



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

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To: Mayor Ken Williams & Oregon City Council

From: Darin J. DeHaan, City Manager & Staff

**DATE: Jan 13, 2026**

I am pleased to provide Mayor Williams and the Oregon City Council with the following synopsis of City Business for – Dec 6, 2025 – Jan 9, 2026

### Submitted by Darin DeHaan - City Manager

- I hope everyone had Happy Holidays!
- Council Member Mel Cozzi, Terry Schuster, and Josiah Flanagan attended the Northern Illinois Council of Governments Legislative Luncheon. They provide a great panel of legislators for a Q & A roundtable.



- I attended the ACTION Grant Year 3 - 1st Quarter Update hosted by Joyce Lewis with the Ogle County Health Department. Great progress has been made with the Mini-food centers including the one in Oregon. They are encouraging individuals using the food center to take their survey to help them continue to improve the food centers. Huge thank you to Joyce and everyone involved in these programs.
- Continue work on the Safe Routes to School grant. Inter Governmental Agreements were approved by the Oregon Park District Board as well as the Oregon School District Board. The Oregon City Council had already approved both IGAs. Those will be provided to Willett Hoffmann and Associates who continue to work on this grant project for us.
- I'm proud to announce that Oregon was selected as one of six communities to receive the Strong Communities Initiative grant through Compeer Financial and Hometown Consulting. This grant value is around \$12,500 and will build organizational and leadership capacity, support business retention, improve communication and transparency with our residents as well as helping to set additional economic development goals.
- I attended the CMAAA board meeting.
- Oregon hosted IMRF representative Morgan Johnson who provided great details on the IMRF system. We were joined by staff of the Oregon Park District and Oregon School District. Thank you Cheryl for organizing this session.
- I helped prepare items of discussion for the 5 Area Mayor's meeting.
- I met with Ben from A5 to discuss our experience in working with Teska consulting in the past. (Riverfront Development Plan).
- I'm working with an area resident and our public works department on a strategy for a sanitary sewer connection into the City's system.
- I attended the OCEDC Executive Committee meeting to strategize on priorities for the organization in 2026. Thank you to our Director Liz Hiemstra for her dedication and leadership to move this organization forward.
- Set up and launched our 1st quarter cybersecurity training.
- Assisted our IT in deployment of new computers to replace workstations that couldn't be upgraded to Windows 11. We are also in the process of upgrading our server at City Hall.
- I met with Council Member Cozzi to discuss a new policy on public donations. (I appreciate her perspectives on this.) I've developed a policy for council review.
- We had our city awards banquet and holiday gathering. Thank you to Lisa, Mary, Aidan, and Skyler for their time putting things together. Public works did a great job preparing the space for the gathering. Congratulations to our Team of the year. Lynn, Cheryl, Jordan, and Aaron. And to Josh Pickering who was selected as our Employee of the Year!

- We held our 2026 work session with the City Council. Public Works presented several capital improvement projects and we had a good discussion on long term plans for our sewer lines and manholes. I provided some brief information on the IDHA housing study as well as some financial trend information for budget consideration.
- I attended the Illinois Financial Forecast Forum: Private sector views that will impact the Public Sector presented by ILCMA.
- We continue to communicate with and strategize on behalf of the Kunes dealership building. We have an upcoming meeting and will then start launching a marketing campaign for the space with the help of OCEDC.
- 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, City Clerk*

- 3 building permits issued in December.
- Garbage and recycling schedules for 2026 are available on the city website and City Hall.
- City Hall will be closed on January 19th in observation of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

## **MEETING INFORMATION**

### *Planning & Zoning:*

Next meeting Jan 20, 2026 at 5:30pm Oregon City Hall Council Chambers

### *City Council Meeting:*

Next meeting Jan 27, 2026 at 5:30pm Oregon City Hall Council Chambers.

### *Sustainability Committee:*

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

### *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

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## **PUBLIC WORKS**

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### ***Director of Public Works Submitted by Bill Covell***

#### **Daily Tasks**

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

#### **Projects**

- a. Headworks Project—nothing new
- b. Lead Service Inventory—Updated spreadsheet for Kirby to pot hole services
- c. 2026 Local Road Project—Preliminary planning for next summer
- d. Century Hill Subdivision—Exhibit for workshop meeting
- e. 2026 MFT Project—City Hall Parking Lot, Street Garage Parking Lot, Adams Street
- f. 2025 East Side Sidewalk—Followed up with Fehr Graham
- g. Pedestrian Crossing—nothing new

#### **Leaf Pick-up Program**

- a. 2025 Complete

#### **3rd Street House Demo**

- a. Complete

#### **Fire Station Addition**

- a. Public Works portion complete

#### **Meetings**

- a. Department Head
- b. Safety Meeting
- c. Workshop Meeting

#### **Miscellaneous**

- a. Worked on Fulcrum reports

### ***Street Department Submitted by Jordan Plock***

#### **Daily Tasks**

- a. Trash pickup of city trash cans

- b. City mechanic working on daily maintenance tasks

### **Projects**

- a. Crew is working on sign replacement program to replace old and worn out signs within the city.
- b. Crew worked on upfitting a few plow trucks with new backup lights and a backup camera.
- c. Crew stripped and replaced the old deteriorating flooring in the city street garage with new epoxy flooring.
- d. Crew assisted the WS departments with a water main break on S 7th st.
- e. Crew along with Benesh and Sons worked on a large sink hole by the Ogle County Courthouse.

### **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. Worked on updating our list of required OSHA training for the year.

### **General**

- a. Street Foreman attended the department head meeting.
- b. Congratulations to Aaron Montoya and Jordan Plock on being named to Team of the Year.
- c. Congratulations to Josh Pickering on being named Employee of the Year.

## **Sewer Department Submitted by Scott Wallace**

### **Daily tasks**

- a. Daily chores
- b. Complete testing (process control/EPA Required Monitoring)
- c. Half testing (process control)
- d. Pumped Sludge
- e. Cleaned bar screens, netting of tanks, multiple times daily due to rags, debris
- f. Daily reporting of National Weather Service recordings
- g. Lift Station usage recording
- h. Assisted the Water Department
- i. Monthly reports to the EPA
- j. Generator/ Well checks
- k. Worked with various customers on water and sewer issues (leaks, sewer backups)

### **Head Works**

- a. No new updates at this time

### **Training**

- a. Began know-b4 training

- b. Scheduling wastewater spring conference

#### **General**

- a. Thawing out back up digester
- b. Ordered impeller for jefferson st lift station
- c. Bi-Annual sludge report
- d. Worked with LAI on blower maintenance
- e. Worked with Aerzen on Digester blower issues
- f. Worked with Thern on replacement crane parts
- g. Water main break on South 7th

### **Water Department Submitted by Jeff Pennington**

#### **Daily Tasks**

- a. Chores
- b. Daily Testing
- c. Julie Locates
- d. Final reads
- e. Water turn-ons
- f. Water shut-offs
- g. Generator checks

#### **Wells**

- a. Repaired Chemical feed pump parts as needed
- b. Took Chemical delivery from Hawkins for process/control
- c. Held Meeting with Gasvoda to discuss Air Relief Valve at Well#3. They are scheduling a replacement of the valve.
- d. Worked on acquiring pricing for replacement Pressure tank for well #5 water service.

#### **Meter Replacement Program**

- a. Been scheduling and replacing meters as time allows

#### **EPA compliance**

- a. Completed Monthly operating reports for Epa compliance.
- b. Worked with Pace Laboratories to ensure that all samples were reported to EPA. Found a mistake and corrected it with the lab for School lead sampling.
- c. Forwarded email and started the process to update Risk and Resilience Assessment and Emergency Response Plan with the City Manager and Public Works Director.

#### **Training**

- a. Completed Knowb4 training.
- b. Safety meetings with the Public Works Director and staff.

#### **General**

- a. Repaired Water main break on 500 block of S. 7th St.
- b. Assisted the Sewer department when needed
- c. Worked with customers on water leaks and sewer issues at numerous locations.



- d. Aidan took his Class C water exam for certification on Thursday Jan 8th and awaits results.
- e. Continued cleaning, organizing, and inventory of supplies for water and wastewater.

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## Oregon Police Department

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

- The Oregon Police Department hopes everyone enjoyed a wonderful Christmas holiday and a safe New Year
- We would like to thank the Oregon School District and the Oregon Fire Department for their participation in the recent active threat training conducted at the high school during Christmas break. This training provides officers and staff the opportunity to train together and become familiar with the school facilities, ensuring preparedness should an emergency ever occur.



