

**MISSION STATEMENT: TO CREATE A HEALTHY, SAFE, DIVERSE, AND PROSPEROUS CITY
BY ENGAGING COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO DEVELOP AN ENRICHED QUALITY OF LIFE.**



**COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA
CITY COUNCIL – CITY OF ONTARIO OREGON
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2025, 6:00 PM, MT**
[Zoom Link](#)

Pursuant to the Public Meetings Laws and Rules within the Oregon Revised Statutes, the City Council has the authority, ability, and standing to take action on any items on the Agenda, or add items to the Agenda, during the Study Session or Regular Meeting, as long as all public meeting notice requirements have been met.

1) CALL TO ORDER

Roll Call: Susann Mills _____ Michael Braden _____ Ken Hart _____ Adrianna Contreras _____ John Kirby _____
Council President Penny Bakefelt _____ Mayor Deborah Folden _____

2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

This Agenda was posted on September 19, 2025. Copies of the Agenda are available from the City Hall Customer Service Counter and on the city's website at www.ontariooregon.org.

3) MOTION TO ADOPT THE AGENDA

4) CONSENT AGENDA

A) Adoption of Council Meeting Minutes: September 9, 2025

5) PUBLIC COMMENTS Citizens may address the Council; however, Council may not be able to provide an immediate answer or response. Out of respect to the Council and others in attendance, please limit your comment to three (3) minutes. Please state your name and city of residence for the record.

6) PRESENTATION

A) McShane Erlebach: Downtown Christmas Lights

7) OLD BUSINESS

A) Ordinance #2840-2025: Repealing OMC Title 2 Chapter 14 and Dissolving the Diversity Advisory Committee, on Second and Final Reading

8) DEPARTMENT HEAD UPDATES

A) Fire & Rescue: Quarterly Report

9) DISCUSSION ITEMS

A) ODF Greenspace Master Plan

10) HANDOUTS

A) Minutes: County Court Sep 8, 2025; Sep 10, 2025

11) CORRESPONDENCE, COMMENTS AND EX-OFFICIO REPORTS

12) ADJOURN

The City Council may recess/adjourn to Executive Session under ORS 192.660(2) as follows: (a) Employment of Public Officers, Employees, or Agents; (b) Discipline of Public Officers, Employees, or Agents; (d) Labor Negotiations; (e) Real Property Transactions; (f) Exempt Public Records; (g) Trade Negotiations; (h) Litigation [Current or Potential]/Consult with Legal Counsel; (i) Performance Evaluation of Public Officers and Employees; (j) Trade Negotiations; and/or (l) Labor Negotiations.

The City of Ontario does not discriminate in providing access to its programs, services and activities on the basis of race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, political affiliation, sex, age, marital status, physical or mental disability, or any other inappropriate reason prohibited by law or policy of the state or federal government. Should a person need special accommodations or interpretation services, contact the City at 889-7684 at least one working day prior to the need for services and every reasonable effort to accommodate the need will be made.



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES September 9, 2025

The scheduled meeting of the Ontario City Council was called to order by Mayor Deborah Folden at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 9, 2025, in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Council members present were Deborah Folden, Ken Hart, Susann Mills, John Kirby, Michael Braden, Penny Bakefelt, and Adrianna Contreras.

Staff present were Dan Cummings, Tori Barnett, Corinna Hysell, Clint Benson, Andy Wood, Tatiana Burgess, Casey Mordhorst, Jason Cooper, and Marshall Pierce.

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

AGENDA

This Agenda was posted Friday, September 5, 2025. Copies of the Agenda are available from the City Hall Customer Service Counter and on the city's website www.ontariooregon.org.

Councilor Braden requested the addition of item 7B under New Business, to discuss a proposed Letter of Support for the Alameda Schoolyard Project.

BRADEN moved, KIRBY seconded, **TO ADOPT THE AGENDA AS AMENDED**. Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Braden-yes; Hart-yes; Contreras-yes; Kirby-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 7/0/0.

CONSENT AGENDA

KIRBY moved, CONTRERAS seconded, **TO ADOPT THE CONSENT AGENDA, WHICH CONSISTED OF ADOPTION OF THE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 26, 2025**. Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Braden-yes; Hart-yes; Contreras-yes; Kirby-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 7/0/0.

OLD BUSINESS

Ordinance #2840-2025: Repealing OMC 2-14 and Dissolving the Diversity Advisory Committee

Dan Cummings, City Manager, presented.

Due to concerns about losing federal funding and federal grants based on the current federal government administration and Executive Orders and repercussion thereof, the City Council determined it was in the best interest of the Ontario citizens to dissolve the city committee, known as the Ontario Diversity Advisory Committee.

The city has received several federal grants, as well as a few preliminary approvals, and was currently moving forward with these grants. Also, staff applied for other federal grants that could be at risk of losing funds under the current federal administration.

The City Council held numerous council meetings to discuss the ongoing concerns of the current federal government administration Executive Order relating to compliance with the Order, or face losing federal funds and possible fines or suits against cities that did not comply. At the Council Meeting of August 26, 2025, the Council approved a motion to (a) dissolve the Diversity Advisory Committee established under Ontario Municipal Code ("OMC") Title 2, Chapter 14, and (b) directed staff to prepare and present an ordinance dissolving the Diversity Advisory Committee and repealing OMC Title 2, Chapter 14 in its entirety. City staff, through the City Attorney, created the ordinance as required by the Council motion of August 26, 2025.



The Council found that passage of this proposed ordinance was necessary for the immediate preservation of the peace, health, and safety of the city's citizens. The Council further found that a delay of thirty (30) days prior to the effective date of this ordinance could result in acts, omissions, and/or conditions detrimental to the city and/or public welfare. Therefore, an emergency was being declared to exist, and this ordinance would be in full force and effect upon its passage and adoption by the Council and signing by the Mayor.

BRADEN moved, MILLS seconded, **IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 8.2(2) OF THE CITY CHARTER, THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE ORDINANCE #2840-2025, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ONTARIO REPEALING ONTARIO MUNICIPAL CODE TITLE 2, CHAPTER 14 IN ITS ENTIRETY, WHICH CHAPTER CONCERNED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DIVERSITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE AT A SINGLE MEETING BY TITLE ONLY AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Braden-yes; Hart-no; Contreras-no; Kirby-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 5/2/0.

NEW BUSINESS

Proclamation #2025-103: Hunger Action Month

Lindsey Grosvenor stated: *Good evening Mayor Folden and members of the council. For those who don't know me, my name is Lindsay Grosvenor and I am the Regional Manager for Oregon Food Bank Southeast Oregon Services based in Ontario. I asked to be on today's agenda to ask for your signature proclaiming the month of September as Hunger Action Month. Hunger Action Month is a nationally recognized time when people across the country come together to take action to end hunger. At Oregon Food Bank, we believe that food is a basic human right and we work to eliminate hunger and its root causes, because no one should be hungry. This year, Oregon Food Bank's Hunger Action Month campaign theme is "Hunger is a Policy Choice." Hunger starts with policy - and it can end there too. Food alone cannot solve hunger. The laws that our elected officials make - about wages, food assistance, housing, childcare and healthcare - decide who can afford basic needs and who can't. The proclamation includes some local data about hunger in our community, and I want to highlight a few of the alarming issues that our community is currently experiencing: Our branch of Oregon Food Bank serves both Malheur and Harney counties and we serve an average of 5,700 individuals a month through our network of partner agencies. Next Chapter Food pantry in Ontario, one of our partner agencies, serves 3-4 times the number of households than it was pre-pandemic. They have resorted to limiting food quantities provided to families and have even had to close doors early when they run out of food. Many of our immigrant neighbors are not eligible for SNAP/Food Stamps and are too fearful to seek food assistance from our pantries due to potential ICE presence. Often, these same immigrants are farmworkers who are currently harvesting food from our local farms to put on our tables. Hundreds of people in Malheur county have reported that their September SNAP and TANF benefits were fraudulently stolen through organized crime. Federal law prevents the replacement of SNAP benefits. Without the support of emergency food assistance, these families will go hungry this month. We are working with ODHS and other local partners to ensure that food is available to those who need it. Recent federal cuts have already resulted in the cancellation of 90 truckloads of food that were slated for Oregon's Regional Food Bank network, which equates to an 18% reduction in the food supply coming into Malheur County. With additional cuts to SNAP and Medicaid, we anticipate devastating impacts to our community's health and wellbeing in the coming months and years. I have brought a flyer with me about Hunger Action Month that has some ideas for how to get involved with local hunger relief efforts as well as a list of Malheur County partner agencies/food sites. Both of these have been emailed to Tori. By signing this proclamation, you are proclaiming the month of September as Hunger Action month and will encourage all citizens of Ontario to increase their understanding and awareness of food insecurity and its impact on our nation, state, county and community. Mayor Folden, if there is time, would you mind reading the proclamation aloud for everyone? Thank you for your time and consideration!*

Councilor Kirby asked if they were seeing an influx of Idaho residents coming over to Oregon.

Ms. Grosvenor stated they had already been seeing Idaho residents seeking food access in Malheur County. They did turn anyone away. They worked closely with the Idaho Food Bank, who agreed to a partnership to not turn away any Oregon residents who might go to the Idaho facility.



Councilor Bakefelt stated she had seen some families who had gone to multiple food pantries. Was that managed?

Ms. Grosvernor stated they did not contact other facilities to see if families had already been there. They were aware that families were accessing more than one food pantry. The pantry in Ontario was open twice a week, 10:30-12:30, Tuesday and Thursday, which was not necessarily accessible to working families. This past January they reenforced a policy like a shopping style use.

Mayor Folden read Proclamation #2025-103: Hunger Action Month:

City of Ontario Mayoral Proclamation #2025-103 Hunger Action Month Whereas, addressing the food insecurity needs of children, youth, adults, seniors, active military members, and veterans is fundamental to the future of the City of Ontario; and Whereas, hunger and poverty are issues of vital concern in Malheur County, where 12% of residents struggle with hunger and do not know where their next meal will come from and 24% of children are living in poverty; and Whereas, the growing need for comprehensive, coordinated emergency food programs places a critical responsibility upon our community; and Whereas, Oregon Food Bank Southeast Oregon Services is committed to combating hunger in every part of our community and providing the resources for our community members in need; and Whereas, it is our responsibility as citizens of Ontario to learn about hunger and to take action to reduce it; and Whereas, Oregon Food Bank Southeast Oregon Services partners with 18 organizations across Malheur and Harney Counties as part of the Oregon Food Bank Network of Regional Food Banks, as well as leads the work of the Western Treasure Valley Food System Partnership working to educate the public about the importance of hunger-relief efforts and the need for more resources and coordination of services to strengthen the local food system and address the root causes of hunger; and Whereas, there are, on average, 5,700 individuals served monthly for food assistance through Oregon Food Bank Southeast Oregon service's area partners; and Whereas, Oregon Food Bank Southeast Oregon Services, along with its local partner agencies, volunteers, and supporters, is committed to educating citizens about the role of food banks, food pantries, and hunger-relief efforts in our community; and Whereas, Oregon Food Bank Southeast Oregon Services distributes nearly 1 million pounds of food across Malheur and Harney Counties each year, and engages the community to help end hunger — one meal at a time — through donations, community outreach, and volunteer service; and Whereas, the month of September is designated "Hunger Action Month" to bring attention to food insecurity in our communities and encourage action to combat it. Now, therefore, be it resolved that I, Deborah K. Folden, Mayor of Ontario, Oregon, do hereby proclaim the month of September, 2025, HUNGER ACTION MONTH, in Ontario, and encourage all citizens to increase their understanding and awareness of food insecurity and its impact on our nation, state, county, and community. Signed this 9th day of September, 2025. Deborah K. Folden, Mayor

Letter of Support: Alameda Schoolyard Project

Councilor Michael Braden stated the Alameda Schoolyard Project was a community based effort, primarily put forth by the Trust for Public Lands. They saw the success of the Schoolyard Project Program, funded through the DLCD grant program to the tune of two cities that received the Schoolyard Project Grant last year. DLCD was the Department of Land Conservation and Development. They were the grantor. Alameda Schoolyard Project was the grantee. They reached out to him, asking him to be their Ontario City Council representative, and he offered to put forth a letter of support. He drafted it in the name of the Mayor, who asked him to read it into the record before moving on the action.

Councilor Braden read the proposed letter from the Ontario City Council:

September 9, 2025, regarding the Alameda Schoolyard Project Letter of Support. Dear DLCD Community Green Infrastructure Grant Review Committee, Statement of Commitment and Support. The City of Ontario wishes to express its support of the Alameda Schoolyard Project in its goal to improve outdated and unsafe playgrounds into vibrant and accessible greenspaces using environmentally friendly materials and nature-based design concepts. We have observed that the partnership between the Ontario School District and the Trust for Public Lands is a model that is working for other communities like ours across the state. This project meets DLCD goals of the Community Green Infrastructure Program by planning and developing green infrastructure through a collaborative process that benefits an environmental justice community. Many efforts are currently underway in the City of Ontario to enhance its green spaces including tree plotting of public lands and investment in enhanced tree canopy. City efforts also include efficient irrigation designs, and groundcover selection that prioritizes native and drought tolerant greenspaces throughout the city. The community-based



design and informational outreach utilizing the Alameda Schoolyard Project concept plan has garnered support of the City of Ontario for its value in enhancing greenspaces and enriching community activities. Sincerely, Deborah Folden Ontario City Mayor

BRADEN moved, MILLS seconded, **THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE THE LETTER OF SUPPORT AND AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO SIGN THE DOCUMENT.** No vote.

Councilor Kirby verified that Councilor Braden had told him that this funding cycle had already been spent, so this technically was for the next funding cycle.

Councilor Braden stated no. With this DLCD grant program, it was approved by the Oregon Legislature as a biennium. Last year was the first year it opened. 2025 was the second year it was opened. Roughly 70% was approved in the first of the biennium, so there was only 30% of the funding available to them currently. It would be a very tight pool they were trying to get the grant from.

No further discussion noted, so Mayor Folden called for the vote on the previously stated motion.

Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Braden-yes; Hart-yes; Contreras-yes; Kirby-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 7/0/0.

DEPARTMENT HEAD UPDATES

Community Development: Quarterly Report

Tatiana Burgess, Planning Director, presented.

Councilor Kirby stated during COVID, then-Governor Brown overrode some regulations regarding drive-through windows at dispensaries, to allow folks to use the drive through. Was that still taking place?

Ms. Burgess stated there were still drive-up windows operating at several dispensaries. She was not aware that it was a temporary provision as long as it was considered under the permitting process.

Mr. Cummings stated the drive-up windows were still there, but they were not being used. The emergency declaration died with the end of COVID. They were not required to remove the drive-up window, but they were not being used.

Ms. Burgess stated when she went out for her quarterly inspections, she would follow-up on those drive up windows.

HAND-OUTS

Minutes:

County Court: Aug 13, 2025, Aug 20, 2025, Aug 27, 2025; Parks: Jun 19, 2025; Airport: Aug 4, 2025

Packet:

V&C Board

CORRESPONDENCE, COMMENTS, AND EX-OFFICIO REPORTS

Councilor Hart stated he wanted on the record a few items that he and Mr. Cummings had been discussing, with the hope of presentations soon(ish). He also offered his congratulations to Chief Cooper for his promotion to Chief. One issue was proposals related to traffic cameras. He was hoping to get something to look at eventually.



Councilor Hart stated the other was on the ordinance process. He had a local citizen express some concerns, and he said while he didn't make a lot of rules, Mr. Cummings did, so Mr. Cummings had driven around Ontario with Councilor Hart and the citizen. Many of the properties pointed out as areas of concern were county property, so the citizen was provided the county's phone number. The citizen raised some great points, and he appreciated Mr. Cummings taking the time to drive around with them. It showed how much the city did care. They also spoke of some of the barriers. He had asked Mr. Cummings to come back to Council addressing some of the barriers, and how could they possibly move, or tweak the ordinance. At the end of the day, the citizens of Ontario didn't really care about the process, or the wonderful ordinance officer, but having a better understanding of the process would be good. The citizens just wanted things cleaned up.

Mr. Cummings confirmed both items were being addressed.

Councilor Kirby stated the Council had received the schedule for the visit from the Japanese Sister City delegation. On October 1st, 9:00 a.m., they would be here at City Hall for introductions and a tour of the facility. There were 29 individuals attending, including the Mayor of Osakasayama and his wife, as well as another individual who was prominent on their City Council. Also, on Thursday, October 2nd, there would be a farewell dinner, and he encouraged all the Council to attend. It was a western theme, so bring out the blue jeans and cowboy boots. The delegates would be receiving cowboy hats as a gift. The event would be at the Sage Hollow venue off Highway 201 off Stanton Boulevard. Former Malheur County Sheriff Brian Wolff was catering a western dinner, and there would be a wagon ride and line dancing lessons. There would also be six of the delegates who would be playing Taiko drums. The host group was still working on the invitation, but he hoped to get it out to staff and Council soon. The bad news was that everyone, other than the delegates, had to purchase their own dinner.

Mayor Folden also congratulated Chief Cooper on his promotion. She voiced her appreciation for his hard work and dedication, and for keeping the community safe.

Councilor Mills stated she wanted to make a tribute to one of Ontario's citizens for their involvement within the community, but she didn't state all the things the person had done because she had been told the less she spoke, the sooner the meeting would end. This was probably a historic moment for his parents two days ago, but she offered a big Happy Birthday to Councilor Ken Hart! That's why everyone had received a treat at their station.

EXECUTIVE SESSION(S)

ORS 192.660(2)(f): Attorney/Client Privilege

An executive session was called at 6:42 p.m. under provisions of ORS 192.660(2)(f) to discuss a matter protected by attorney/client privilege. Representatives of the news media and designated staff would be allowed to attend the executive session. All other members of the audience were asked to leave the room. Representatives of the news media were specifically directed not to report on any of the deliberations during the executive session. No decision would be made in executive session. At the end of this executive session, the Council would return to open session and welcome the audience back into the room. The Council reconvened into regular session at 7:11 p.m.

ACTION FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION

KIRBY moved, MILLS seconded, **THAT THE CITY OF ONTARIO SUBMIT A PARTICIPATION AND RELEASE FORM TO BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE A SETTLEMENT ALLOCATION FROM THE PURDUE PHARMA AND SACKLER FAMILY OPIOID CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT AND THAT THE CITY MANAGER EXECUTE ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO PARTICIPATE AND RECEIVE A SETTLEMENT ALLOCATION FROM THE PURDUE PHARMA AND SACKLER FAMILY OPIOID CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT.** Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Braden-yes; Hart-yes; Contreras-yes; Kirby-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 7/0/0.



BRADEN moved, BAKEFELT seconded, THAT THE CITY OF ONTARIO SUBMIT A PARTICIPATION AND RELEASE FORM TO BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE A SETTLEMENT ALLOCATION FROM THE SECONDARY MANUFACTURER OPIOID CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT AND THAT THE CITY MANAGER EXECUTE ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO PARTICIPATE AND RECEIVE A SETTLEMENT ALLOCATION FROM THE SECONDARY MANUFACTURER OPIOID CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT. Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Braden-yes; Hart-yes; Contreras-yes; Kirby-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 7/0/0.

ADJOURN

BAKEFELT moved, FOLDEN seconded, **THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED**. Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Braden-yes; Hart-yes; Contreras-yes; Kirby-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 7/0/0. Meeting concluded at 7:18 p.m.

ACCEPTED:

Deborah K. Folden, Mayor

ATTEST:

Tori Barnett, MMC, City Recorder





**AGENDA REPORT
OLD BUSINESS
September 23, 2025**

To: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Dan Cummings, City Manager/Community Development Director

THROUGH: Danny K. Cummings, City Manager

SUBJECT: **ORDINANCE #2840-2025: REPEALING OMC TITLE 2 CHAPTER 14 AND DISSOLVING THE DIVERSITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE, ON SECOND AND FINAL READING**

DATE: September 10, 2025

PROPOSED MOTION:

IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 8.2(2) OF THE CITY CHARTER, I MOVE THE CITY COUNCIL TO APPROVE ORDINANCE #2840-2025, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ONTARIO REPEALING ONTARIO MUNICIPAL CODE TITLE 2, CHAPTER 14 IN ITS ENTIRETY, WHICH CHAPTER CONCERNED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DIVERSITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SECOND AND FINAL READING BY TITLE ONLY AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

SUMMARY:

Due to concerns about losing federal funding and federal grants based on the current federal government administration and Executive Orders and repercussions thereof, the City Council determined it is in the best interest of all 11,949 Ontario citizens to dissolve the city committee, known as the Ontario Diversity Advisory Committee.

BACKGROUND:

The city has received several federal grants, as well as a few preliminary approvals, and is moving forward with these grants. Also, staff has applied for other federal grants that could be at risk of losing funds under the current federal administration.

The City Council has held numerous council meetings to discuss the ongoing concerns of the current federal government administration Executive Order relating to compliance with the Order, or face losing federal funds and possible fines or suits against cities that do not comply.

At the Council Meeting of August 26, 2025, the Council approved a motion to (a) dissolve the Diversity Advisory Committee established under Ontario Municipal Code ("OMC") Title 2, Chapter 14, and (b) directed staff to prepare and present an ordinance dissolving the Diversity Advisory Committee and repealing OMC Title 2, Chapter 14 in its entirety.

CURRENT SITUATION:

On September 9, 2025, the City Council approved Ordinance #2840-2025 on first reading and the ordinance is being presented for the second and final reading of the ordinance by title only.

ANALYSIS:

- A. **STRATEGIC PLAN** None.
- B. **FINANCIAL** Unknown if the ordinance is not approved.
- C. **TIMING** This has been determined an emergency to ensure no loss of current federal funding.
- D. **POLICY/LEGAL** The City Council is the governing body to approve ordinances.

ALTERNATIVES:

None given.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff makes no recommendation. This ordinance was created by order of the Council.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Ord #2840-2025 - OMC 2-14 DAC Repealing Dissolving



ORDINANCE #2840-2025

AN ORDINANCE OF CITY OF ONTARIO REPEALING ONTARIO MUNICIPAL CODE TITLE 2, CHAPTER 14 IN ITS ENTIRETY, WHICH CHAPTER CONCERNED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DIVERSITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

- WHEREAS,** City of Ontario (“City”), an Oregon municipal corporation, has all the powers that the constitutions, statutes, and common law of the United States and Oregon expressly or impliedly grant or allow; and
- WHEREAS,** Title 2, Chapter 14 of the Ontario Municipal Code (the “Code”), as amended, established city’s Diversity Advisory Committee; and
- WHEREAS,** to ensure consistency with applicable federal law and/or directives concerning diversity, equity, and inclusion policies and programs, the Council has determined it necessary or appropriate to immediately repeal Code Title 2, Chapter 14 in its entirety and dissolve the Diversity Advisory Committee.

NOW, THEREFORE, CITY OF ONTARIO ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

1. Findings. The above-stated findings contained in this Ordinance #2840-2025 (this “Ordinance”) are hereby adopted.
2. Repeal; Committee Dissolution. As of the effective date of this ordinance, the Council hereby (a) repeals Ontario Municipal Code Title 2, Chapter 14 in its entirety, and (b) dissolves the Diversity Advisory Committee. As of the effective date of this ordinance, Code Title 2, Chapter 14 is of no further force and effect.
3. Miscellaneous. This ordinance supersedes all city ordinances, resolutions, and/or policies in conflict with this ordinance. All pronouns contained in this ordinance and any variations thereof will be deemed to refer to the masculine, feminine, or neutral, singular or plural, as the identity of the parties may require. The singular includes the plural and the plural includes the singular. The word “or” is not exclusive. The words “include,” “includes,” and “including” are not limiting. The provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared severable. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, and/or portion of this ordinance is for any reason held invalid, unenforceable, and/or unconstitutional, such invalid, unenforceable, and/or unconstitutional section, subsection, sentence, clause, and/or portion will (a) yield to a construction permitting enforcement to the maximum extent permitted by applicable law, and (b) not affect the validity, enforceability, and/or constitutionality of the remaining portion of this ordinance. This ordinance may be corrected by order of the Council to cure editorial and/or clerical errors.

4. Emergency Declaration. The Council finds that passage of this ordinance is necessary for the immediate preservation of the peace, health, and safety of city's citizens. The Council further finds that a delay of thirty (30) days prior to the effective date of this ordinance may result in acts, omissions, and/or conditions detrimental to city and/or public welfare. Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this ordinance will be in full force and effect upon its passage and adoption by the Council and signing by the Mayor.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Ontario this ____ day of September, 2025, by the following vote:

AYES:

NAYES:

ABSENT:

SIGNED by the Mayor this ____ day of September, 2025.

ATTEST:

Deborah K. Folden, Mayor

Tori Barnett, MMC, City Recorder

FY 24/25 FOURTH QUARTER REPORT

April through June 2025



ONTARIO FIRE & RESCUE

- **24/7/365 service to our community for a variety of emergencies: fire, emergency medical, technical rescue, hazardous materials, natural disasters and more.**
- **All career firefighters are NFPA certified firefighters, NWCG certified wildland firefighters, and emergency medical technicians.**
- **Part-time firefighters are NFPA certified firefighters and NWCG certified wildland firefighters; many are EMTs.**
- **Ten of our firefighters are NFPA and Oregon certified hazardous materials technicians and operate the Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office Region 14 Hazardous Materials Team, providing hazardous materials response to Malheur, Harney, Baker, and much of Grant County.**
- **We operate out of Fire Station 1 (City Hall) with a minimum staffing level of two firefighter/EMTs, 24-hours a day.**
- **Career firefighters work 24-hour shifts starting at 7:00 AM. They work a 24/48 schedule (24 hours on, 48 hours off).**
- **Part-time firefighters are paged in when needed and respond to emergencies from work and/or from home at all hours of the day and night.**
- **All firefighters are assigned to one of three shifts: A, B, and C, with a lieutenant over each shift.**



ONTARIO FIRE & RESCUE – Command Staff

Captain Gammage



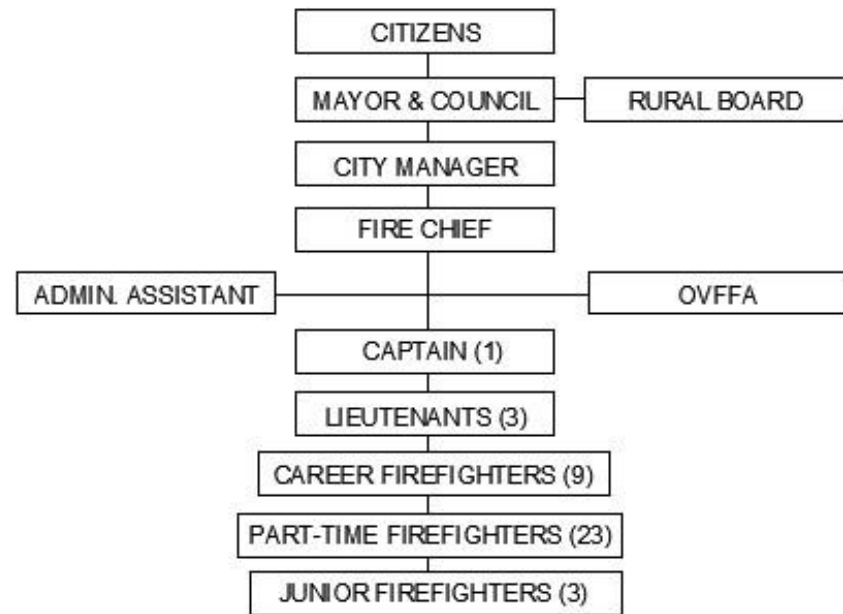
Lieutenant Grimaldo



Lieutenant Justus



Lieutenant Rico



ONTARIO FIRE & RESCUE:



- Administrative Assistant:
- Brittany Ward has been serving since July 7th. She now also serves on the City's grants committee.
- Ontario Volunteer Firefighters Association:
- Serves as a support branch to our firefighters; Leads fundraising efforts to fund the burnout fund, special equipment purchases like our drone and UTV and assists with training costs for part-time firefighters; Provides food and drinks to the rehabilitation area during prolonged operational periods.
- Captain:
- Training officer; OSFM Hazmat Region 14 coordinator; Ensures firefighters are trained and ready and that we exceed state and national certification requirements.
- Lieutenants:
- Shift supervisors /Company Officers
- Career Firefighters:
- Emergency medical technicians; NFPA certified firefighters, rescue technicians: hazmat, machinery entrapment, technical rescue
- Part-Time (on-call) Firefighters:
- NFPA certified firefighters, rescue technicians: hazmat, machinery entrapment, technical rescue; Many are emergency medical technicians.
- Junior Firefighters:
- Highschool students who train regularly and assist outside of the hazard zone.

INCIDENT STATISTICS

- *January through June of 2016 total calls = 1087*
- *January through June of 2025 total calls = 1324*
- *Represents an approximate 22% increase in call volume*



FOURTH QUARTER (April-June 2025)	City	Rural	Total	
Medical Emergencies	429	46	475	
Tiered Medical Calls (Non-Emergency)	52	0	52	10%
Fire Related Calls	66	38	104	16%
Hazmat	0	0	0	
Generals	10	15	25	
Mutual Aid Given	1	4	5	
Overdoses	17	1	18	
Total	547	84	631	
	87%	13%		

SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS



April 19, 2025: Structure Fire at 76 SW 4th Avenue; structure fire caused by unsupervised cooking.

April 23, 2025: Several camp trailers and one permanent structure - one fatality

April 26, 2025: Aircraft (glider) crash with injuries.

May 4, 2025, 3855 SE 2nd Street: Tree fire with structures threatened.

May 10, 2025, 576 Foothill Drive: Tractor fire - total loss.

May 12, 2025, 4250 Hopkins Road: Harvester Fire.

May 18, 2025: Structure Fire at 389 SE 2nd Street - Arson.

May 30, 2025: Structure Fire; two structures under construction and one neighboring structure - Possible arson.

May 31, 2025, 4406 Sage Road: Brush and multiple structure fire caused by unsupervised controlled burning - wind driven fire.

June 3, 2025, Interstate 84, near Milepost 375: Brush fire.

June 3, 2025, 1690 Central Drive: Structure fire; shop. Cause: cutting and grinding near combustibles.

June 11, 2025, 1493 NW 3rd Avenue: Hot tub fire / electrical.

June 13, 2025, 1277 College Green Drive: Structure fire, caused by electrical issue. Crews were able to stop the fire within the exterior wall. Smoke detectors alerted residents early.

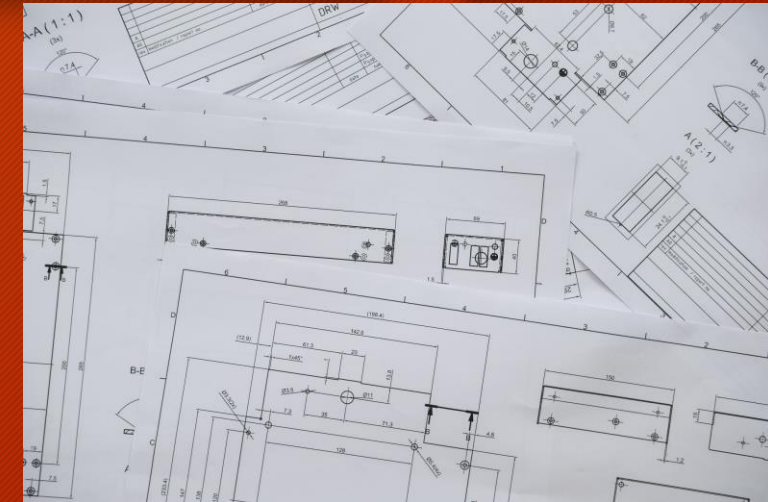
June 28, 2025, 3988 Highway 201: Vehicle burning inside of a shop at Roadrunner Towing.

June 28, 2025, 551 SE 3rd Street: Multiple vehicles on fire with structures threatened. Most likely cause illegal fireworks.

FIRE PREVENTION



- Fire prevention is a vital part of our operations and includes community education, plan review, PDACs, inspections, pre-fire planning, code enforcement, fire investigation, and continuing education.
- All career staff participate regularly in fire prevention efforts.
- Important partners in fire prevention include the Ontario Building and Planning Department, Ontario Police Department, Malheur County Building Department, and the Oregon State Fire Marshall's Office.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & EDUCATION

- Malheur County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)
- Snake River Valley Fire Chiefs Association
- Snake River Valley Training Officers Association
- Coffee with the Veterans - Captain Jared Gammage
- Ontario Area Chamber of Commerce
- National Night Out Committee
- Saint Alphonsus Community Hospital Board
- Boys & Girls Club station visits
- Monthly meetings with Treasure Valley Paramedics



TRAINING & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Regular Tuesday night trainings (drills). Part-time, on-call firefighters are required to attend at least 50% of drills.
- Daily training by duty crews - Our career firefighters are required to train a minimum of one-hour per shift.
- All training is designed to exceed minimum State and Federal standards to keep all firefighters current with fire and EMS training standards.
- Snake River Valley Training Officers Association and Snake River Valley Fire Chiefs Association - Training and operations with 32 area fire departments, which also includes a mutual aid agreement. Mutual aid is becoming increasingly important to all fire departments in the area.
- Our Command Staff (Lieutenants, Captain, and Chief) completed a nationally recognized incident command training called Blue Card.
- Chief Benson completed a hazardous materials incident commander class at EOU.
- In May, Chief Dennis Doan held a two-day training for our command staff. The training focused on leadership and team unity.



PROJECTS



- Ontario Public Safety Training Center - Class A Burn Cells
- Fire Station 1 Dorm Privacy Project
- Fire Station 2 Addition - Design/Engineering & Environmental Impact Study
- Fleet Reduction Plan
- Station 1 Lockers
- NFPA Compliant PPE (Turnouts) Project
- Contract Calculations for Agreement with the Ontario Rural Fire Protection District

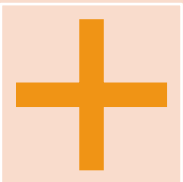
STRATEGIC INITIATIVES



Safe and adequate staffing levels. Our goal is to provide Ontario with a minimum staffing level (Standard of Cover) of four firefighters/EMTs, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. This goal not only provides a safer working environment for our firefighters, but also greatly increases our capability to aggressively attack fires and affect rescues in our community. We are working with the City Council and Staff, the Ontario Rural Fire Protection District, and other important stakeholders to explore funding options to reach this goal.



Community Risk Assessment / Standard of Cover project is complete. We are using the recommendations from this important study to guide us into the future with the goal of continually improving our service to the community.



Fire Station 2 Addition: We are currently exploring grant opportunities to help fund the Station 2 Addition project, which will allow for staff to respond out of station 2. This will also allow us to pursue important programs like college sleeper programs and Oregon's firefighter apprenticeship program. We are working towards the goal of responding with two firefighter/EMTs out of Station 1 and two firefighter/EMTs out of station 2, 24/7/365.

**THANK
YOU!**

We are grateful to serve the
citizens of Ontario!



MALHEUR COUNTY SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Pursuant to Initiative Measure No. 23-64

Meet to Promote Relocating Oregon-Idaho Border Ordinance

September 8, 2025

The Special Meeting of the County Court was called to order by Judge Dan Joyce at 9:00 a.m. with Commissioner Ron Jacobs and Commissioner Jim Mendiola present. The Special Meeting was held pursuant to Initiative Measure 23-64 and Malheur County Meet to Promote Relocating Oregon-Idaho Border Ordinance to discuss how to promote the interests of Malheur County in any negotiations regarding the relocation of the Oregon-Idaho border. Present in the meeting room was Economic and Community Development Coordinator Taylor Rembowski. Present electronically was Brent Grasty. Notice of the meeting was emailed to the Argus Observer, Malheur Enterprise and posted on the Courthouse bulletin board and County website. The meeting was audio recorded. The agenda is recorded as instrument # [2025-2957](#)

No public comments were received.

The Court members were not aware of any new information concerning any negotiations regarding the relocation of the Oregon-Idaho border.

Commissioner Mendiola moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

MALHEUR COUNTY COURT MINUTES

September 10, 2025

The regularly scheduled meeting of the County Court was called to order by Judge Dan Joyce at 9:00 a.m. with Commissioner Ron Jacobs and Commissioner Jim Mendiola present. Members of the media, public and staff had the opportunity to join the meeting electronically or in-person. Present in the meeting room were Administrative Officer Lorinda DuBois and Economic and Community Development Coordinator Taylor Rembowski. Notice of the meeting was posted on the County website, Courthouse bulletin board and emailed to the Argus Observer and those persons who have requested notice. The agenda is recorded as instrument # [2025-2986](#)

HUNGER ACTION MONTH

Lindsay Grosvenor, Oregon Food Bank Regional Manager, met with the Court. Ms. Grosvenor explained that Hunger Action Month is a nationally recognized time when people across the country come together to take action to end hunger. Oregon Food Bank believes that food is a basic human right, and works to eliminate hunger and its root causes because no one should go hungry. The campaign for this year's theme is Hunger is a Policy Choice. The local branch of Oregon Food Bank serves Malheur and Harney counties and is currently serving more than 5,700 individuals a month through a network of partner agencies. Hundreds of families have recently reported their SNAP benefits as stolen and as a result are now seeking emergency food at local food pantries. Recent federal cuts have impacted Oregon Food Bank's food supply.

Western Treasure Valley Food System Partnership is co-hosting a community poverty simulation on September 24, 2025 as well as supporting the Four Rivers Healthy Community Conference on September 25, 2025. The following is a link to Oregon Food Bank's Hunger Action Month flyer: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1lpo16iakxtj-YHDLm3964J2MtT8Zblhn/view?usp=sharing>

Commissioner Jacobs read the proclamation:

Proclamation

Hunger Action Month – September 2025

WHEREAS, addressing the food insecurity needs of children, youth, adults, seniors, active military members, and veterans is fundamental to the future of Malheur County; and

WHEREAS, hunger and poverty are issues of vital concern in Malheur County, where 12% of residents struggle with hunger and do not know where their next meal will come from and 24% of children are living in poverty; and

WHEREAS, the growing need for comprehensive, coordinated emergency food programs places a critical responsibility upon our community; and

WHEREAS, Oregon Food Bank Southeast Oregon Services is committed to combating hunger in every part of our community and providing the resources for our community members in need; and

WHEREAS, it is our responsibility as citizens of Malheur County to learn about hunger and to take action to reduce it; and

WHEREAS, Oregon Food Bank Southeast Oregon Services partners with 18 organizations across Malheur and Harney Counties as part of the Oregon Food Bank Network of Regional Food Banks, as well as leads the work of the Western Treasure Valley Food System Partnership working to educate the public about the importance of hunger-relief efforts and the need for more resources and coordination of services to strengthen the local food system and address the root causes of hunger; and

WHEREAS, there are, on average, 5,700 individuals served monthly for food assistance through Oregon Food Bank Southeast Oregon service's area partners; and

WHEREAS, Oregon Food Bank Southeast Oregon Services, along with its local partner agencies, volunteers, and supporters, is committed to educating citizens about the role of food banks, food pantries, and hunger-relief efforts in our community; and

WHEREAS, Oregon Food Bank Southeast Oregon Services distributes nearly 1 million pounds of food across Malheur and Harney Counties each year, and engages the community to help end hunger — one meal at a time — through donations, community outreach, and volunteer service; and

WHEREAS, the month of September is designated "Hunger Action Month" to bring attention to food insecurity in our communities and encourage action to combat it.

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the County Court of Malheur County, Oregon do hereby proclaim the month of September 2025 as **HUNGER ACTION MONTH** and encourage all citizens to increase their understanding and awareness of food insecurity and its impact on our nation, state, county, and community.

Commissioner Jacobs moved to proclaim the month of September as Hunger Action Month. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

COURT MINUTES

Commissioner Mendiola moved to approve Court Minutes of September 3, 2025 as written. Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET RESOLUTION

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Supplemental Budget Resolution R25-28: In the Matter of Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Supplemental Budget by Resolution Under Local Budget Law ORS 294.471. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The purpose of the supplemental budget is to allocate Department of Energy hold-over funds and the remainder of Department of Agriculture grant funds in the Economic Development Fund that were not anticipated when the budget was adopted. These funds will be used for the purposes originally outlined in the grants. See instrument # [2025-2987](#)

CHECK REGISTER

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Accounts Payable Registers for June, July, and August 2025. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

PURCHASE OF VALE CITY PROPERTIES

The deeds for purchase of the old Vale City Hall and old Fire Hall properties were executed and recorded on September 9, 2025. See instrument # [2025-2981](#) (old city hall) and #[2025-2978](#) (old fire hall).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Judge Joyce asked for comments from the public; no public comments were received.

COURT ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Mendiola moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously.