

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday April 28th, 2026, 5:30 P.M.
City Hall Council Chambers
115 N 3rd Street

The Council of the City of Oregon met Tuesday April 28th, 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, Lee Hadick, Liz Hiemstra, Earleen Hinton, and Chris Manheim.

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.

Chief of Police Matt Kalnins started the pledge of allegiance.

Presentations

None.

Proclamations, Commendations, Swear In, Etc.

Mayor Ken Williams recognized Chris Manheim for his accomplishments and contributions to the City of Oregon and local businesses.

Mayor Ken Williams proclaimed the month of May 2026 as Motorcycle Awareness month.

Public Comment

None.

Approval of Minutes

Council Member Tim Krug moved to approve April 14th, 2026, 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 \$68,067.70 and the current warrants as listed:

Amazon Capital Services, Inc	\$332.18
Ancel Glink, P.C.	\$6,619.50
Anne's Landscape Supply	\$599.91
Autumn on Parade	\$2,000.00

Blackhawk Hills Regional Council	\$1,082.69
Blue Cross Blue Shield	\$21,531.13
Butitta Bros Automotive - Oregon	\$59.89
Caspers Home Inspection LLC	\$1,550.00
City of Oregon	\$5,500.00
Comcast	\$1,030.28
ComEd	\$9,759.74
Discover Dixon	\$1,000.00
Dixon Glass Co	\$435.00
Dixon Well Now Urgent Care	\$115.00
Ehmen	\$490.00
EM Benefits	\$1,822.66
Ferguson Waterworks #2516	\$3,922.53
Fischer's	\$1,758.38
Frontier	\$139.13
Helm Electric	\$314.00
Jeff Perry Auto Group	\$357.95
Joe Cooling & Sons	\$308.38
Jordan Plock	\$141.00
Kaleel's Clothing	\$53.00
Ken Williams	\$91.14
Melanie Cozzi	\$25.00
Mobile Electronics	\$9,315.80
Nicor	\$407.98
Postmaster	\$803.98
Quill	\$110.46
Rat Worx, Inc	\$540.00
Region 1 Planning Council	\$625.00
Sauk Valley Plumbing, Inc	\$1,875.70
St Aubin Nursery	\$200.00
Sun Life Financial	\$415.51
The Police & Sheriffs Press	\$180.00
Verizon	\$1,012.63
Visa	\$2,932.83
Ward, Murray, Pace & Johnson, P.C.	\$159.00
	\$79,617.38

Seconded by Council Member Tim Krug.

Discussion: City Manager Darin DeHaan said the Autumn on Parade invoice was received late. The invoice was for entertainment at last year's event.

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

Ordinances

Council Member Terry Schuster moved to approve Ordinance 2026-006 adding Hotel and Motel as Permitted Uses in the General Business District, Seconded by Council Member Melanie Cozzi.

Discussion: Mayor Ken Williams stated there is a list of approved businesses in the city ordinances. Hotels are permitted in the highway commercial district but are not permitted in the regular commercial district. He said there has been one in operation directly across the street from city hall

for many years. This was an oversight when the code was redone a couple of years ago. This is basically housekeeping.

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

Resolutions

Council Member Tim Krug moved to approve Resolution 2026-08 Bird City, Seconded by Council Member Terry Schuster.

Discussion: This is the second requirement for the city to be designated as a Bird City. Terry Schuster and Tom Pacey have been working on this project. Council Member Terry Schuster said a bird walk is scheduled for Saturday May 9th, 8am behind Conover Square at Kiwanis Park. The last time the event was held, they identified forty-six species of birds in just two hours. The birds are identified by books, visuals, and audio through the Merlin App.

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

Motions

Council Member Tim Krug moved to approve Weekly Flower, Watering, Care, and Maintenance Services Bid submitted by Hagemann Horticulture not to exceed \$40,300 with an additional contingency not to exceed \$4,000 for incidental costs, and authorize the City Manager to Execute the Contract, Seconded by Council Member Melanie Cozzi.

Discussion: City Manager Darin DeHaan said the services were bid due to the cost being over twenty-five thousand dollars. Hagemann Horticulture submitted the only bid. The service contract was reviewed and approved by City Attorney Paul Chadwick. There is also a significant reduction in cost of services this year. An analysis is being conducted to determine if this can be done by staff in the future.

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

Council Member Tim Krug moved to Waive the formal bid process for the watermain project in the 100 Block of West Washington and approve the project cost of \$54,325 submitted by Martin & Company Excavating due to the emergency and urgent timing need of the Oregon Fire Protection District building project and authorize the City Manager to execute any necessary agreements, Seconded by Council Member Josiah Flanagan.

Discussion: When the fire department went to tap in their water service line for the new addition at the fire department, Bill noticed the city watermain was pitted and aged. Since the ground was already opened, a decision was made to go ahead and do the replacement. City Manager Darin DeHaan said the reason he is asking to forgo the bid process is not to slow down the progress of the fire department's project. The watermain is on the terrace on Rt. 64. Mayor Ken Williams said with the interest of a successful partnership with the fire department the city is willing to cover the cost of the project with TIF funds. The project qualifies for TIF funds because the fire department is in the TIF zone and is new construction.

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

Council Member Tim Krug moved to approve Façade Grant for up to \$7,500.00 for East Side Cleanup and Repairs at Conover Square Mall – 201 N 3rd Street, Oregon, IL, Seconded by Council Member Josiah Flanagan.

Discussion: Community members are working to help clean up this space. About a year ago, stucco on that side of the building sloughed off and the pile remains. City Manager Darin DeHaan met with the owner of the building, and they discussed improvements that need to be completed. He said a TIF redevelopment agreement could be considered in the future for the building but at this point he thought a Façade Grant would be more suitable for the clean up process. Council Member Tim Krug said volunteers with Hands on Oregon are available to help with the clean-up. Council Member Melanie Cozzi stated concerns about the structural integrity of the building. Mayor Ken Williams said an engineering study of the building has not been conducted. The City Council discussed items to consider if a broader TIF project was to be done in the future. City Manager Darin DeHaan said the grant is a matching grant and the owner is responsible for providing fifty percent towards the project.

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

Discussion Items

Downtown Veterans Banners: The VFW approached the Mayor two years ago to discuss displaying banners in honor of veterans around the courthouse. City Manager Darin DeHaan said the VFW is asking to sell more banners and expand their display locations. Twenty banners were ordered and installed around the courthouse. The public works department has been moving the banner brackets due to the veteran banners smaller size compared to the city banners. Council Member Terry Schuster said he would prefer the banners only be displayed around the courthouse, he does not want to lose all the city banners. He also said people were unclear on how to order the banners. Mayor Ken Williams said the Art Committee continues to work on other banners to display as well. The City Council decided the veterans' banners will be displayed on double brackets around the courthouse only. All future banners will need to be the same size as the city banners. Public Works Director Bill Covell will provide a cost for the double brackets to the City Council.

Board & Commission Reports

Economic & Community Development: City Manager Darin DeHaan said the Ogle County Economic Development Corporation has launched their website. Liz Hiemstra did an excellent job and he believes it will be a valuable resource. He also said the city has been approached by four potential new businesses. Liz Hiemstra is working on space/revitalization of space. Mayor Ken Williams said the city continues to work with Kunes on marketing the location. It is on the LOIS site for lease or sale. Kunes had previously said they would list the property with a realtor. The city continues to do as much as possible to fill the location.

Finance: City Manager Darin DeHaan recognized Cheryl for putting the year end transfers together and getting everyone to finalize their bills for the year. The year-end transfers look better than expected. He gave credit to the department heads for watching budgets closely. Transfers were about eighty thousand dollars less than last year.

Tree Board: City Manager Darin DeHaan thanked everyone who attended the Arbor Day tree planting. He thanked the street department for choosing an excellent location.

250th Commemoration Committee: John Dickson listed the events that have been planned for the three-day event in June.

Department & Officer Reports

Public Works Director Bill Covell: The public works department will have an extra brush pick up on Monday. The department was also able to aid the Village of Lena with storm clean-up. They hauled about sixty loads of debris. Bill Covell said the homeowners were grateful for their help.

City Manager Darin DeHaan: City Manager Darin DeHaan commended Public Works Director Bill Covell. He said he was in constant contact with him during the storm as well as the sheriff. He said he is very appreciative of the guys that went over and spent their weekend helping the Lena community.

Council Reports

Mayor Ken Williams: Expressed the importance of the year end transfers. He said we will see how it plays into the budget. He said the police department had ninety thousand dollars less than last year.

Council Member Tim Krug moved to adjourn the meeting, Seconded by Council Member Terry Schuster.

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

Adjourn: 6:16 P.M.

Ken Williams, Mayor

Attest: _____
Cheryl Hilton, City Clerk