

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
Wednesday November 12<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 Wednesday November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 5:30 P.M.

The meeting was held at City Hall in the 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  
Police Chief Matt Kalnins  
City Clerk Cheryl Hilton

Also Present: Bill Covell, Caleb Jenks, and Tom Pacey

Present via Zoom: City Attorney Paul Chadwick

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

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

Council Member Tim Krug started the pledge of allegiance.

**Presentation**

Caleb Jenks and Tom Pacey presented information regarding Bird City designation for the City of Oregon. They have been working together with Council Member Terry Schuster to complete the application for Bird City designation. They have been reporting and documenting initiatives that are already taking place by community groups. A World Migratory Bird Day event will be observed next year at the Park East observation deck.

**Proclamations, Commendations, Swear In, Etc.**

None.

**Public Comment**

None.

**Approval of Minutes**

Council Member Tim Krug moved to approve October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025, minutes, Seconded by Council Member Terry Schuster.

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 \$63,162.81 and the current warrants as listed:

Brown Equipment Company	\$1,805.00
Comcast	\$278.21
ComEd	\$10,038.38

Ehmen	\$1,876.25
Envision Healthcare	\$235.00
Fidelity Security Life Insurance	\$164.64
Frontier	\$299.12
Hach Company	\$1,390.98
Hawkins, Inc	\$501.73
Hazel's Café	\$225.00
Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police	\$130.00
Illinois EPA	\$13,033.16
James Taylor	\$160.00
John Kaltenbach	\$7.57
Ken Williams	\$26.71
Kevin Most	\$3,000.00
Manheim Solutions	\$178.50
MCS	\$140.00
Menards	\$156.61
Merlin's Greenhouse and Flowers	\$17,469.41
Merlin's Greenhouse and Flowers	\$1,750.00
Modern Marketing	\$271.50
Morton Salt	\$4,279.36
MPSG	\$10,881.00
Municipal Clerks of Illinois	\$55.00
Northern Illinois Disposal Services	\$24,639.40
Ogle County Clerk and Recorder	\$73.00
Old National Bank	\$1,925.60
Oregon Area Chamber of Commerce	\$300.00
Oregon Rotary Club	\$115.00
Oregon SuperValu	\$13.14
Pace Analytical Services	\$1,860.20
Quill	\$103.96
Region 1 Planning Council	\$625.00
Ryan Hahn	\$7,500.00
Shaw Media/Sauk Valley Media	\$420.60
Stratus Network Inc	\$65.26
SundogIT	\$2,743.15
Uniform Den	\$168.70
Uniform Den	\$1,329.75
Village of Progress	\$1,310.00
Zions Bank	\$128,485.00
Zions Bank	\$305,558.50
	<b>\$545,589.39</b>

Seconded by Council Member Melanie Cozzi.

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

### **Ordinances**

Council Member Terry Schuster moved to approve Ordinance 2025-09 abating Tax for General Obligation Bonds, Seconded by Council Member Tim Krug.

**Discussion:** The ordinance is done every year to abate taxes. If the city does not abate the taxes they will appear on tax bills. The bonds are for sewer and are paid for by fees from water and sewer.

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

### **Resolutions**

None.

### **Motions**

None.

### **Discussion Items**

**Work Session:** The City Council set a date of January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026, to hold a working session. The meeting will be open to the public and the media. Topics to be discussed include capital projects, funding strategies, and council vision for 2026.

**2025 Tax Levy:** City Manager Darin DeHaan provided the City Council with information regarding the tax levy. He gave information on each fund the city levies taxes for, and the taxes collected over the last few years. He said the city continues to lower the rate and work within its means. Council Member Terry Schuster said if anyone in the community is asking, the city is bringing tax rates down. If they are concerned about their taxes going up, it is usually because of an increase in home values. The tax levy is based on the EAV which continues to increase.

### **Committee Reports**

**Planning:** Public Hearing for zoning change request. Recommendation will then go to City Council.

**Economic and Community Development:** Mayor Ken Williams and Council Member Terry Schuster will be attending the Main Street Illinois conference. The conference is dedicated to economic activity in small communities. City Manager Darin DeHaan said the Chamber of Commerce has interest in Main Street to see what they can do to help strengthen our downtown. Mayor Ken Williams gave an update on the old Kunes location. The city has offered to help with marketing the location on LOIS.

**Finance:** Tax Levy.

**Sustainability:** Held a meeting today. They are dedicating the next meeting to finalizing the Eco Oregon program. They also discussed food insecurity in the community. They discussed the value of monetary donation and the buying power the food pantry has. The food pantry can purchase food at eighteen cents per pound from a food bank. Resources available are being compiled and will be pushed out the public through social media. Information will include food pantry locations, hours, and ways to donate.

**Tree Board:** One hundred and three trees planted this year.

**Public Art Commission:** Working on meeting dates.

### **Department Reports**

**Public Works Director Bill Covell:** This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of leaf collection. He has been working with IML for regional training to be held at the city street garage on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

**City Manager Darin DeHaan:** Completed a fifty-thousand-dollar marketing grant application. The city would like to continue to work with a5 marketing. He also submitted an EPA Brownsfield grant application to help with the cleanup at the old Moring property on S. 1<sup>st</sup> Street.

**Council Reports**

**Mayor Ken Williams:** Thanked the City Council for their continued dedication.

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

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

Adjourn: 6:06 P.M.

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

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