



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES February 24, 2026

The scheduled meeting of the Ontario City Council was called to order by Mayor Deborah Folden at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 24, 2026, in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Council members present were Deborah Folden, Susann Mills, John Kirby, Adriana Contreras, Penny Bakefelt, and Ken Hart. Michael Braden was excused.

Staff present were Dan Cummings, Laura Reyes, Kari Ott, Jason Cooper, Clint Benson, Tatiana Burgess, Al Haun, Marshall Pierce, and Andy Wood.

AGENDA

This Agenda was posted Friday, February 20, 2026. Copies of the Agenda are available from the City Hall Customer Service Counter and on the city's website www.ontariooregon.org.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

HART moved, KIRBY seconded, **TO ADOPT THE CONSENT AGENDA, WHICH CONSISTED OF ADOPTION OF THE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 27, 2026, AND FEBRUARY 10, 2026**. Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Braden-excused; Hart-yes; Contreras-yes; Kirby-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Connie Godina and Chelsea Skeen, Ontario, stated: *Hello. My name is Connie Godina. I am from Ontario. I live here.*

Ms. Skeen: *And I'm Chelsea Skeen, same thing, from Ontario, business owner downtown.*

Ms. Codina: *Yeah, so, we wanted to discuss some matters that we are facing at the moment. So, we are noticing that downtown Ontario specifically, the heart of Ontario, is declining and sales, some support, as well, which we actually now are on board with Revitalize Ontario, Easter Oregon Rural Roots Academy, yeah, so, and actually John from Chamber of Commerce now, so we are, we're starting to get a little bit of support; however, the downtown businesses are closing their doors. Yesterday there was an announcement that Jack Henry is closing their doors. They are an anchor for downtown Ontario, and we do unfortunately we foresee a lot of downtown businesses are going, their sales are going to decline. So, with that being said, I am a part of the project for Moore Park and I just want to greatly emphasize how important it is that we expedite this project with whatever it takes, and Depot District is an official non-profit now, so we are, there's a whole committee that is really looking at downtown businesses and the surrounding areas to see exactly how we can help downtown businesses thrive. So with this project coming up and as the project is going to be presented to you, we just want you guys to hear our voices as downtown merchants, that we already are not doing well and we foresee us going more downtown, so we need to all work together as a team and figure out what all of our resources are and I know that the City of Ontario, you guys are one of the major key players, so we are also a key player, 'cuz we are downtown. Our little kids are consistently riding their scooters downtown, they go to Moore Park. The future is in downtown as well, so we just want to really emphasize how, how much we need this project to really help downtown.*

Ms. Skeen: *I kind of just wanted to touch on, we work, we've really been working hard to get events going down there, and we just did have a galentines event, which was put on by three of us. It was an in incredible, incredible outcome. We had so many people show up. More than we could have ever imagined. I had 50 people at my door at 6 o'clock when we opened, and so did multiple other businesses, but with that, we are trying to get the Friday Night Market going and this project really is crucial. Last night with the announcement of the closing of Jack Henry, you know, talking, we all see that we are going to take big hit because generally they are walking into our businesses holding, you know, a John Henry cup and without having that down there, it's another empty*



building, we just, we foresee what's coming and it's not going to be pretty for the rest of us. I think you all know that I moved my business downtown from another location, and I've almost been there a year, and I can say, I really have taken a hit and it doesn't seem like no matter how hard we work at it, it's kind of changing that mentality, and so, yeah, we really are just asking for partnership with everyone, and Revitalize has been great to get back in touch with, and so we hope that you guys will hear their presentation and be on board.

PRESENTATIONS

Moore Park Grant: Eastern Oregon Border Board
Tatiana Burgess, Planning Director, presented.



EASTERN OREGON BORDER BOARD'S RURAL ROOTS COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

- 10 students that reside within the Malheur County's Border Board region
- Cohort schedule: October 2025 – May 2026
- Learn leadership and grant-writing skills
- Develop a capstone project with clear deliverables, timelines, and resource requirements
- Capstone project will be funded by Eastern Oregon Border Board through a grant in the amount of \$25,000

COHORT PROJECT

Build a stage at Moore Park that:

- Can be cohesively incorporated into Revitalize Ontario's Park Masterplan
- Can be further developed and built around
- Can be a community hub to be used by various community partners, including but not limited to business partners, vendors, education groups for outdoor school.

COHORT PROJECT INSPIRATION Fir Street Park, Sisters, OR

PROJECT GOALS

- Create a tangible and attainable result.
- Minimize future maintenance requirements by producing a sustainable and lasting project by utilizing highly resistant construction materials, such as concrete.
- Engage various community partners to increase project buy-in.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Cohort's original idea was to build the auditorium in phases:

Phase 1 – build the concrete pad and minimize project costs by following prescriptive construction rules, before employment of design professional services are required (max height: 30 inches with ADA ramp and railing).
Phase 1 original target completion date – May 1, 2026.

Phase 2 – the surrounding canopy could be built later, around the concrete pad, by other groups, such as Revitalize Ontario, City of Ontario, or other community partners.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

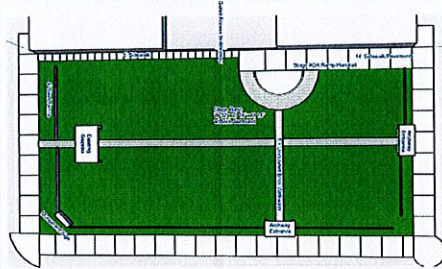
Cohort presented idea to:

- Revitalize Ontario, at the quarterly meeting on January 28, 2026; received support.
- Eastern Oregon Border Board, at the monthly meeting on February 2, 2026; received support.
- Downtown District, at the monthly meeting on February 4, 2026; received support.

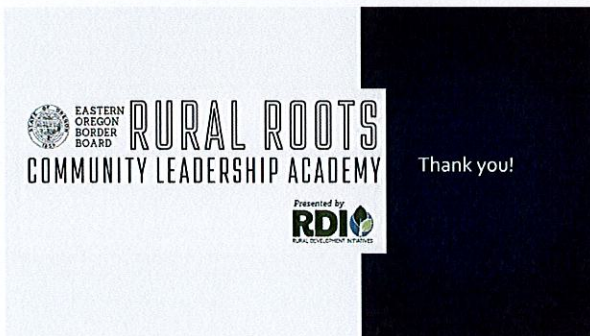
PROJECT BACKGROUND

During the February 19, 2026, City of Ontario Parks Committee, a consensus was reached that all interested parties would like to see a cohesive product constructed all at once.

While the Committee made a favorable recommendation to City Council to continue with the project, the cohort was directed to work on securing additional funding, to build the entire project at once, rather than pursuing a phased approach.

REVITALIZE ONTARIO PROPOSED PLAN**PROJECT NEXT STEPS**

- Secure additional funding
- Secure Council's permission to proceed with project
- Continue working closely with Revitalize Ontario to realize their vision for Moore Park



Councilor Bakefelt stated she had lived in Sisters for a number of years, and had been to that pavilion, taken her grandson to the water park, and it was a very nice venue that attracted a lot of people. This was a great idea.

Councilor Kirby stated it was exciting to see conceptual ideas come to life. He was happy to see them moving forward. Had the group spoken with Four Rivers Heating and Cooling, or the beauticians, to show them the ideas? That might avoid them feeling left out. Even though she was only seeking a consensus that night to move forward, what was her idea on funding needs?

Ms. Burgess stated she thought their immediate plan was considering having Revitalize Ontario appear before Council at the next meeting with a specific dollar amount ask.

Mr. Cummings stated Revitalize was putting together the costs for the state and remaining concrete, and it was to be presented to Council at the March meeting, where all the budgetary issues would be discussed. That would give Council the chance to review it all. No one on the Parks Committee was happy with doing a small phase, just a stand-alone slab. Yes, they would be asking for money. What was the consensus of the Council for the presentation?

Council consensus to move forward on the grant.

Annual Audit

Lindsey Cole, City Auditor, stated: *First of all, I want to thank you for having us complete your annual audit again this year. I'm Lindsey Cole with Connected Professional Accountants. I just took this audit over for Chelsea Hewitt last year, so this is the first time you're probably seeing my face at your audit presentation. So, you should have a copy of the audit report in front of you. With that, we have our Governance Letter. I'm just going to flip through the report, and if anyone has any questions, feel free to stop me. So, with your report, you have your Governance Letter. This is where we go over if there's any accounting changes during the year, and there were two new accounting standards implemented during the year. GASB101 for compensated absences and 102 for certain risk disclosures. This letter also goes over the estimates that are involved in creating the financial statements. We did not have any difficulties encountered during our audit, and there were none with management. We also did not have any audit adjustments proposed during our audit.*

So, to get into the report, we'll just get to the first page. This is our Independent Auditor's Report, so there were substantiating account balances to get audit documentation to provide an opinion, whether the financial statements are materially stated. We are also doing tests of internal controls to provide an opinion on whether we believe there are any material or significant deficiencies in internal control. So, in our report, this is where we go over our opinion on the financial statements, which is unmodified. We believe the financial statements are materially stated. It also goes over our responsibilities and management's responsibilities for audit. So, in that report, page four, this is where the management discussion and analysis starts, and this just give the financial highlights of the City of Ontario, but I'm going go over some of those highlights while I'm going over the financial statements.

So, I'm going to flip to page 11, which is where the financial statements start. The statement of that position, this shows, this is the balance sheet of the city at June 30, 2025. Assets exceed liabilities by \$94.7M at the end of the year, on statement of that position. And then on page 12, the statement of activities shows the, basically the profit and loss of the city during the year, and at the bottom of this page here, we can see that net position increased by \$5.1M during the year. This is separated by Government Activities and Business-Type Activities. On this page you will also see we have a prior period restatement, and this is for the GASB101 that was implemented during the year to accrue compensated absences. On page 13, this is where governmental funds financial statements start. Governmental funds balance sheet, this does not include any of the proprietary funds, so water, sewer, and you can see that assets exceed liabilities by \$23M. This is on the current financial resource method so this statement does not show any capital assets or long-term debt that would become due over multiple years.

Page 14 reconciles this balance sheet to a statement of net position so you can see all the differences there, which is the capital assets, long term debt, and any of those other long-term liabilities.

Page 15 is our statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances, so this is the governmental fund profit and loss basically. The fund balance increased in the governmental funds by \$2.6M during the fiscal year

Page 16 reconciles the difference between that and the Statement of Activities. And again, it's just for the long-term debt in capital asset purchases and depreciation.

On page 17 we have the Proprietary Funds Statement of Net Position, so this is all the business type activities, water, sewer, airport. The full net position in the proprietary funds at the end of the year is \$52M.

Page 19 shows the changes in the fund that position for the proprietary funds, and the propriety funds net position increased by \$2M during the fiscal year.

Page 21 is the cash flow statement for the proprietary funds, that just shows the change in cash by activity per fund. The net increase in cash for the year was \$1M.

Page 24, this is where most of the financial statements start. So, these go over the accounting policies with the city, and then they go into more depth for some of the numbers in the financial statements, so I'll go over, I'll highlight some of these notes for specific financial statement numbers. So, note #5, this is on page 36, the Schedule of Capital Assets, this shows where these capital assets were purchased, constrcuti9on in progress, equipment, vehicles, buildings, and improvements. You can see any assets that were disposed of during the year, and then the depreciation expense during the year on those assets. I didn't have any other notes that I really needed to highlight.



Note #11 on page 55. This shows usually a change in long-term debt, so if there were any increases or decreases and then the amount due within one year. That is on page 55 so you can see the amount due within one year is \$357k.

On then on page 56, Note #12, the Compensated Absences, this is the new accounting standard I was talking about, so it's just a change in estimate of what needs to be accrued for the compensated absences for employees at year end, and it's sick, vacation, any compensation that would have to be paid to employees upon termination or that is more than likely to be used within the next year, so that is what that accrual comes from, that liability.

Okay, on page 61, this is where the budgetary financial statements are, so you can go through each fund and see how close you came to your budgeted amounts by the end of the year.

And I'll go over the one budget violation in one of the last reports that I go over, which is on page 90. So, on page 90, this is our auditor report on Oregon State Regulations. We audit certain ORS's while we are there. We have a list of what we specifically audit in this report and then would report any violations with those ORS's and the only violation we have is that there was a budget violation in the Reserve Fund for \$1,300.

And in 2025, City of Ontario, spent over \$750k of federal funds, so we performed a single audit while we were there, as well, which is where we audit those federal programs. So, on page 92, it's a schedule of expenditures of federal Awards that shows which programs, federal program, the city received and spent, and the city spent \$1.2M of federal funds during fiscal year 2025. And then we have our notes, which are the accounting policies on that schedule.

Page 94 is our report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting. This is where we would report any material weaknesses or significant deficiencies over financial reporting, and we did not have any during our audit.

Our next report on Page 96 is our report on Compliance for Major Programs that we audited during the year. We did not have any compliance issues, no findings on compliance, and we didn't have any internal control deficiencies over compliance during our audit.

And then on page 98, this is a summary of schedules of findings and questioned costs, this goes over both audits, so our financial statement audit and our single audit. So, you can see in the summary here that we have an unmodified opinion on the financial statements, we have an unmodified opinion on the major federal program that we tested, which was the airport improvement program. We did not have any questioned costs, and we did not have any internal control weaknesses.

And that is all I have for the audit. It was a very clean audit, and we appreciate Kari and the whole accounting team for helping us while we're there. I know it's very disruptive and we really appreciate you all. Does anyone have any questions for me?

Councilor Hart stated as a member of the Audit Committee, he stated his thanks to Kari and her team. He thought he read it somewhere, and found he was correct. In Oregon, right now, over 200 entities, cities, counties, and school districts, had not done their audits for years. It wasn't that Ontario was doing their audit and looked good, those others were not even getting the audits done. There was no transparency in government throughout Oregon, and hats off to the City of Ontario. They were doing an awesome job, and staying on top of things. When issues arose, they were addressed, and the city was transparent. That was important for people to understand it was not easy to do this. It was a small team, and the work was hard, and it took everyone to make sure everybody was getting and giving information. He wanted everyone to realize that the City of Ontario was doing what was supposed to be done, was transparent, having audits, and shame on the 200+ entities in Oregon that decided not to do them. He also added that he wanted to make sure that he was right, and on Page 65 talked about the PERS debt, but he wanted to remind everyone that there was there was a \$10.4M net pension liability, so they still owed over \$10M to the pension fund to make sure the city was whole. Ontario was better than most entities because, on that same sheet, it showed in the last several years, Ontario had paid down the debt by \$7.6M. Ontario had received extra funds, and had been good stewards, and had been paying down that debt. There was still a ways to go, but it showed the prudence of the Council who didn't want to leave that debt for future generations. Big thank you to Kari and her team, and to Dan for holding everyone accountable, and he was very proud of the city for doing what should be done, and being transparent.



OLD BUSINESSResolution #2026-106: Funding for Electronic Speed Signs

Kari Ott, Finance Director, presented.

Providing these law enforcement tools helps meet the desirability of the lifestyle for the citizens of Ontario. At the February 10, 2026, meeting, the City Council approved the purchase of two Speed Alert 18 model Electronic Speed signs and 10 additional mounting brackets and annual subscriptions for data services. The resolution attached will appropriate \$14,064 from the Reserve Fund public safety department to purchase the signs, brackets, and data service, which will leave \$512,691 in public safety contingency. As soon as the funding is approved, the Police Department can purchase the equipment.

HART moved, KIRBY seconded, **THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE RESOLUTION #2026-106, A RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE \$14,064 TO PURCHASE TWO SPEED ALERT 18 MODEL ELECTRONIC SPEED SIGNS INCLUDING THE FIRST YEAR SUBSCRIPTION FOR DATA SERVICE AND TEN (10) ADDITIONAL MOUNTING BRACKETS FOR THE ONTARIO POLICE DEPARTMENT.** Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Braden-excused; Hart-yes; Contreras-yes; Kirby-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

Resolution #2026-107: Police Department Body Cameras

Jason Cooper, Police Chief, presented.

The Ontario Police Department's body worn camera (BWC) program currently lacks software redaction capabilities, cloud-based storage/software, and internal processes that significantly impact best practices and efficiency. The agency was unable to effectively provide public records requests pertaining to officer body worn video, without compromising privacy issues and/or content exemptions. Costs for additional on-site BWV storage would continue to increase. Staff was seeking approval to move forward with procurement that included body worn camera systems with the aforementioned capabilities.

Historically, the Ontario Police Department BWC program had not possessed redaction software, since the agency implemented officer body worn cameras years ago. Public records requests involving body worn camera were denied under Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS). Previous denials were never challenged any further, until a past event occurred surrounding an OPD use of force complaint. The privacy of citizens had always been respected and the potential of re-victimizing a victim was always a concern. In-house storage capabilities and costs to store BWC video footage continued to rise.

A past Use of Force event and subsequent citizen complaint ultimately generated a public records request for officer body camera video footage. The video footage was ultimately released without redaction as the agency did not possess software capabilities to do so. Body camera public records requests have become more prevalent and should continue trending upward. The utilization of redaction software capabilities, when appropriate, would allow the agency to be more transparent with the public, while maintaining the privacy of its citizens.

The Ontario Police Department initiated procurement for the best practices body-worn camera system through an RFP. The city received four proposals, which included 5-year contract agreements:

Lenslock	\$42,280.00 (Annually)
Wolfcom	\$54,290.00 (Annually)
Axon	\$78,534.25 (Annually)
Motorola	\$26,478.00 (Annually, but with less options)

A committee reviewed all proposals submitted through the RFP process, who carefully considered all factors that would best meet OPD and City Council requirements, such as redaction capability and cloud-based storage as a part of the review process. As a result of this process, the committee selected Axon Enterprises, Inc. as the body camera vendor to provide ongoing services meeting Ontario's needs for the next 5 years.

There would be an annual cost of \$78,534.52 and a 5-year contract agreement with the vendor. The Project was budgeted for FY25-26 in the amount of \$74,000 with a proposal for the remaining balance funded out of the uniform line of the police department.



BAKEFELT moved, MILLS seconded, THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE RESOLUTION #2026-107, A RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE \$4,535 OF ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO PURCHASE POLICE BODY CAMERAS. Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Braden-excused; Hart-yes; Contreras-yes; Kirby-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

BAKEFELT moved, CONTREREAS seconded, THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE THE PROCUREMENT PROCESS AND CONTRACT WITH AXON ENTERPRISES, INC. FOR BODY WORN CAMERA SYSTEMS, TO INCLUDE CLOUD-BASED STORAGE, REDACTION AND REPORT ASSISTANT SOFTWARE, AND AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN ALL DOCUMENTS REQUIRED FOR THIS PROCESS. Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Braden-excused; Hart-yes; Contreras-yes; Kirby-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

Ontario Recreation District Swimming Pool Funds Release

Dan Cummings, City Manager, presented.

The City budgeted \$250,000 toward the construction of the Ontario Pool at the time construction began, with conditions to be met as outlined in the attached document. The Recreation Board has requested the city to release the funding to the Board.

The \$250,000 was in the current budget ear-tagged for the pool project. The request was made and should be distributed as soon as possible. According to the conditions made during the granting of the funds, it was the City Council's responsibility to reaffirm and release the funds.

MILLS moved, CONTRERAS seconded, THE CITY COUNCIL REAFFIRM THE \$250,000 SUPPORT FUNDING TO THE ONTARIO RECREATION DISTRICT AND CONFIRM THAT THEY HAVE MET THE CONDITIONS AS OUTLINED BY THE ATTACHED DOCUMENT IN THIS REPORT. THE CITY COUNCIL WOULD LIKE TO INSTRUCT STAFF TO RELEASE THE FUNDS TO THE ONTARIO RECREATION DISTRICT. Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Braden-excused; Hart-yes; Contreras-yes; Kirby-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution #2026-108: DLCD Grant for Ontario Planning and Zoning Development Standards

Tatiana Burgess, Planning Director, presented.

The Planning Department needed to update, standardize, and modernize the city development ordinance. This was a very time-consuming process and required specific expertise. The city applied for and received a Housing Planning Assistance Grant from the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DCLD). This grant gave funds to the city to hire Winterbrook Planning to prepare hearing-ready documents and presentations for amending Ontario Planning and Zoning Development Standards to comply with applicable Oregon housing statutes and rules. The project was not to exceed \$69,500. There was no match required. This would be a net financial impact of zero, a maximum of \$69,500 grant revenue and expense. As soon as the attached resolution was received the project could officially begin.

CONTRERAS moved, MILLS seconded, THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE RESOLUTION #2016-108: A SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET TO APPROPRIATED UNEXPECTED GRANT REVENUES RECEIVED FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT AND AUTHORIZE CITY MANAGER DAN CUMMINGS TO SIGN THE RELATED DOCUMENTS. Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Braden-excused; Hart-yes; Contreras-yes; Kirby-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

PUBLIC HEARING

Resolution #2026-109: Master Fee Schedule 2026-2027

It being the date advertised for public hearing on the matter of Resolution #2026-109, the Hearing was declared open. There were no objections to the city's jurisdiction to hear the action, no abstentions, ex-parte contact, and no declarations of conflict of interest.

Dan Cummings, City Manager, presented.

Proposed Resolution #2026-109 combined all city fees into one schedule, as updated from Resolution #2024-111 adopted for fiscal year 2024-2025.



In June 2018, the city implemented the need to review fees collected by the city and developed a master fee list. Prior to that list, fees were determined by individual departments, and reviewed randomly as issues arose, and were addressed and/or adjusted at that time. The first Master Fee Schedule was presented to the Council in 2018, with only a few increases to established fees. Since that time, there have been several updates to the list as needed.

The current list was for FY 2024-2025, and staff was seeking approval to make updates to that list according to the upcoming FY 2026-2027 budget. This resolution, if adopted, would become effective July 1, 2026, and would supersede all previous Master Fee Schedules. There were only minimal increases proposed, and any sections that were missing from previous lists had been added.

Following review by staff, various adjustments were made where increases were merited based on time and materials required to cover the costs associated with the fee. Other sections were added to cover the costs of areas that were not previously included, but that did incur costs to operate or produce. Costs could be adjusted by the Council at any time during the year by adopting a new resolution. It was being done now due to the upcoming budget adoption. Staff would like to have this updated version effective July 1, 2026, to keep in line with the 2026-2027 budget.

The passage of a fee was subject to ORS 294.160(1) which read: *"The governing body of a city, county or other unit of local government shall provide an opportunity for interested persons to comment on the enactment of any ordinance or resolution prescribing a new fee or a fee increase or an increase in the rate or other manner in which the amount of a fee is determined or calculated."* Ontario City Charter Chapter X. Miscellaneous Provisions Section 10.6 Fee Increases. reads: *Any proposal to implement or increase fees or local taxes (except for a general retail which is governed separately in this Charter) must be affirmed by a two-thirds vote of the entire Council. (Ord. No. 2815-2022 § 2(Exh. A), 10-11-22).*

The Hearing was opened for public testimony.

Opponents: None. Proponents: None. There being no Proponent and no Opponent testimony, the Hearing was closed.

MILLS moved, seconded by CONTRERAS, **THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE RESOLUTION #2026-109: A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A MASTER FEE SCHEDULE FOR THE 2026-2027 FISCAL YEAR.** Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Braden-excused; Hart-yes; Contreras-yes; Kirby-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

DEPARTMENT HEAD UPDATES

Finance: Monthly Report

Kari Ott, Finance Director, presented.

Public Works: Quarterly Report

Al Haun, Project Director, presented.

HAND-OUTS

Minutes

County Court: 01-28-2026

Check Register: January 2026

Budget Calendar: 2026-2027FY



CORRESPONDENCE, COMMENTS, AND EX-OFFICIO REPORTS.

Councilor Kirby distributed the survey had had sent out. It had been done by goodparty.org and it cost .035¢ per each one. There were approximately 2,500 requests sent out via text, asking what major concerns there were. He had received about 10% in responses. People wanted to talk about their city. He wanted all the department heads to review it, too. It appeared that homelessness was a big issue, from running them off, to feeding and housing them. There were also many who stated concern about the cleanliness of the city. Maybe these comments would help them all create a new direction. And he thanked the citizens who took the time to respond.

Mr. Cummings stated thanked Revitalize Ontario and Depot District for working together. He recognized things still needed to be taken care of, and believed the city was going to be very supportive of their efforts in the downtown area.

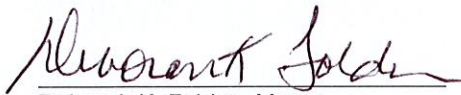
Mr. Cummings stated he wanted to make it clear that last Friday was the very first time that he received a phone message, and had seen on Facebook, the news release article that Idaho Power was selling all their interest in the Oregon side to OTEC, which was the PUC out of Baker City. He also received a call from the county, who had also not been notified. He was working with the county to try to set up a meeting with OTEC to at least see what they were proposing. It appeared they had already made the commitment, but he knew they had to get the Oregon PUC Commission to approve the sale. He assumed that the Oregon PUC would hold hearings, but hadn't got that confirmed. If anyone in the community had problems, they should attend those hearings and voice their concerns. He saw on the website that their rates were a little lower than here, but could that be expected here? No one knows. Over the years, Idaho Power had been a fantastic partner, and he was sad to see them leaving, but it was understandable. His large concern was if Ontario was receive the service that Idaho Power had been providing, since they were so close.

Councilor Kirby stated he called OTEC (Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative) and asked why Malheur County had not been notified and the person he spoke with acknowledged that oversight. He also questioned the service, and was told it was four or five years out, but they did plan to have substations and offices in Ontario.

Councilor Mills stated she was a member and a customer of OTEC, and had been for years. She had property in Baker City, and OTEC had been absolutely wonderful, and they were the only utility company in her history that sent her a check every year for being a member. This was a positive thing.

ADJOURN

HART moved, MILLS seconded, **THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED**. Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Braden-excused; Hart-yes; Contreras-yes; Kirby-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1. Meeting concluded at 7:43pm.

ACCEPTED:

Deborah K. Folden, Mayor

ATTEST:

Tori Barnett, MMC, City Recorder

