



*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: Feb 23, 2026**

**I am pleased to provide Mayor Williams and the Oregon City Council with the following synopsis of City Business for – Feb 7, 2026 – Feb 20, 2026**

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

- I'm working with Council Member Cozzi on some details for the 2026 Farmers Market.
- Attended the Executive Committee and Board of Director meetings for the Ogle County Economic Development Corporation.
- Met with members of the local Indivisible group to answer some questions and concerns on behalf of the City.
- Continued to work on the Kunes Property. Working with Kunes representative to find a broker to list the property going forward.
- Completed research and work related to City Council agenda items.
- I held a meeting with a group of citizens interested in planning for the 250th Anniversary of the U.S. Prepared a memo recommending the group is officially formed as an Ad Hoc committee for the City. Lots of great ideas and energy coming from this group.
- I've been working with public works to create a plan on lowering our yearly costs of downtown beautification but keep the level of visuals similar. Thank you Josh, Jordan and Bill for your time on this. We will be presenting some cost savings ideas to the council for final decisions at the meeting.
- I'm working with staff on a few issues with some properties that need to be addressed.
- I met with Mayor Williams and Council Member Schuster to discuss community development and some economic development strategies.
- Continue to work on some parking issues with Bill.
- Working on a few TIF projects with our consultants.
- Continue efforts to connect potential businesses with rental spaces.
- Updates to LED sign and City Website.
- I've begun discussions with department heads and have received most of their FY27 budget requests. I'm still tracking projections for state income.
- We are working on updating our Capital Improvement Plan and are working to create a vision through 2029 for council consideration.

“As always 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.” - Darin DeHaan

*City Hall - Cheryl Hilton, City Clerk*

- January utility bills have been mailed/mailed to residents and are due on March 10th.
- City Hall continues to hear from residents regarding undelivered utility bills. Residents are encouraged to sign up for email billing and direct debit. Please contact City Hall with any questions and how to get started.
- Yard waste and brush collection begins April 6th. The collection schedule has been posted to the City website and paper copies are available at City Hall. Please see the schedule for collection guidelines.

**MEETING INFORMATION**

**Public Art Commission:**

Next meeting Mar 4, 2026 at 4:30pm at Oregon City Hall Council Chambers. We plan to finalize the art design for the City Welcome Signs at this meeting.

**250th Anniversary of US Ad Hoc -**

Next Meeting Mar 4, 2026 at 5:30pm at Oregon City Hall Conference Room.

**Sustainability Committee:**

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

**City Council Meeting:**

Next meeting Mar 10, 2026 at 5:30pm Oregon City Hall Council Chambers.

**Planning & Zoning:**

Next meeting Mar 17, 2026 at 5:30pm Oregon City Hall Council Chambers.

**Tree Board:**

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

**Economic and Community Development Committee:**

Oregon has joined Mainstreet and Darin is in the process of viewing resources and other materials to see how we can utilize the concepts/program in Oregon.

# **PUBLIC WORKS**

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

### **Daily Tasks**

- Help Schedule
- Approve Bills
- Purchased supplies
- Monthly Fuel Reports
- Safety Training

### **Projects**

- Headworks
  - Project–nothing new
- Lead Service Inventory
  - Updated Lead Line Inventory
- 2026 Local Road Projects
  - Review curb and pavement conditions in Century Hill Subdivision
- 2026 MFT Project
  - Reviewed engineers cost estimate
  - City Hall Parking Lot
    - Review pavement conditions for patching
  - Street Garage Parking Lot
    - Review site drainage
  - Adams Street
    - Double checked measurements
- 2025 East Side Sidewalk
  - Followed up with Fehr Graham
- Pedestrian Crossing
  - Nothing new
- FY2026 Budget Requests
- Start the auctions for city property disposal auction

### **Meetings**

- Department Head
- Safety Meeting
- Meeting with Fehr Graham

### **Miscellaneous**

- 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 some winter maintenance items to update the City garage.
- c. Crew is updating osha related items at the Street Department garage.
- d. Crew is working on updating handicapped parking stalls at farmers market.

#### **Training**

- a. Street Foreman led safety classes on Respirator safety.
- 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.
- e. Foreman attended training on new Julie regulations.

#### **General**

- a. Street Foreman attended the department head meeting.
- b. Street Foreman worked on gathering information on the possibility of replacing the old worn out Christmas decorations. We continue to work to beautify the City.
- c. Street Foreman worked with Water Operator on cross training of some of the daily tasks for the Water Department.
- d. Worked on ideas and solutions for the upcoming season of downtown beautification.

### *Sewer Department Submitted by Scott Wallace*

#### **Daily tasks**

- a. Daily chores
- b. Testing full set (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. Completed Lock out tag out training
- b. Completed Confined Space Training

**General**

- a. Had sludge hauled to Rochelle to get some much needed space in the digester
- b. Metro Cloud, Met with programer they have begun programing of site specific controls
- c. Blower maintenance on primary blowers has been completed
- d. Blower maintenance on back up digester has been postponed due to ice
- e. Worked with Kaeser on blower control set points
- f. Lab has been certified (this is an annual process)

*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. Scheduled Chemical delivery from Hawkins for process/control
- c. Gasvoda replaced Air Relief valve at well #3.

**Meter Replacement Program**

- a. Been scheduling and replacing meters as time allows

**EPA compliance**

- a. Worked with Pace Laboratories on receiving bottles for Epa compliance. Been waiting for VOC, IOC sample bottles. They were shipped to us on 2/19/2026.
- b. Received notification from the Illinois EPA that we have received a Special Exception Permit for a Change in Monitoring Requirements for the Lead and Copper Rule. Due to our two consecutive six month collection of Lead and Copper samples in 2025 being within the 90th percentile levels below .005mg/l for lead and .65mg/l, our community water supply is required to begin Triennial Lead and Copper monitoring beginning January 1, 2026. This means that instead of collecting 40 samples every six months we will now be able to collect 20 samples every three years. This is a significant reduction in costs and time to the city.

**Training**

- a. Safety meetings with the Public Works for Lock out/ Tag out and confined space during weekly meetings.

## General

- a. Department head is on Intermittent leave for Family medical needs starting 2/2/2025. Will continue to work with the Public Works Director to meet needs for EPA compliance and ensure the department is fulfilling tasks to operate properly.
- b. Assisted the Sewer department when needed
- c. Worked with customers on water leaks and sewer issues at numerous locations.
- d. Worked with customers on frozen meters, repairs, and replacement of those meters due to extreme cold winter conditions.

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## Oregon Police Department

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

On February 17, 2026, Chief Kalnins attended a meeting at the Ogle County Sheriff's Department regarding Constellation and the planned future deactivation of emergency alert sirens used for nuclear emergencies. The meeting included county officials and representatives from various emergency response agencies.

The purpose of the meeting was to initiate discussion on the anticipated deactivation process and to provide the county and its municipalities with an overview of what to expect should they assume responsibility for the sirens within their respective jurisdictions. Constellation advised that the approval process is currently under review in Springfield. Once approved at the state level, the plan will be submitted to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for final approval. Following FEMA approval, implementation would not occur for at least one year.

Constellation explained that it will utilize the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) as its primary method for notifying the public of any nuclear emergency. IPAWS uses cellular towers to deliver alerts directly to mobile phones within a designated geographic area. A secondary notification method, the Mass Notification System (MNS), will also be employed to disseminate information through multiple channels, including text messages and email.

The Ogle County Sheriff noted that IPAWS has already been implemented locally over the past year to increase public familiarity with the system for other emergency notifications that previously relied on sirens, such as tornado warnings.

Several benefits of the IPAWS system were discussed, including its ability to notify the public of a wide range of incidents, such as school emergencies, major traffic accidents, boil orders, and

evacuations. Because the system is cell-tower based, alerts are received not only by residents but also by individuals traveling through the affected area.

Constellation also outlined the responsibilities and considerations for any county or municipality that may choose to assume control of the sirens. These include:

- Annual maintenance costs averaging approximately \$500 per siren for routine service and replacement parts.
- Additional costs for any future upgrades or repairs beyond routine maintenance.
- The need for a control system to activate and manage the sirens.
- Lease and easement agreements associated with siren locations.
- Evaluation of siren coverage to ensure adequate notification of the intended area.
- Legal considerations and potential liability associated with siren ownership and operation.
- Potentially significant costs associated with decommissioning a siren.

Constellation emphasized that sirens serve solely as an alert mechanism. In contrast, IPAWS provides not only the alert itself but also accompanying information, including recommended protective actions and details about the nature of the emergency.

On 02/19/2029 the Oregon Police Department received the 2nd of their new squad cars. It is a 2025 Ford Explorer.



