



*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: Dec 9, 2025**

**I am pleased to provide Mayor Williams and the Oregon City Council with the following synopsis of City Business for – Nov 22, 2025 – Dec 5, 2025**

### **Submitted by Darin DeHaan - City Manager:**

- First and foremost thank you to Team Oregon for all of their hard work during the recent snow storm. From Public Works in the plows with some very late nights, our police officers responding to emergencies, and City Hall staff fielding questions and taking care of any community members concerns as well as city council members who remained engaged during the snow event in care of the community. Service at its best! Thankful!
- I met with Dr. PJ Caposey and Erin Folk to go over intergovernmental agreements for the Safe Routes to School project. These agreements will go to the City Council, School and Park District boards for approval. Once that is done we will hold a public meeting at the school to allow for any public comment on the project. There are a lot of steps with this federal funded grant and we are working diligently with Willett Hoffman and associates to check all of the boxes. Thank you to the School District and Park District for their continued support of this important project. Thank you Corey Buck and his team for all the hard work on this project.
- We had a fantastic conversation with Katie Dudley from the University of Illinois Extension Office from Edwardsville, IL. Katie has been tasked by the Lt. Governor of Illinois to study how rural communities are developing tourism and outdoor recreation in ways that reflect and strengthen their local identity. Oregon was one of her 14 stops across the state.

During her visit, we shared our lessons learned, “how Oregon does things,” and the work we’ve been doing to support the vitality of our downtown, riverfront, and overall citizen and visitor experience. It was a valuable exchange, and we were proud to highlight the initiatives and partnerships that make our community unique. The new vision for Oregon was sparked by Mayor Ken Williams and Council Member Terry Schuster along with many community members and partners along the way. Our downtown remains a primary focus, but we have expanded way beyond that to enhance Oregon’s unique offerings.

We were joined by [John Harris](#) from a5 who has worked tirelessly to help us develop our marketing and branding strategies, community members Mike Ring and Kathy Lawrence, as well as [Ogle County Economic Development Corporation](#) Executive Director Liz Hiemstra.



- Continue to work with the Ogle County Economic Development Corporation to strategize on business retention and development opportunities as well as our continued efforts to spur housing development in Oregon.
- Continued work on the Paragon Foundry property. I'm waiting to hear from the EPA on our Brownfield application.
- Benesh and Sons has completed the demolition of 131 South 3rd Street. The space was prepped to allow an expansion of downtown parking. I have had several community members reach out with additional suggestions for the space and I look forward to seeing how that area can work to support our business community.
- Continue working with the Candlelight Walk committee in both my official role as City Manager as well as a volunteer for the event. Come out and experience the magic of Oregon on December 6th from 3p-8p!
- Attended the Blackhawk Hills Regional Council board meeting. They have some great projects in the works and an exciting vision for the future.

- I had a great meeting with members of the Depot Museum board and how the City can support their efforts applying for various grant funding. I look forward to continuing to support this great piece of Oregon history.
- Continue work with Manheim Solutions on retail business strategies for our community.
- Continue work preparing for the upcoming City Council work session. My goal is to put us in a great position to set the vision for FY 27.
- Attended the Ogle County Soil and Water Conservation District Board meeting. The Oregon Sustainability Committee would like to see some pollinator space develop inside Oregon. My hope is OCSWD may be able to provide technical support for the potential project.
- **I want to remind the community that I am always open to hearing your perspectives if there are things you feel need addressed. I'm available via phone, email, or you can always message me via facebook messenger from the City page. We work for you and your input and communication is vital for our success.**

**City Hall - Cheryl Hilton**

- 1 building permit issued in November.

**MEETING INFORMATION**

**Planning & Zoning:**

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

**Sustainability Committee:**

Next meeting: Jan 12, 2026 at 9am Oregon City Hall Conference Room

**City Council Meeting:**

Next meeting Jan 13, 2026 at 5:30pm Oregon City Hall Council Chambers. This will be the only meeting held in December.

**Tree Board:**

Next meeting Mar 18, 2026 at 5:30pm at Oregon City Hall Conference Room

**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
- 2. Projects**
- a. Headworks Project
    - i. Nothing New
  - b. Lead Service Inventory
    - i. Updated spreadsheet for Kirby to pot hole services
  - c. 2026 Local Road Project
    - i. Preliminary planning for next summer
      - 1. Century Hill Subdivision
      - 2. Collins
  - d. 2026 MFT Project
    - i. Preliminary Planning
    - ii. Rough cost estimate created
  - e. 2025 East Side Sidewalk
    - i. Followed up with Fehr Graham
  - f. Pedestrian Crossing
    - i. Work with OPSD and IDOT to change the school crossing on Rt 2
- 3. Leaf Pick-up Program**
- a. November Pick-up
    - i. Collected over 1200cy of leaves
    - ii. Work extended an extra week
  - b. December Pick-up
    - i. Postponed due to weather
- 4. 3rd Street House Demo**
- a. Observed the contractor during the demo process
- 5. Fire Station Addition**
- a. Applied for operating permit
- 6. Meetings**
- a. Department Head
  - b. Safety Meeting
- 7. Miscellaneous**
- a. Worked on Fulcrum reports
  - b. Helped Plow

**Street Department Submitted by Jordan Plock:**

**1. Daily Tasks**

- a. Trash pickup of city trash cans
- b. City mechanic working on daily maintenance tasks

**2. Projects**

- a. Crew worked along with Benesh and Sons on a drainage project on 7th and Jackson St.
- b. Crew prepped equipment for the upcoming snow season.
- c. Crew completed the final brush pickup of the season.

**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
- d. Crew attended our yearly OSHA training hosted by RMA.

**4. General**

- a. Street Foreman attended the department head meeting.
- b. Crew worked tirelessly on the recent snow storm that brought 9+ inches to the area. Thank you to the Public Works crew for all of their effort!

**Sewer Department Submitted by Scott Wallace:**

**Daily tasks**

1. Daily chores
2. Complete 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)

**Head Works**

1. No new updates at this time

**Training**

1. Started annual training

**General**

1. Snow, snow, and more snow!
2. Thawed out frozen air line to grit chamber

**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
3. Repaired Valve on plumbing at Well#3
4. Repaired GFI outlet at Well#2

**Meter Replacement Program**

1. Been scheduling and replacing meters as time allows

**EPA compliance**

1. Working on completing Monthly operating reports for Epa compliance.
2. Completed Vulnerability Waiver program to reduce organic chemical monitoring at the wells. This was for 2026-2028.
3. Completed Certification for Lead testing of schools and Daycare facilities.

**Training**

1. Working to complete Knowb4 training.
2. Attended OSHA training on November 25th 2025.

**General**

1. Cleared snow at the Wastewater treatment plant, Well #5, Well #4, Fairgrounds Lift Station, East side Lift Station, Woods Lift Station, etc.
2. Assisted the Sewer department when needed
3. Worked with customers on water leaks and sewer issues at numerous locations.
4. Cleaned two sanitary sewer lines on South 7th st. and South 3rd st. due to debris.
5. Worked on cleaning, organizing, inventory of supplies for water and wastewater.



**Oregon Police Department Submitted by Chief Matthew Kalnins**