



## CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES January 13, 2026

The scheduled meeting of the Ontario City Council was called to order by Mayor Deborah Folden at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 13, 2026, in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Council members present were Deborah Folden, Susann Mills, Michael Braden, John Kirby, and Penny Bakefelt. Adrianna Contreras was excused. Ken Hart arrived at 6:11.

Staff present were Tori Barnett, Corinna Hysell, Kari Ott, Jason Cooper, Tatiana Burgess, Casey Mordhorst, and Marshall Pierce.

### AGENDA

This Agenda was posted Friday, January 9, 2026. Copies of the Agenda are available from the City Hall Customer Service Counter and on the city's website [www.ontariooregon.org](http://www.ontariooregon.org).

KIRBY moved, MILLS seconded, **TO ADOPT THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED**. Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Braden-yes; Hart-out; Contreras-out; Kirby-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 5/0/2.

### CONSENT AGENDA

MILLS moved, BAKEFELT seconded, **TO ADOPT THE CONSENT AGENDA, WHICH CONSISTED OF ADOPTION OF THE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 9, 2025**. Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Braden-yes; Hart-out; Contreras-out; Kirby-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 5/0/2.

### PRESENTATION

#### Aquatic Center Update

Andrew Maeda, Recreation District Director, presented.

*Thank you, Mayor, thank you Council members. If you don't know me, I'm Andrew Maeda. I am the Director of the Ontario Rec District. I wanted to come by just to give you guys an update from our previous update that we gave regarding all the conditions that the city's set with regarding the donation of \$250,000 towards the Ontario Aquatic Center renovation project. Prior to this, our previous goal and what had occurred was that we had met our goal of \$3.5M, and immediately went out to bid and moved forward with the project as fast as we could. Following that bidding cycle, we got our guaranteed maximum price back which exceeded our fundraising goal by half a million dollars. Following value engineering and some ideas to try to readjust the project or change the scope of the project to bring that price tag down, we couldn't quite find an avenue to reduce the cost of the project instead it just shifted funding to different portions of the project. So, our Board pulled back, and we decided to readjust and focus on pursuing additional funds at the state level, at a financing level, and through just some additional avenues. So, over the last year, we aggressively went after some funding through several different entities, which allowed us to reach our new goal at that time, which is \$5.5M. That is because the project came back at \$4M in 2024, April of 2024, and if you know these project, then you know if you planned for a year later, then you need to build on some contingencies. In the \$3.5M, we had built on a substantial contingency with that because that \$3.5M goal was based off of a \$2.8M project price. So, this now \$4M goal of the project pushed us to plan for about \$5.5M just to safe and make sure we didn't have any concerns in the future.*

*We were successful in securing our Eastern Oregon Border Board Grant for \$1M, or just under \$1M, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department Large Government Grant Program award for \$1M, and we secured a unique financing option through Business Oregon's Special Public Works Fund. It took several meetings to get that done, and is most likely, not necessarily exclusive to what we're doing; however, we were able to convince them that our project was worthy of that. It was a phenomenal financing option at 4.2%, which almost matches our state account returns in our, or our own funding where we keep the majority of funds, as well. So, it was great there.*



*It's a 20-year financing option at 4.2% on that million-dollar loan. That is again a safety net, so if you look at the bottom of the fundraising outline that I presented on there, and all of these are essentially an update to what we provided the last time, just, again, updated to what we're at right now. That pushed us to \$6.4M, just over \$6.4M dollars. Again, \$1M dollars of that is a safety net for the project, to make sure that we have substantial contingency built in in case things come up once we actually get into pulling cement off the ground and figuring out what's underneath it.*

*So, we will outline tonight, I've laid out in that fundraising outline what our goals were in this new option of 2026, and ones that we met, and ones that were filled by the Rec District, the City of Ontario, local donors, the Border Board, the Parks and Rec Department for the State of Oregon for that Business Oregon financing option.*

*Moving on to our business plan, similar to last time, we have just updated this significantly. We decided to sit down and really evaluate what some of the other aquatic facilities, seasonal aquatic facilities were doing, such as Pendleton, Oregon, which allowed us to really kind of create this 16-page aggressive business plan for this facility, really capturing the three and a half months that we are going to be aggressive with this facility and how we're going to catch that through unique items like concession stands and things like that for the facility. That business plan, essentially, is a little bit more clear than the operations policy manual you'll see that we have include in there. That business plan will really outline more of our operations than the operations policy manual. But that business plan, I encourage you to go through that, top to bottom. I'm not going to take you through it right now, but, again, it is essentially top to bottom how this facility will operate, what the finances look like year to year, and how we've built in a really, really significant budget for this facility to make sure that we are planning for long-term operations of this facility, and making sure we don't run into that chance of it possibly closing it down again. You will see that in our revenue projections and expense projections that we built out on that business plan, showing total revenues at roughly \$643k for the year. That obviously includes our TOT tax, our Recreation District budget, and the revenues we plan to obtain from the facility. And then our expenses, gross expenses, especially being at \$455k there; however, that is with \$175k built into capital outlay and contingency for that.*

*So, again, we went through this top to bottom and made sure that we built this out pretty extensively to show you what that looks like year to year and making sure that we can really project what that looks like down to the details of our daily rates, up to our annual operations and budget there. The previous page of that will also just outline the financing for the fundraising outline I already gave you.*

*Following that, I included a financial summary. This financial summary essentially will show you the guaranteed maximum price that we received from our construction management team for the project. That sits at \$5,053,047.00 for the project itself. That builds in over at the profits your contingency, your P&P bond costs, and any of our allowances we built into that project, on top of the actual price of the work that I've shown you, broken out across each different division. Those divisions are broken into different scopes of work, such as your surveying, final cleaning, your demo...for this project specifically, you're going to see the majority of that cost really being built into that, and that's where I showed you those percentages on the right side there, so you can kind of capture what was our issue the last time. Within the demo, the concrete and the pool, which you'll see under specialty construction, that's the pool construction, those account for the majority of the project, and those are the areas we really tried to adjust whether that was with Value Engineering the last time or trying to find different alternatives for that. But those encompass the majority of the project. To the right of that, you'll see our financial summary. So, I've taken that fundraising and built that out for you to show you one, where that funding avenue is, what's that from. Are those currently available, or are there projected starts for those funds to be available, and then the amount of those funds as well consolidated so you can see not only the total amount that we've put together for the project compared to the guaranteed maximum price, and then the net of that, to show you our, again, our substantial cushion for this project as well, sitting at just \$1.4M there. We've also outlined on that, those funds, and the majority of it being specific to the Ontario Aquatic Center and related projects, outside of our ORD general funds. And then on the bottom, again, such programs that you'll see.*

*I've also included all the renderings for you to look on there. I didn't bring those tonight, but they are beautiful renderings of our facility. They'll show you all different angles of that facility. That plan has remained the same since we had those renderings done.*

*Additionally, I've included the construction timeline. I wish I had a little bit more detail, but we will have that available for you. We'll include it in that same link that you use to access these documents. That construction timeline is still not 100% walked out right now. We are having all of our final scope walk through this Thursday with the demo team, the pool consultants, our electrical and our plumbing, and then planning for the safe offs*



early next week, the middle of next week, as well. Our permit with the city has been pulled, last week, yes?, and we are rolling right now. Construction fencing is up. Our construction trailer is on site, and they are beginning to put up all of their PPE warnings and starting to lock up the facility entirely, essentially closing all of our facilities down for the time being. And, again, aside from the electrical and plumbing, which is obviously with the county, the remainder of that is going to be already moving forward as fast as possible and demo is our main concern right now. The construction timeline, and the reason, I'm guessing, our construction management team is not giving me a concrete, they've given us a timeline of the 220 days at the beginning of our contract set, is most likely because of the winter. You know, they are really wanting to plan and try to give us a little bit of flexibility throughout the wintertime. As we tear up the concrete for that facility and reset that, we are digging down those footings and if there's any water in there, moister that freezes, that just presents a long-term problem for that in the future. So, they are trying to, essentially, take off a portion of the side of the building, get into it, work within underneath the existing roof and the building, get as much done within there, such as an interior wall inside of there being converted to an exterior wall, taking down, redoing the footing, and converting all the windows on that exterior, taking the existing locker room and making that a breezeway, which some additional glasses going in the middle of that, and then obviously some of the demo work around the existing concrete of the facility inside. Once the weather, and they feel comfortable with it, that roof will come off immediately. That was where we are prepping for the crane come to the facility and that will come off along our Skae Park avenue. They'll move the Skate Park equipment aside. We're not getting rid of it. We are moving it aside for the time being. The crane will just need access right there to be able to move those big beams off of there, and on our property near the tennis courts as well. That'll be the majority of that, and that'll come off as soon as it can. As soon as the weather is permitting, they'll be moving as fast as they can with the project.

You'll notice on the timeline, we've built this out to include what we're planning for; they are giving us the idea of end of June, early July, to have it done. You know these projects, again, you want to build in your own timeline on top of that and plan for that, so we've built in the August. We'd like to have a public opening in August. Again, these operations are a little bit finicky this year because we're not opening for an entire season, so hiring lifeguards and aquatic facility managers for one month is not something a lot of people are looking for, but we are going to try to do our best to figure out some contracts there with maybe some existing staff in the area, and bring them on for that time being, so, if any of you'd like to be lifeguards, we'll take you, too.

Following that, on the bottom that we just built in some risk mitigation protection, again, against the weather, inspection permits, supply chain, or staff readiness for the project, just so you guys have some ideas of what our concerns are for that timeline, and what can jump into that. Just again to be safe and plan for that long term.

Last thing on here, I just have the seasonal outdoor pool aquatic facility operations manual that I just wanted to put in front of you showing what our Board has kind of just discussed big picture wise of how these operations need to look currently, not necessarily long term, but again, for this first year or two and really looking at this seasonal option versus year-round option. We want to make sure that we get really good at operating for that season before we even look at the long-term operations of the year-round and what that could look like for us. So, we've built out what this seasonal operation will look like compared or in tandem with our splash park operations, as well. So that is, again, just a more of an operations manual. I would tell you to go, just remind you to go look at the business plan. That would give you a little bit more detailed idea of what that looks like, big picture wise or what our thoughts are operations wise for revenue and expenses with that.

And then lastly, on the link there, you will see just confirmations from any of those major funding entities, the Eastern Oregon Border Economic Development Board, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, and then our Business Oregon financing option. You will note that the Business Oregon is an email, and that is just because they have had some staff changeover, so we've been approved for that financing option; however, they had gotten rid of a staff member, and another staff member has taken over that staff member's workload, so now we are built into that. We are getting kind of, I'm reaching out every couple of weeks just to get updates on where we sit on that. It sounds like they have everything they need from us and they will look to have that to us within the next month for our approval. That again is a reimbursable loan, it's not something that we can just take, or we can put into our own LGIP account. That's something that we have to leave with them. But I would note, as Mr. Hart's here as well, I just wanted to outline with that that that financing option is really comparable to our LGIP account for the State of Oregon, and so it's a really appealing option for our Board to consider that financing option because we essentially are taking out a loan and we're getting returns on our existing funding. That's double that loan cost for that at the same time. So, it's really not a massive loss for us as far as debt services go because we're bringing this LGIP contract that's at 4% right now, so it's a good spot to be at. Any questions?



Councilor Kirby voiced his congratulations to Mr. Maeda for obtaining the funding. A discussion that had been held regarded the lack of parking, and a discussion related to that would occur later in this meeting. At the previous meeting, they had pre-imagined parking should the city move the site of the pool. In all the renderings, they did not show a new gymnasium but did at the end of the business plan. That would require more parking. It had not been completely resolved by the Council as to whether they would need to have additional parking, which they would if they did construct a gym. Was that still in their plans? This might be in conflict with the tree grant the city just received, as it would be a shame to plant some trees, and then have to remove them.

Mr. Maeda: Yes, so we, with the existing parking discussion that you guys will have later today, one of the main discussion points that I've been having with Dan, is trying to find a way to get the City of Ontario some rendering options for that, at least a price per square foot of existing, because right now, we do have a full architectural engineering team and full construction management team. Both have, obviously, active experience with parking lots going on in probably most of their projects right now. And they can give us a pretty accurate price per square foot of what's going in existing facilities. That idea was, I guess back and forth with me and Dan, is that if we can include that as a change order within our project, it could serve to save not on the City of Ontario some funding there, but also meet our parking needs on just some smaller additional parking spaces there. In that discussion you saw in that previous IGA that we have with the city that you guys did approve, we had an extension of the existing parking space that we have right there and we also included, and what we had discussed with Dan, is the removal of the front landscaping space in front of the aquatic center this is adjacent to the small parking strip right in front the tennis courts. That would extend all the way in front of the aquatic center and essentially make a large rectangle out of our parking space instead of nice little, instead of a slimmer "u" that is currently is, reconfiguring that to be able to handle a lot more parking spaces and then pulling a single parking lane and road off of that parking lot on the East corner of the park, right up along the houses where currently a lot of city staff or even of the events will drive onto the park from. And that is essentially a space that is used very minimally. I do believe there might be some horseshoe space over there that I work down there every single day, and I don't think I've seen used except for maybe when the Tater Tot Festival came in, but outside of that, what we envision is being able to give some price per square foot to Dan, and then to try to figure out, well, within our project, is there any avenue where we are going to be saving money. In our contract type, we have a CMGC design build guaranteed maximum price. Meaning that if there is funding left over at the end, we get that back. At the same time, we want to be able to go through this piece by piece and find areas maybe where a scope was doubled up, which already has happened, and maybe bring you back some money to us. In that avenue where we've already approved the maximum guaranteed maximum price, and the city has the potential to put funding forward for a parking on that, if we could find a way to include that as a change order within our project, save you from having to go out and manage that entire project, start to finish, we can just include that. We already have a construction management superintendent, everything going on there, and, of course, we have time with that because that wouldn't be something we'd do on the front. It'd be something we'd do once the facility's complete.

Councilor Kirby asked if the gym was still on their wish list.

Mr. Maeda: A gymnasium is, but not on that facility. We haven't even, I haven't given two thoughts to...

Councilor Kirby stated so that rendering in the business plan, the 30k square foot view down, which wasn't in any of the other renderings, which had #2 underneath it?

Mr. Maeda: Oh, so that is actually, that's a Friends of the Aquatic Center, yes, sixth phase Master Plan of Friends of the Aquatic Center. That's in a, that's a non-profit grass roots group that was before our Recreation District. Just again, an image that they had sent to the community, for the community. We adopted that, but again, we have no intention of right now...

Councilor Kirby stated no other rendering showed a new gymnasium.

Mr. Maeda: No. Any of the renderings that you see that we included in the link, those are our renderings for the facility that would show that. Now I will note that the Lions Park Master Plan does include that, as a future build up where that is a possibility, but I think with our parking restrictions, I think that's going to be the foothold there. If we're going to lose a substantial portion of Lions Park, then we're, our community doesn't want that, John doesn't want that, that impacts quite a bit there, so I don't think it'd be savvy there. We are eyeing some other locations, so it wouldn't be a bad idea. I think that's a much better revenue generator for our local area, but...



Mayor Folden stated that issue was on that evening's Agenda for discussion.

Councilor Hart verified with the Mayor or Kari Ott, that the city's \$250k had not been given to the District yet.

Ms. Ott stated that was correct.

Councilor Hart asked what would trigger the release of those funds.

Ms. Ott stated that would be with Council approval, as the Council and Budget Committee established the requirements related to those funds.

Councilor Hart stated the Council needed to address that at some point, to see what that milestone was. Same question on the TOT tax. The city had been collecting and holding that because that was for maintenance of the facility, correct? Was that just released at a certain point, to the Rec District once the pool was open, as that was when they'd begin have maintenance issues, or was that going to be on a reimbursement basis? The Cultural Center just received the money directly from the city.

Ms. Ott stated she assumed the payment to the aquatic center would be the same way. It was that way for the Chamber of Commerce and Fairgrounds, too. Once received by the city, following the month's receipts, it was turned over to the entity. She believed once it was open, the city would turnover the balance, plus each month would be a payment.

Mr. Maeda: *Yes, I did review the requirements by the City Council for that previous one. Yes, it would require the City Council to agree that we met the conditions. The specific pieces that I presented to you in that link are those conditions presented on that, just re-upped. And, yes, it would just be up to City Council.*

Mayor Folden voiced her excitement and appreciation for everything they were doing. It was something community really wanted.

Mr. Maeda: *Agreed. Thank you all for the support and the donation, and we hope to have this open by the end of summer.*

#### OLD BUSINESS

##### Helipad AIP25 – Independent Fee Estimate – Century West Engineers

Andy Wood, Airport Manager, presented.

FAA AIP Handbook - Order 5100.20C outlined Programming Control and Reporting Procedures Grant-In-Aid Program procedures. The next process was to have an Independent Airport Engineer estimate the project formulation, design, bidding, and construction services. The proposed IFE Contract was within the budget to date with the funding from FAA at 95%, ODAV at 4%, and the city matching funds of 1% of the complete project.

Century West Engineering from Bend, Oregon, was approached to provide the fee estimate contract and could turnaround Century West's fee estimate within two weeks of receiving the signed contract. Century West Engineering was a reputable airport engineering company that gave competitive, fair, reasonable estimates to satisfy FAA requirements.

This project included design and construction phases different to the previous IFE. The current budget allocated \$2,712.00 in matching funds, plus the airport improvement budget had \$8,000.00 to pay the balance of \$1,788.00 if the grant wasn't approved. Once approved, the FAA would reimburse the City of Ontario for the cost of the IFE.

**HART moved, BAKEFELT seconded, THAT THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVES THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN THE CENTURY WEST ENGINEERS INDEPENDENT FEE ESTIMATE (IFE) CONTRACT FOR \$4,500.00.** Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Braden-yes; Hart-yes; Contreras-out; Kirby-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.



**Malheur County IGA**

Tatiana Burgess, Planning Director, presented.

This was an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the City of Ontario and Malheur County to perform floodplain administrator duties for Malheur County during the time the county was looking for a new Malheur County Planning Director. Each jurisdiction participating in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) had to administer their own floodplain management functions. Both Malheur County and the City of Ontario designated their respective Planning Directors to perform the floodplain administrator duties.

Due to the Malheur County Planning Director position currently being vacant, the county wished to enter an IGA with Ontario, to employ the City Planning Director's services to perform floodplain administrator duties. The city expressed its intention to help its community partners, until the County Planning Director vacancy was filled and without assuming liability for any ongoing or preexisting violations that commenced prior to the execution of the IGA.

At the City Council meeting of December 9, 2025, the City Council gave consent to move forward with finalizing the agreement with a few modifications by the Council.

The Malheur County Court approved the IGA with the requested Council modifications and returned a signed version of the IGA for Council approval.

By performing floodplain administration duties for the county, the city would be able to manage the Urban Growth Area floodplains, which directly impacted the city's floodplains. The county has an existing IGA with the City of Adrian and City of Jordan Valley, which meant that the City of Ontario would take on the administering of those floodplains as well.

The city would invoice the county an hourly rate for floodplain management services calculated at the fully weighted cost, plus ten percent (10%) to the city to provide such services to Malheur County, Jordan Valley, and Adrian.

KIRBY moved, MILLS seconded, **THAT THE CITY COUNCIL TO APPROVE THE IGA BETWEEN THE CITY OF ONTARIO AND MALHEUR COUNTY TO PROVIDE THE FLOOD PLAIN ADMINISTRATION DUTIES AS PER THE ATTACHED AGREEMENT AND AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT.** Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Braden-yes; Hart-yes; Contreras-out; Kirby-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

**NEW BUSINESS****Liquor License Application: Ontario F&B, LLC**

Jason Cooper, Police Chief, presented.

Mike Hannigan applied for a New Outlet Full On-Premises Commercial liquor license for his new establishment located at 491 SE 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Ontario, Oregon. He was applying for the liquor license in the name of Ontario F&B, LLC., and it would operate under the name The Outpost.

The application forms were filled out appropriately and the required fees would be received after Council action. This location was currently under construction. Once construction was completed, the City of Ontario Planning, Building, and Fire Departments would provide inspection for occupancy. This did not prevent the ability to recommend moving forward with the liquor license for this location.

The Outpost would be home to several food trucks as well. The goal was to create an outdoor type of food court with an indoor/outdoor bar-type establishment providing alcohol. To obtain the privilege of selling alcohol at this location, the Oregon Liquor Control Commission required Ontario F&B, LLC. to complete the "New Outlet – Full On-Premises Commercial" application. Once this step was completed, the location would have the necessary license requiring renewal every year.

MILLS moved, KIRBY seconded, **THE CITY COUNCIL RECOMMEND THE NEW OUTLET FULL ON-PREMISES COMMERCIAL LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION FOR ONTARIO F&B, LLC.** Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Braden-yes; Hart-yes; Contreras-out; Kirby-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.



**Appointments to City Committees**

Tori Barnett, City Recorder, presented.

She informed the Council she had just received an application from Gary Fugate for reappointment to the Certified Local Government/Façade Grant Committee, and requested they include his application in their decision for appointments that evening. There was still an opening on the Budget Committee, one on the Planning Commission, possibly one on the Public Works Committee, as well as three potentially open positions on the Parks Committee. The Parks Committee was somewhat specific in that it was desired to have a representative from the Kiwanis Club and the Recreation District, as well as the citizen at large position.

HART moved, MILLS seconded, **THE COUNCIL APPROVE THE SLATE OF APPLICATIONS, WHICH WOULD INCLUDE BILL HAGER TO THE AIRPORT COMMITTEE; JOHN BRIEDENBACH AND GARY FUGATE TO THE CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT/FAÇADE GRANT COMMITTEE; WILLIAM ECRET TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION; AND DOUG DEAN AND CHERYL CRUSON TO THE VISITORS AND CONVENTIONS BUREAU BOARD.** Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Braden-yes; Hart-yes; Contreras-out; Kirby-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

Councilor Braden asked, with regard to the Parks Committee, with three terms expiring, was the city renewing those three individuals into the position unless someone else applied for those?

Ms. Barnett stated generally the way the establishing ordinances were worded, members stayed on the committee until a replacement was found. The city did not have term limits, and there were no applications to fill those spots. Those terms would be extended until 2028 unless they stepped down.

**Safe Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund (SDWRLF) Grant Administration Services for New Water Treatment Plant (WTP) Storage Tank and Booster Pump Station**

Marshall Pierce, City Engineer, presented.

Last year, the City of Ontario was awarded two loan packages under the SDWRLF and water/wastewater fund programs from Business Oregon. Funding would be used for improvements to the city's drinking water storage and supply, specifically a new tank and pump station. Staff was currently in the early stages of negotiating a scope and fee for engineering design, and would need a grant manager signed through the end of construction. The improvement was a component of the city's overall Drinking Water Master Plan approved by the Oregon Health Authority in 2021.

With funding approved and contracts signed, as well as an engineering firm selected for design, a grant administrator should be signed to monitor successful implementation of the grant for the life of the project.

If the city chose to not move forward with the award of the task order, the implementation of the grant would need to be completed by city staff, who lacked technical expertise and experience with the program, which would challenge successful implementation.

Councilor Braden verified the \$25k cost was covered by the grant funds themselves.

Mr. Pierce stated that was correct.

MILLS moved, HART seconded, **THAT THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE THE GRANT MANAGEMENT TASK ORDER FOR \$25,000 WITH DUCOTE CONSULTING FOR THE SAFE DRINKING WATER REVOLVING LOAN FUND (SDWRLF) GRANT MANAGEMENT FOR THE NEW WATER STORAGE TANK AND BOOSTER PUMP STATION 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.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD UPDATES****Police: Quarterly Report**

Jason Cooper, Police Chief, presented.



DISCUSSION ITEM(S)Lion's Park Parking Lot

Councilor Hart stated as they'd looked at some of the plans related to the improvement to the pool and getting that open, there were concerns about parking, because it was needed at Lions Park anyway. The Parks Committee had reviewed the plan, and they were in support of adding more parking. They'd also spoken with John Breidenbach, Chamber CEO, who ran the largest event in the park, that being the Global Village Festival, and having more dedicated parking, especially along that strip, was a way to support the community, support the parks, and provide some parking relief. He hoped that over time, as they saw improvements on the softball fields on the other side of the park, there would be more tournaments, which increase the need for parking as well. Before the Council, staff was seeking approval to do some more work and/or research, to see where the funds could come from.

Ms. Ott stated as the Council had asked staff to look at different projects, and they could take funds from the PERS extra payment; however, her recommendation would be, as the beginning fund balance was quite a bit higher than budgeted, so staff could bring a resolution forward to spend the funds from there. The General Fund balance was very healthy currently, so it wouldn't be a hardship to pay for that project from that fund.

Councilor Hart confirmed with Ms. Ott that there was about \$1.8M more than had been anticipated when the Council approved the budget from higher carryover.

Ms. Ott stated they had received even more, closer to \$2.5M.

Councilor Hart stated the Council had increased water fees to pay for the two new fire personnel. That was money the Council had approved after the budget was approved, which was an additional \$400k. He had asked staff to review some things, and at the end of the year, he was still going to look into paying down an additional amount to PERS, if funds were available. How much was currently budgeted to pay down PERS?

Ms. Ott stated she had \$350k out of the General Fund, and then \$149k from Public Works.

Councilor Hart stated the ask at this point was have staff do some further research and some firmer estimates and present to Council. It appeared the recommendation would be out of carry over to fund the project.

Ms. Ott stated Mr. Cummings had an estimate of the financial impact of the parking lot, which was between \$95k-\$125k for the Lion's Park parking project.

Councilor Kirby stated they might have a legal responsibility to do the parking project, because the parking lot was left off from the Splash Park. It should have been done at that time. If they were to follow their own codes, this would be something they should consider.

Mayor Folden voiced here agreement. With the Global Village Festival and the Tater Tot Festival, this would be very beneficial to have that extra parking.

**HART moved, BAKEFELT seconded, THAT THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE BUDGETING OF NOT TO EXCEED \$125,000 FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PARKING LOT IN LIONS PARK, AND HAVE STAFF BRING BACK A RESOLUTION FOR THE FUNDING OF THE PROJECT.** Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Braden-yes; Hart-yes; Contreras-out; Kirby-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

Flagpole at SW 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue/SW 9<sup>th</sup> Street Intersection

Councilor Hart stated in speaking with Mr. Cummings watching budget funds come in and the carryover increase, and with discussions with the Council about trying to replace the flagpole that snapped during a storm a few years ago. This was the same concept of allocating, or budgeting, some funds, to have that pole replaced. He wasn't sure what they needed to do.

Casey Mordhorst, Public Works Director, stated in speaking with Mr. Cummings, he wanted to try to utilized the existing base. The process would be the city purchasing a new 100' flagpole, and the base would be modified to fit the standing concrete pillar. Nothing would be moved to Lions Park. It would stay in its present location.



Councilor Kirby stated the initial flagpole had been constructed by Bob Sullivan to honor an Ontario businessman.

Councilor Bakefelt asked if the motion needed to be modified to specify the actual location of the project. The original discussion spoke to moving it into the corner of the park and removing some trees.

Councilor Hart stated it read "at Lions Park". Was that little island considered part of Lions Park?

Tatiana Burgess, Planning Director, stated it was currently in the right of way. Mr. Cummings was currently working on getting that piece vacated because it was originally part of the Lions Park property. Even though it would be separated by the drive lane, it would be considered Lions Park property. That's why it read that it was at the intersection of the two roads at Lions Park.

HART moved, MILLS seconded, **THAT THE CITY TO APPROVE A NOT TO PRICE OF \$50,000 FOR REPLACEMENT OF THE FLAGPOLE AT THE SW 4<sup>th</sup> AND SW 9<sup>th</sup> INTERSECTION, THAT WAS DAMAGED IN THE WINDSTORM, AND HAVE STAFF BRING BACK A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE FUNDING FOR THE REPAIR.** Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Braden-yes; Hart-yes; Contreras-out; Kirby-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

#### HAND-OUTS

##### Minutes

Airport 12-01-2025; County Court: 12-03-2025

##### Check Register

December 2025

#### CORRESPONDENCE, COMMENTS, AND EX-OFFICIO REPORTS.

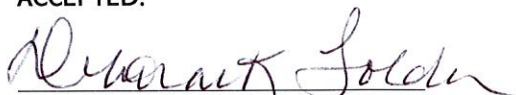
Councilor Kirby stated he was now affiliated with the organization [goodparty.org](http://goodparty.org), which was a non-partisan organization that helped people campaign electronically. There was not the ability to reach out to the constituency, and ask questions or to ask questions of a Councilor. He could do the sample of about 300 people for free, and it went out about a month ago. He'd received only three responses. He spoke to some who told him they'd received it, but were too busy to reply. He had now, at his own expense, expanded it to about 4,000. It went out that day, and had received several responses asking if it was legit. And yes, it was. He was looking forward to seeing some questions, and possible results from this, and encouraged anyone who received the text to please respond.

Councilor Hart thanked the Argus for their article on the success of the grants the city had received, and for Councilor Braden and staff for their work on the application.

#### ADJOURN

HART moved, MILLS 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 7:11 p.m.

##### ACCEPTED:

  
Deborah K. Folden, Mayor

##### ATTEST:

  
Tori Barnett, MMC, City Recorder

