

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday April 14th, 2026, 5:30 P.M.
City Hall Council Chambers
115 N 3rd Street

The Council of the City of Oregon met Tuesday April 14th, 2026, 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
Chief of Police Matt Kalnins
City Clerk Cheryl Hilton

Also Present: Bill Covell, John Dickson, Mary Elliott, Earleen Hinton, family members of Matt Kalnins, and officers from the Oregon Police Department.

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

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

Council Member Melanie Cozzi started the pledge of allegiance.

Presentations

None.

Proclamations, Commendations, Swear In, Etc.

Mayor Ken Williams recognized Police Chief Matt Kalnins for 20 years of service to the City of Oregon Police Department. He thanked Matt for his commitment and contributions to the City of Oregon and its citizens.

Mayor Ken Williams recited the Bird City proclamation and proclaimed May 9th, 2026 as World Migratory Bird Day in the City of Oregon. Council Member Terry Schuster stated this has been a year long process. All the proper paperwork has been submitted to the organization and approval should be received in June. He said Tom Pacey, who is a member of other city committees, has collected, completed, and communicated with the organization on this project.

Public Comment

John Dickson said he spoke with Terry and Darin about the Main Street program. He asked the city to set specific goals and hold reviews to make sure those goals are being met. He stated he is in favor of the program but wants to make sure the program is managed well and the objectives are met.

Approval of Minutes

Council Member Tim Krug moved to approve March 24th, 2026, minutes, Seconded by Council Member Josiah Flanagan.

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

Approval of Warrants & Payroll

Council Member Terry Schuster moved to approve payroll in the amount of \$67,120.21 and the current warrants as listed:

3 D Trailer & Auto	\$13,518.00
A.M. Leonard, Inc	\$761.25
A5 Group Inc	\$2,887.50
Amazon Capital Services, Inc	\$35.29
Bill Covell	\$113.00
Bill Covell	\$331.52
Blue Cross Blue Shield	\$21,531.13
Boss Roofing Siding Experts	\$1,317.03
Central Square	\$5,903.45
Cintas	\$150.85
Coliseum Museum Art, Antiques & Americana	\$3,454.00
Comcast	\$284.86
Comcast	\$1,031.82
Darin DeHaan	\$169.90
Deb Fane	\$75.00
Ecolab	\$150.00
Envision Healthcare	\$227.00
Epic Insurance Midwest	\$500.00
Fehr Graham & Associates LLC	\$690.25
Fehr Graham & Associates LLC	\$4,875.00
Fehr Graham & Associates LLC	\$5,500.00
Fehr Graham & Associates LLC	\$12,677.00
Fidelity Security Life Insurance	\$175.40
Fischer's	\$135.14
Frontier	\$299.12
Hach Company	\$2,023.90
Hawkins, Inc	\$1,491.02
Helm Electric	\$485.00
Illinois Department of Agriculture	\$180.00
Illinois EPA	\$58,374.60
Jacob & Klein, Ltd	\$788.20
Manheim Solutions	\$2,082.50
Mariani Plants	\$696.60
MCS	\$145.00
NAPA	\$14.69
Nicor	\$627.60
Northern Illinois Disposal Services	\$51,195.84
NW Illinois Criminal Justice Commission	\$886.40
Oregon Community Unit School District #220	\$12,688.63
Oregon Park District	\$2,500.00
Oregon Rotary Club	\$115.00
Pace Analytical Services	\$3,212.00
Pines Meadow	\$515.50
Polo Cooperative Association	\$5,342.96
Postmaster	\$10.77
Scott Wallace	\$113.00
Shaw Media/Oregon Republican Reporter	\$343.29
Shawn Melville	\$250.00
Snyder's Pharmacy	\$22.82

Steve Benesh & Sons	\$3,760.00
Stillman BancCorp	\$4,047.16
Stratus Network Inc	\$77.08
SundogIT	\$2,719.91
Sutton Ford	\$65,241.57
The Economic Development Group	\$3,152.80
Village of Progress	\$1,280.00
WRHL/WYOT	\$998.00
	\$302,175.35

Seconded by Council Member Tim Krug.

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

Ordinances

None.

Resolutions

Council Member Melanie Cozzi moved to approve Resolution 2026-07 Electric Municipal Aggregation Program authorizing the Mayor or City Manager to seek bids and enter a contract on behalf of the city, Seconded by Council Member Tim Krug.

Discussion: The current electrical aggregation contract with MC Squared will expire soon. The resolution will allow Darin and Mike Mudge to seek new rates for residential electric. Residents have the option to join or leave the program at any time.

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

Motions

Council Member Tim Krug moved to approve the Mutual Release and Settlement Agreement with Civil Constructors, Inc. dba Helm Civil, Seconded by Council Member Josiah Flanagan.

Discussion: The agreement is related to the failed seal coat project from two years ago. The city filed a lawsuit against the contractor for the failure. The city entered a mediation process to work the contractors' attorneys to find an agreeable amount to settle the claim. City Attorney Paul Chadwick said this finalizes the process for payment instead of going further into litigation.

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

Council Member Melanie Cozzi moved to approve the New City Welcome Sign Design and Authorize the City Manager to issue an RFP for the replacement of one sign, Seconded by Council Member Tim Krug.

Discussion: City Manager Darin DeHaan thanked the Public Art Committee; they put a lot of thought and effort into the design. Randee Mennenga provided the finalized design. The committee agreed to a more natural look to the design and space around the signs. The new sign will replace the sign that sustained wind damage on the East side of town. The committee also explored refreshing the current signs, however the damage was extensive and the company that made the original signs is no longer in business. The final design will be submitted to multiple vendors for renderings and bids on the project. Approval from IDOT will be required. The City Council will review the vendor design submissions for final approval.

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

Council Member Terry Schuster moved to approve the Mainstreet Director Position and Authorize the City Manager to advertise and fill the position, Seconded by Council Member Tim Krug.

Discussion: City Manager Darin DeHaan said he had a few people reach out to him and after giving them more information, they saw the benefit of the position. He received no poor feedback. Council Member Terry Schuster stated the city needs to make sure we have a way of measuring the impact of the position at the end of the year. Council Member Melanie Cozzi expressed concern for the overall responsibilities and duties required for the position and suggested the starting salary be raised to fifty-two thousand for full time. Mayor Ken Williams gave reasons why retail matters to the city. He said when we support our local businesses, we support ourselves and it is for the long-term strength of our city. Eleven years ago, there were seventeen vacant storefronts downtown. Ten years ago, the city revenue from sales tax was seven hundred and eighty-seven thousand dollars. In the last twelve months, the sales tax revenue reached 1.3 million dollars, the city takes in more sales tax than property tax. It is a trade off and is a plus for residents. There are one hundred and thirty-eight registered businesses with an Oregon physical address paying sales tax. He said he looks at sales tax as other people's money because half of the people with an Oregon address do not live in the City of Oregon. We have a lot of tourism dollars. Their purchases help fund services like roads and police for our residents.

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

Discussion Items

None.

Board & Commission Reports

Planning: Public hearing for a zoning change to allow hotel/motel as a permitted use in the Commercial District.

Finance: Budget is completed but continue to watch funds and review departments.

Sustainability: Continue to work on Eco Oregon program to highlight local businesses on sustainability efforts. The committee is reviewing the logo that was approved four years ago. The city is also partnering with Ogle County Soil & Water for residents to purchase rain barrels.

Tree Board: A Weeping Willow will be planted on April 24th at 10 am, weather dependent, in observance of Arbor Day. The tree will be planted by the north end of town's welcome sign.

250th Commemoration Committee: John Dickson said the committee has secured five different entertainment groups for the event. They are also discussing the possibility of a tug of war by Conover Square.

Department & Officer Reports

Chief of Police Matt Kalnins: Thanked everyone for support over his twenty-year career.

Public Works Director Bill Covell: Public works has started working on street projects. They have completed some street paving and cored out the parking lot at Taft's Tavern. He asked for everyone to be mindful of people and projects.

City Clerk Cheryl Hilton: Congratulated Matt Kalnins.

City Attorney Paul Chadwick: Congratulated Matt Kalnins.

City Manager Darin DeHaan: Appreciation to Matt Kalnins for all he has done for the Police Department. The IDHA meeting was held last night to discuss the Community Revitalization Strategy for affordable housing. A group of volunteers will divide the community into sections. The volunteers will then evaluate the housing stock in Oregon.

Council Reports

Council Member Cozzi: Congratulated Matt Kalnins.

Council Member Krug: Congratulated Matt Kalnins.

Council Member Flanagan: Congratulated Matt Kalnins and said this week is National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week.

Mayor Ken Williams: Congratulated Matt Kalnins. He thanked everyone for their time.

Council Member Melanie Cozzi moved to adjourn the meeting, Seconded by Council Member Terry Schuster.

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

Adjourn: 6:05 P.M.

Ken Williams, Mayor

Attest: _____
Cheryl Hilton, City Clerk