



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES August 26, 2025

The scheduled meeting of the Ontario City Council was called to order by Mayor Deborah Folden at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 26, 2025, in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Council members present were Deborah Folden, Ken Hart, Susann Mills, John Kirby, Michael Braden, and Penny Bakefelt. Adrianna Contreras was excused.

Staff present were Dan Cummings, Tori Barnett, Corinna Hysell, Clint Benson, Kari Ott, Tatiana Burgess, Jason Cooper, Al Haun, and Marshall Pierce.

The meeting was recorded, and copies are available at City Hall.

AGENDA

This Agenda was posted Friday, August 22, 2025. Copies of the Agenda are available from the City Hall Customer Service Counter and on the city's website www.ontariooregon.org.

HART moved, MILLS seconded, **TO ADOPT THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED**. Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Braden-yes; Hart-yes; Contreras-out; Kirby-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

CONSENT AGENDA

KIRBY moved, MILLS seconded, **TO ADOPT THE CONSENT AGENDA, WHICH CONSISTED OF ADOPTION OF THE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 22, 2025; SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 4, 2025; PROCLAMATION #2025-102: NATIONAL RECOVERY MONTH, SEPTEMBER 2025; AND LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION: CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP – ROMIO'S PIZZA AND PASTA**. Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Braden-yes; Hart-yes; Contreras-out; Kirby-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

Mayor Folden read Proclamation #2025-102 National Recovery Month into the record:

Mental health challenges, substance use, and harmful gambling behaviors affect individuals and families throughout our nation—including right here in Ontario. These struggles touch people from all walks of life, but recovery is possible and happening every day. It begins with hope, grows with support, and thrives through connections. With the right tools, treatment, and encouragement, people can rebuild their lives and find purpose and joy again. This September, the City of Ontario joins the national observance of Recovery Month to celebrate the resilience and healing journeys of those in recovery. The need for awareness and action is urgent. Over 40 million Americans live with substance use disorders, and tragically, over 100,000 families lose loved ones to overdose annually. Here in Oregon, nearly 13 percent of residents report life altering substance misuse use past month—well above the national average—and rates of anxiety and depression are approximately 3 percent higher than nationwide figures. Gambling disorder also affects thousands, with an estimated 88,000 adults and youth meeting clinical criteria and another 180,000 at risk. These numbers are not just statistics—they represent our neighbors and loved ones. This reality calls us to expand prevention, treatment, and support so no one faces these challenges alone. Recovery Month reminds us all to break down stigma, recognize the signs of mental health and substance use struggles, and offer compassion and support to those who need it. By coming together as a community to share resources and celebrate every step forward, we strengthen the foundation of recovery. This journey is not one anyone takes alone—it is made possible by the dedication of healthcare providers, peer mentors, families, friends, and advocates whose care and commitment help make healing possible for so many. Therefore, we, the City of Ontario, Oregon, hereby proclaim September 2025 as Recovery Month for Mental Health, Substance Use, and Harmful Gambling Behaviors. We invite all citizens to observe this month with compassion, understanding, and action—celebrating those in recovery, supporting those still struggling, and building a community where healing is always within reach.



PUBLIC COMMENTS

Billy Carter, Ontario, stated: *Madam Mayor and Council. My name is Billy Carter, and I do live here in the City of Ontario. As I look up on that diasia [sic] tonight, the City Council is more diverse than it's ever been, or probably will ever be. We even have a female Mayor, which is very good. I mean, phenomenal. Therefore, I find it absolutely astonishing that under this administration the Diversity Advisory Committee may be made up of tax-paying citizens, that volunteer their time to support the City Council on behalf of the tax-paying citizens of Ontario, is being considered for disbandment. I simply ask you to listen and seek out more input for the engaged tax-paying citizens of Ontario before you make such a critical, historical, decision to disband the Diversity Advisory Committee. I ask you to further consider historical financial impact data and not to just use subjective information in this decision making process.*

Kathie Collins, Ontario, stated: *I'm Kathie Collins, a resident of Ontario and member of the Diversity Advisory Committee. When we saw that on the agenda, yeah, we were just concerned a little bit that it may be up for consideration to disband and we certainly hope that's not the case. I don't know that it, we don't know if it was, I mean, weren't sure. But, we really encourage the City Council to fully embrace the Diversity Advisory Council, Diversity Advisory Council. We're, we live in a really unique area, actually, and I'm a journalist at heart, and I like to tell we're unique, but when you have the ethnicity makeup we do of a large Latino population, there are Basque, Japanese, it is kind of unique. You can't find that anywhere else. Not only that, but our community, for being rural, and I'm a grant writer, I tease my Portland counterparts quite a bit because we have a reputation here in Ontario that the county meets kind of the redneck country folk, but really we're, I think in some ways, more liberal than good old Portland, because I remind them that in the 40s they had the no Japs allowed signs over their pools, where we welcomed the Japanese community here, so, I think that, historically, we set a precedent. We are a very, very proud of our diversity, and not only in terms of ethnicity, but for a rural community, we have LGBTQ+ community that is not afraid. They are out, and I think that helps. I think that wasn't always the case in Malheur County or Ontario. But, yeah, I just think it's really great. And again, we have a female Mayor. I think, especially with what's going on with our federal administration right now, diversity is sort of, museums are being told don't tell the truth about our history, we want to whitewash everything. This is not the time to do that here. We want to really be proud, and be one of those communities, whether it's the fact that we have a large, I mean, gosh, diversity means everything, too. A large homeschooling population, I mean we have charter schools, we have public schools, we have, we're not, we're just diverse, and we're very proud of that and we want to embrace that. So, I encourage you to support the DAC anyway you can. Thank you.*

Lynn Johnson, Ontario, stated: *Thank you, Madam Mayor and members of the Council, and assembled guests. My name is Lynn Johnson, and I'm a resident here in Ontario. I spent my career in health care management and then I volunteered as a Parks Commissioner here for three years, and now I serve on the Budget Committee. I stand to support and encourage the growth of diversity in the local government and community involvement. We can remember back to our experiences in World War II, when the Japanese community was significantly ostracized, and if we fast forward to today, we could still find some of those same types of prejudice within the Hispanic population, where they feel disenfranchised and both sides of the discussion have expressed certain fears. TVCC's Hispanic population in 2022 was 27%. That held consistent in 2023 at 26.7%. Yet, if we look back, in the 1950s, we certainly had prejudices, and now we have the opportunity to enhance our integration within this community. As we look at government within a community, I'm reminded by many politicians in the past that all government is local. Change starts local. I encourage integrated relationships. As an example, with my family, we were raised in lilywhite Canyon County. And, at an early age, we were exposed to significant prejudices. But now, within my immediate and extended family, we have same-sex marriages, I've been in a biracial relationship here for the past eight or nine years, and my two daughters have also married Hispanics and live throughout the country. In keeping with that, if we review the facts for Ontario in the 19, 'scuze me, in the 2020 census, there's 49% Hispanic and Latino population. 18% of the population is comprised of two or more races. 96% of Ontario are US citizens. So, if we ask the question, what percentage of minorities are elected or appointment to city government positions and/or employment. It is my belief that regardless of what that number is, we could do better. I am also reminded that in the 1990s, I participated in a number of business conferences, which included leaders from Japan industry. Their comment to us in a large*



forum was that the US had an advantage over Japan in that we had a very diverse melting pot population and we're gathering ideas from all cultures and backgrounds, whereas the Japanese felt that they were too homogenous, and they felt that that was a distinct advantage for us. So I'd like to ask, how many minorities are here tonight? Just a show of hands, very quickly. We have a few, but it's certainly not 49% of the population. So, we need to continue to engage and ask what if, what if city government in Ontario was 50% minority? What other ideas could we derive from that input to try and help improve our city? In conclusion, I wish to urge the members of the Council and department heads to strive to be more inclusive of minority voices within our local government functions. I urge you to keep and enhance the Diversity Committee's role in Ontario city government. Thank you for this opportunity.

Andi Walsh, Ontario, stated: Good evening, all. My name is Andi Walsh. I'm an Ontario resident. I also serve as the Senior Health Policy Advisor for The Children's Institute, an organization that serves statewide to address health and education needs for our youngest Oregonians. I also serve as the Co-Chair of the Health Equity Committee for the Oregon Health Authority. And I'm here on, to speak in support, again, for the Diversity Committee. You heard me speak before, and I provided some of my story in that, in those comments. For me, I grew up with a very challenging family situation, with two parents with severe mental illness. I was really touched to hear the Proclamation that was read out loud tonight around National Recovery Month. I lost one of my parents to his mental illness, and that anniversary is in a week, and so I think a lot about my experience and growing up we were not represented by our local government. We didn't hear a Proclamation like that, for example. But, I think this committee keeps getting stuck on the word diversity because that's the word that's being attacked at the federal level, when really what this committee's about is about belonging. It's about a government that believes everyone in the city belongs, and believes that you should hear voices from everyone who belongs. There's speculation the Diversity Committee is on the chopping block tonight, and I think that makes sense to me, per what I've seen. This is a Council meeting that isn't being livestreamed on Facebook. The last Council meeting there was comments around wanting to review paperwork that was not, I don't think, given to the public around what was being reviewed or on the Diversity Committee, and my appointment to the Diversity Committee was tied to that review, that paperwork, which makes it feel like the Diversity Committee itself is on the chopping block. I do hope we're wrong in that, and that this, this Council is going to make the right decision about making sure to uphold the rights of all of its citizens and to show that we all belong. I came from Chicago, and just yesterday the Illinois Governor made an extremely powerful speech at the threat of US military being deployed to Chicago streets, and in the end of his comments, he commented that Martin Luther King, Jr. mentioned, talks about how the arc of justice is long, I forget the exact quote, but that it bends towards justice. But he made another comment that it doesn't just bend because it bends, it bends because we have to continue to push it that way. We have to push towards justice. We have to push towards belonging, towards equity, and not get caught up on words that are now suddenly being said they're bad words. It's about the values of our city, so I want to be respectful of time, and so I just really hope that you keep the Diversity Committee and give it a chance to really show what it could do. Thank you.

OLD BUSINESS

DAC Committee Discussion

Councilor Braden stated: The City Council is the governing body that establishes and dissolves committees. I have read the summaries of Executive Order 14151 - Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferences. I have read summaries of Executive Order 14173 - Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity. At City Council on March 25th, I was present for Executive Session discussion under attorney-client privileges where the City Attorney discussed the possible legal issues the Council should consider. At City Council on July 8, 2025, I voted to approve the second reading of Ordinance #2838-2025, which adopted the updated language of Title 2, Chapter 14 as prepared by legal counsel. I have reflected persistently upon this July 8th vote and Council decision, weighing this decision in light of upholding and protecting the well-being of the City of Ontario and its citizens. I strongly believe that at present time the operation of a city sponsored Diversity Advisory Committee comes with potential funding losses and/or costly litigious risks that would damage the city's well-being. In mitigating these risks I ask the City Council to dissolve the Diversity Advisory Committee.

BRADEN moved, MILLS seconded, THAT THE CITY COUNCIL DISSOLVE THE DIVERSITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED UNDER ONTARIO MUNICIPAL CODE ("OMC") TITLE 2, CHAPTER 14, AND DIRECT CITY STAFF TO PREPARE AND PRESENT TO THE COUNCIL AN ORDINANCE DISSOLVING THE DIVERSITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND REPEALING OMC TITLE 2, CHAPTER 14 IN ITS ENTIRETY. No vote.

Councilor Hart stated: *I don't know what meeting I missed, but I guess I missed the meeting. Last time we had talked about it, we asked Council, we asked staff, to go and get input from our attorney, to make changes, and I know that we sent this information to the DAC committee. I don't think that the DAC committee necessarily approved of all the changes, but we adopted them, and we made those changes, and I believe that it was a good compromise between the fear of impact on the city from the federal government, but also trying to recognize that the committee, how could we change the language and be as safe as we could possibly be as a Council, as fiduciaries. And so, and I know that I've had a chance to talk to a couple of you about this, and I'd just like to read two highlights of what the current ordinance says that the Diversity Committee is supposed to do. One: In Ontario, we operate as one team, one community, fostering a community that values, supports, and develops people of all backgrounds and experiences. To this end, the committee shall serve as a liaison between all community members and the Council, on issues concerning diversity, equity, and inclusivity. In another section: The committee may assist in compiling and distributing materials that are intended to promote an equitable, inclusive, welcoming, diverse, and enriching community in a cultural environment. The committee may review policies and programs, and advise the Council on such policies and programs that are intended to promote equitable, inclusive, welcoming, diverse, and enriching community in a cultural environment. This includes gathering data and information to form a recommendation to the Council. I think these are all useful things. I believe everybody up here will act based upon what's in their heart, but at the end of the day, I am happy with what the attorney did. I believe that that we have a middle ground here to make sure that we continue to support our citizens that want to be involved, that it's fully staffed. That hasn't happened in a long time. I appreciate you taking the time and effort to meet, so I cannot support, and I'm not disparaging anybody who will support, but I will not be able to support dissolving the Diversity Committee because we've made the changes that our attorney said puts in a spot that protects us as much as we can and still have the committee. So I would, I will vote no on that.*

Councilor Bakefelt asked the City Manager: *Correct me if I'm wrong, but I was thinking that the DAC Committee didn't want the changes, and didn't read what the changes were that we were going to make to the ordinance.*

Mr. Cummings stated: *Well, from what they sent to the Council, I'm just trying to go by memory, they were not happy with what the amendment was, but like I say, I don't remember what their comments truly were. I don't want to speak out of turn, at all.*

Councilor Hart: *Madam Mayor, since we have members here, could we, I mean, we did make the changes. We asked for input, they gave us input, we took into consideration, and we still made the changes at that meeting, but if we have a member who, would that be okay, to see if they could speak to some of the concerns that they've had? I get it. That's what, it's in place.*

Ms. Collins: *If I may, Kathie Collins, member of the committee, fairly new member, to clarify, it really wasn't that we were upset with them or something, as a complete consensus of everyone that was there that night was just, we didn't think it was necessary. We felt like it's a fairly innocuous committee, we just advise a little bit, we don't, we're trying to promote diversity and so, we don't have any authority to do anything, so we just felt like it's, anyway, so we just... (illegible word)..., but we weren't against it or we didn't have concerns I wouldn't say, it wasn't that harsh of language, it was just we didn't think it was necessary. But, yeah, we certainly, I think to a person, too, understood that we don't want to put the city in jeopardy of losing any funding. We certainly wouldn't want to do that. That's not something that any of us would want to do. We just didn't think it was necessary, but if your attorney does, we just want to keep the committee going. Thank you.*

Mayor Folden stated: *I do have something I'd like to say, it has been a very difficult decision, and I put a lot of thought into my decision. I feel strongly that President Trump will fiercely uphold his Executive Order, and it should not be taken lightly. I have very much respect for the people and my friends and this community, and I hope my decision does not have any impact on my friendships, and I value all of you very dearly. Our Portland Mayor, Keith Wilson, has issued an Executive Order to comply with President Trump's Administration with*

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion mandates. The Mayor's choice to comply with federal demands convinces the city and said he depends on funding that could be at stake for their city. By complying with the laws, the city programs and services will provide services, programs, and benefits without regard or preferences based on protected class status, inconsistent with our ongoing commitment to comply with federal non-discrimination laws. President Trump signed an Executive Order shortly after taking office in January, that mandated entities with DEI practices, they would no longer receive federal funding. If we lose this funding, to keep our roads safe, and our neighbors house, we will feel it sharply. The consequences for accepting grants without compliance are severe, including the possibility of both civil and criminal penalties against anyone who signs for these funds, and I'm one of the signors, and I do take that seriously. And that's something that I would like to say.

Councilor Bakefelt: I just have another question, and I know I've asked this before and it's for Billy, I guess. Can you tell me what, in the past couple years, the accomplishments of the Diversity Committee?

Mr. Carter stated: Sure, I'd be happy to tell you some of the, a couple notes. One of the things that we took upon ourselves to do, keeping in mind that we work as an entity of the City Council, and so whatever you guys will ask us to do, we'd be more than happy to do. Okay? But we took an initiative on our own to register people to vote, and especially the few citizens that get their citizenship at Global Village. So we're very active in that. We've been very active in passing out diversity information at various events that happen here in the city. We pass out pamphlets regarding the city's Diversity Committee. We also put together an initiative to recognize citizens who have done a great deal in the community to promote diversity and we have had two recognitions so far. One this year, and one last year. So we have been actively involved in, you know, promoting diversity for the city and trying to present a very positive image of the city, but keep in mind that we work at your direction, and so, you know, whatever you guys ask us to do, we'll be more than happy to do. As that bridge between the Council and the citizens of the city. So that's just a couple of them and I'm probably forgetting something, but, you know, those are things that are fresh in my mind.

Councilor Hart: Mayor, can I help Billy? He helped the Ontario Promise Committee, so we were looking for ideas on how we do a better job of getting the information out, scholarships for students, and the committee gave us some suggestions and ideas. So that was an example, where we went and asked you for help and you helped us, so I appreciate that.

Mr. Carter: I appreciate that, Councilor Hart. And also, the police department and fire department has come to the Diversity Committee and asked us to participate in their interview process, just to, you know, have some outside input and consideration for their new hires and things along those lines. And so, we are more than happy to step up and do whatever the city needs us to do.

Councilor Bakefelt stated: One of my concerns, if I'm honest, is because I've heard there hasn't been quorums at a lot of the meetings over the last year or two, and that's not always everybody's fault, but, and then I've heard, you know, that there's been some problems with staff treatment, basically, at a couple of the meetings. What assurance can you give me that if we were to keep the Diversity Committee, that, we're done with that, that we're going to start looking at some goals, setting some goals, having some challenges out there for the Diversity Committee to go without getting into all this negative stuff.

Mr. Carter: Well, I can only speak for myself, but, you know, I will speak on, you know, for myself, and what I foresee happening with the Diversity Committee. For the first time in years, and I've been on the committee for four, five, six years, for the first time, we have a quorum, we have people waiting to be on our committee. Not only do we have a quorum, but we have people waiting to be appointed to the committee. For the first time, ever, and so we have a very, I think, a very involved, very logical, reasonable, sensible committee right now, made up of some really outstanding citizens here in Ontario, and so I don't see all that negativity happening on the committee, first of all, and I think, going forward, I don't anticipate any problems because I think that we have people on the committee that's committed to, you know, supporting the City Council, and I think that there, we already have put in place a mechanism where we're going to have more communications with the City Council, you know, to make sure you guys know, first of all, we're there, and that we're there to support you and that we will be providing you a quarterly or, we debated on whether or not we wanted to do

monthly or quarterly reports, so you would know what the committee is doing, and any directions you wanted to give the committee, we'd be able to do it answer could all move forward on the same sheet of music. So...

RESTATED MOTION:

BRADEN moved, MILLS seconded, THAT THE CITY COUNCIL DISSOLVE THE DIVERSITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED UNDER ONTARIO MUNICIPAL CODE ("OMC") TITLE 2, CHAPTER 14, AND DIRECT CITY STAFF TO PREPARE AND PRESENT TO THE COUNCIL AN ORDINANCE DISSOLVING THE DIVERSITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND REPEALING OMC TITLE 2, CHAPTER 14 IN ITS ENTIRETY. Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Braden-yes; Hart-no; Contreras-out; Kirby-yes; Bakefelt-no; Folden-yes. Motion carried 4/2/1.

Appointments to Committees: Airport, Diversity Advisory

Council Consensus to appoint Pete Morgan to the Airport Committee. The appointment of Andi Walsh to the Diversity Advisory Committee was not acted upon based upon an earlier action in this meeting regarding the dissolution of the Diversity Advisory Committee.

NEW BUSINESS**Surplus Ladder Truck**

Clint Benson, Fire Chief, presented.

In early 2023, the Vale Fire Department donated their 1985 Pierce Dash 50' Telesquirt to Ontario Fire & Rescue for use at the Ontario Public Safety Training Center. The ladder truck was unable to pass annual ladder testing as required by NFPA 1901 and the cost to make the necessary repairs exceeded the value of the truck; Therefore, Vale Fire donated the truck to use as a pumping apparatus during training at the training center. To date, the truck had only been used one time by Ontario Fire to repair the pole at Ontario City Hall. At that time, the ladder continued to sag during the operation. When Ontario Fire and Rescue trained in pumping operations at the training center, staff used the department's own apparatus in order to build familiarity with the equipment regularly used. Staff felt that funds from the sale of the truck would be better used towards ongoing projects at the training center rather than the truck itself.

The truck currently had 79,905 miles and 7,214 hours of use. Staff believed the truck would be an asset to a smaller department as a pumper used for training. Staff received some interest from a representative of a fire department in Mexico and another from a community college in Oregon. Staff obtained an estimate of \$1,772 to scrap the truck from Treasure Valley Recycling in Payette, Idaho. The 1985 Pierce Dash Telesquirt currently sat in an outdoor covered storage area at the Ontario Public Safety Training Center and had only been used one time since received it in early 2023.

This action was part of the fleet reduction plan within the 2025 Community Risk Assessment/Standard of Cover study. The fire department could better use the funds that came from the sale of this truck for ongoing projects at the training center. Additionally, there were costs associated with annual maintenance and testing if staff used the truck regularly as a training tool. Annual pump testing was currently \$328, plus travel costs. Annual maintenance was estimated at \$800.

BAKEFELT moved, KIRBY seconded, FOR THE CITY TO SURPLUS THE 1985 PIERCE DASH LADDER TRUCK BY ACCEPTING SEALED BIDS STARTING AT \$2,000 AND TO USE THE FUNDS TOWARD THE ONTARIO PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING CENTER. Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Braden-yes; Hart-yes; Contreras-out; Kirby-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

Resolution #2025-122: Change Order – Water Treatment Plant Floc Mechanism Replacement Project
Marshall Pierce, City Engineer, presented.

The City of Ontario's old Water Treatment Plant flocculation and conveyor equipment was over 40 years old and was showing its age. Equipment replacement bidding for this project occurred on October 9, 2024. Only one bid was received, in the amount of \$1,687,243, including a \$100,000 construction contingency. With deducting bid alternates 1 and 2, the updated bid amount for award was \$1,455,643. After additional good-faith negotiations with the contractor, additional savings were found that amount to \$112,000. The project was approved by Council and awarded in December last year.

As presented in that Council meeting, needed bid alternates were not included due to budgetary constraints and the plan presented was to request additional funding for next FY (this year), and add a change order for the amount needed, of \$296,975.

The city budgeted for this change order in this new fiscal year and was prepared to issue a construction change order to obtain new equipment. The city would need to carry over 24-25 budget amounts in order to fund and complete the project in 25-26. The total cost should be under budget at the end of the project. The submittal process had begun for this new equipment, and a change order should be executed in order to procure the equipment. If the Council chose not to award the change order, the old plant would not be upgraded as planned.

HART moved, KIRBY seconded, **THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE RESOLUTION #2025-122: A RESOLUTION TO CARRYOVER REMAINING 24-25 BUDGET FOR THE WATER FLOC MECHANISM.** Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Braden-yes; Hart-yes; Contreras-out; Kirby-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

HART moved, BAKEFELT seconded, **THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE THE CONSTRUCTION CHANGE ORDER TO DESERT VIEW IN THE AMOUNT OF \$296,975, AND AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN ALL DOCUMENTS.** Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Braden-yes; Hart-yes; Contreras-out; Kirby-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

Resolution #2025-123: Task Order Award – Water Rate Study
Marshall Pierce, City Engineer, presented.

It's been nearly 10 years since the city conducted a water rate study. Periodically, assessing the water rate amount was critical in keeping a balance between the city's water infrastructure and capital improvement expenditures and revenues, as well as ensuring the rate was at an affordable amount for the residents. Additionally, grant and loan funding requirements often dictated a minimum rate for funding eligibility. The city current water user rate was outdated, and a study should be conducted based on the city's current economic scenario.

The update would incorporate recent changes to the city's operating expenses, capital funding resources, and debt repayment obligations. The study would also account for inflation assumptions for current economic conditions. This information would be analyzed and projected against the city's future operations and capital improvements through 2031. The proposed rate increases would provide sufficient revenues to cover the city's projected revenue requirements.

If adopted as proposed, this would decrease the water fund contingency by \$38,285, leaving a fund balance of \$1,227,367. The city was in a position to sign with Jacobs Engineering Group once Council approved the task order award. Once that occurred, a notice to proceed could be issued. The project duration was anticipated to be four months.

If the Council opted to not move forward with this action, there was risk of non-compliance with the current CDBG grant. Not performing a rate study was not advised as the new rates should be based off of current and forecasted capital improvement expenditures.

MILLS moved, KIRBY seconded, **THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE RESOLUTION #2025-123: A RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE FUNDING TO CONDUCT A WATER RATE STUDY.** Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Braden-yes; Hart-yes; Contreras-out; Kirby-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

MILLS moved, KIRBY seconded, **THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE THE JACOBS ENGINEERING GROUP TASK ORDER TO PERFORM A WATER RATE STUDY UPDATE, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$38,285 AND AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN ALL DOCUMENTS.** Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Braden-yes; Hart-yes; Contreras-out; Kirby-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

PUBLIC HEARING

Accept Right of Way for a Portion of SE 13th Avenue and SE 1st Street

It being the date advertised for a public hearing on the matter stated above, the Mayor declared the hearing open, and asked if there were any objections to the city's jurisdiction to hear this action. Were there any abstentions, ex-parte contact to declare, or any declarations of conflict of interest? None stated.

Dan Cummings, City Manager, presented.

The City Council, the governing body for the City of Ontario, needed to accept the right of way of a portion of SE 12th Avenue and SE 1st Street as shown on Attachments #1 and #2 to this report.

Murakami Farms, Inc., through Grant Kitamura, and George and Margie Yasuda, as part of the improvement of their property in building a portion of SE 12th Avenue and SE 1st Street for the development of a portion of said street, needed to dedicate the right of way to allow for the construction of the project and inspections thereof. In doing so, they wished to dedicate the right of way as agreed upon for the improvements to said streets. To be able to construct the street and public utilities, a right of way was required to be in the city's name so the sewer and water line and street improvements could be constructed to city standards and to provide inspections of the project. There would be no financial cost to the city at this time other than the recording of the right of way documents, which would be paid from the Community Development fund. This action needed to be completed in order to complete the construction of the project.

The Council could, by motion, not accept the right of way offered for dedication, which would leave a portion of the developed street on private property. This would not allow the city access to maintain this portion of the project.

Mayor Folden opened the Hearing for public testimony. There were no Proponents or Opponents to speak on this action, so the public testimony portion was closed.

MILLS moved, BAKEFELT seconded, **THE CITY COUNCIL TO APPROVE THE DEDICATION OF THE RIGHT OF WAY FOR A PORTION OF SE 12TH AVENUE AND SE 1ST STREET AS SHOWN IN THE DEEDS OF DEDICATION AS ATTACHMENT 1 AND 2 OF THIS REPORT AND AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO SIGN THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE DEED OF DEDICATIONS.** Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Braden-yes; Hart-yes; Contreras-out; Kirby-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

DEPARTMENT HEAD UPDATES

Finance: Monthly Report (Hand-Out)

Kari Ott, Finance Director, presented.

Councilor Hart asked with regard to property taxes, for the budgeted \$4.4M, and \$5.2M received, was that the new normal, or was that just a one-time thing.

Ms. Ott stated some was one time due to a settlement around \$300,000, and that would continue to come in over the next few years.

Councilor Bakefelt asked where the TOT was in the budget.



Ms. Ott stated TOT did not hit the General Fund, for the most part. Portions were in the Parks Department, the Trust Fund, the Reserve Fund, and the Street Fund.

Councilor Hart stated on Page 3, Capital Outlay was at 29% of the budget. Why?

Ms. Ott stated it was partially for the camera system rollover, around \$94K out of \$150K; the City Hall HVAC had \$116,500 budgeted, and that had not been done yet, so that would be a carryover.

Public Works: Quarterly

Al Haun, Assistant Project Director, presented.

Councilor Braden stated in the Parks meeting, it had been brought up the blue court at Laxson Park, and the city was not Boise State, it was Oregon, so Oregon colors. However, that had been clarified that the park was Rotary Laxson Park, and the Rotarians serviced the park, so it had been suggested they paint their emblem or logo in yellow in the middle of the court, to signify the tie in to the service club, over just a random choice of color. It looked good, but Public Works had heard a lot noise about the color.

Mr. Haun stated there had been multiple conversations about that already.

Councilor Bakefelt asked for an explanation regarding the 2% safety section noted in the presentation.

Mr. Haun stated if they found any equipment out of compliance with the Jacobs safety standards, they spent time fixing that. For example, It could be a guard on a machine that had come unsecured, or anything safety related. It was primarily at the City Shop.

Councilor Mills stated the report read "repair multiple main breaks and service breaks". Was that the main line from the alleys to residences, or commercial buildings?

Mr. Haun stated the mains were actually the water main, the large lines. In the alleys, or in the street. Service lines would be what goes from the main to the meter. Service lines were considered smaller domestic water lines.

Councilor Mills asked why there had been so many breaks.

Mr. Haun stated it was infrastructure. The break on Easter Sunday was asbestos pipe water lines and that was a coupler that was 60+ years old. The pipes were fitted together with couplers and gaskets and eventually the gaskets dried out.

HAND-OUTS

Minutes:

County Court: July 16, 2025; July 23, 2025; Airport: July 7, 2025

CORRESPONDENCE, COMMENTS, AND EX-OFFICIO REPORTS

Councilor Kirby welcomed Steve Jensen, Lifeways, Mark Keele, Altruistic, Jeannie Mowls, recovering mentor, Lifeways, and Dina Woods, Juvenile Department/OHSU, who were seated in the audience.

Councilor Kirby mentioned the book the Council had received, titled "I Was in a Lake of Fire", written by the gentleman who was in the natural gas explosion fire out by Love's Truck Stop, In his letter to the Council, he indicated he wanted to tell his story about the community and how friendly it was, and specifically about the public safety individuals who saved his life.



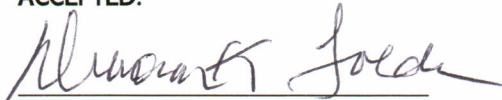
Councilor Mills stated she thought National Night Out was a great event, great accomplishment, well attended. Thank you to everyone who had a booth there, and everyone who worked on the event. All those who cooked, or volunteered, and it was great weather. The community came together, donated a lot to National Night Out, and she wanted to thank them, as well as all the staff for all the work that was done.

Mayor Folden stated it was a true success. It looked like everyone had a good time. She thanked Councilor Mills for taking a turn in the dunk tank.

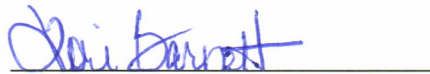
ADJOURN

MILLS moved, BAKEFELT seconded, **THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED**. Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Braden-yes; Hart-yes; Contreras-out; Kirby-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1. Meeting concluded at 7:21 p.m.

ACCEPTED:


Deborah K. Folden, Mayor

ATTEST:


Tori Barnett, MMC, City Recorder