 - iii. Strategize how to fix sinkholes on South 10th.
- e. 2025 MFT Project
 - i. Phone call about the schedule
 - ii. Look at job limits/ road conditions
- f. 2025 East Side Sidewalk
 - i. Nothing new
- g. Dog Park
 - i. A new sign was installed, and a new sign for the road was ordered; the old trash receptacle was removed.
- h. Pedestrian Crossing
 - i. Work with Fehr Graham to get exhibits for IDOT
 - ii. Spoke with IDOT about locations

3. Meetings

- a. Department Head
- b. Safety Meeting

4. Miscellaneous

- a. Review and score applicants
- b. Interviews

Street Department Submitted by Jordan Plock:

1. Daily Tasks

- a. Street sweeping on the rotation of city streets
- b. Watering of trees planted by the city
- c. Trash pickup of city trash cans
- d. City mechanic working on daily maintenance tasks
- e. Mowing and maintenance of city-owned property.



2. Projects

- a. Crew removed and replaced 85 feet of sidewalk on Madison and 8th st. .
- b. Crew repaired the edge of the road along N5th and S6th in preparation for the slurry seal project.
- c. Crew worked on water valve adjustments and concrete diamond work on the 10th st paving project.
- d. Crew helped set up and took part in the National Night Out with the Oregon police department.
- e. City wide monthly brush cleanup.

3. Training

- a. Worked on Illinois Extension training for pesticide applicator license.
- b. Worked on weekly safety training
- c. Foreman worked on continuing education classes



4. General

- a. The crew removed and restored 4 stumps in the city terrace.
- b. Street Foreman attended the department head meeting.
- c. Spot sprayed pesticide for weeds in the city right of way.
- d. Foreman worked with Fehr Graham and Martin and Co on the city street projects.





Sewer Department Submitted by
Scott Wallace:

Daily tasks

1. Daily chores
2. Full testing (process control/EPA Required Monitoring)
3. Half testing (process control)
4. Pumped Sludge
5. Cleaned bar screens, netting of tanks multiple times daily due to rags, debris
6. Daily reporting of National Weather Service recordings
7. Lift Station usage recording
8. Assisted the Water Department when needed
9. Monthly reports to the EPA
10. Generator/ Well checks
11. Worked with various customers on water and sewer issues (leaks, sewer backups)
12. Washed clarifiers and tanks
13. Chemical Delivers

Head Works

1. Had a great meeting with the engineers in regards to the project

Training

1. Illinois Rural Water fall conference is coming up
2. Fire extinguisher joint training with public works

General

1. Ordered testing supplies, also replaced so aging testing equipment
2. Worked on cleaning up drying beds
3. Additional time was required for process control due to recent rain and flows
4. Cleaned intake screens on blower building
5. Cleaned up eastside lift station

Water Department Submitted by Jeff Pennington**Daily Tasks**

- 1.) Chores
- 2.) Daily Testing
- 3.) Julie Locates
- 4.) Final reads
- 5.) Water turn-ons
- 6.) Water shut-offs
- 7.) Generator checks

Wells

- 1.) Repaired Chemical feed pump parts as needed
- 2.) Took Chemical delivery from Hawkins for process/control

Meter Replacement Program

- 1.) Been scheduling and replacing meters as time allows

EPA compliance

- 1.) Submitted monthly reports for EPA compliance
- 2.) Collected samples for Lead and Copper Sampling, we have received 22 samples out of 40 so far.

Training

- 1.) Received training on Fire Extinguisher and proper technique to extinguish fire

General

- 1.) Worked on cleaning of vehicles and storage space in the WWTP building
- 2.) Assisted the Sewer department when needed
- 3.) Worked with customers on water leaks and sewer issues at numerous locations.
- 4.) Lowered valve boxes in multiple locations around town to meet grade
- 5.) Attended meetings with the Public Works
- 6.) Cleaned up brush and debris at the East side lift station



Oregon Police Department Submitted by Chief Matthew Kalnins

On August 5, 2025 we participated in the National Night Out event. This event is held annually by police departments across the world. This event is a part of the National Association of Town Watch (NATW) and its main goal is to bring the community and its first responders together. This year Officer Spencer did an amazing job making contacts with businesses and planning



this event. People got to enjoy talking with local businesses, enjoy great food and listen to amazing music. We cannot wait until next year.