



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES May 12, 2026

The scheduled meeting of the Ontario City Council was called to order by Mayor Deborah Folden at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 12, 2026, in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Council members present were Deborah Folden, Susann Mills, John Kirby, Adriana Contreras, and Penny Bakefelt. Michael Braden and Ken Hart were excused.

Staff present were Dan Cummings, Tori Barnett, Corinna Hysell, Andy Wood, Kari Ott, Tatiana Burgess, Casey Mordhorst, Al Haun, and Jason Cooper.

AGENDA

This Agenda was posted Friday, May 8, 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, MILLS seconded, **TO ADOPT THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED**. Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Braden-out; Hart-out; Contreras-yes; Kirby-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 5/0/2.

CONSENT AGENDA

MILLS moved, CONTRERAS seconded, **TO ADOPT THE CONSENT AGENDA, WHICH CONSISTED OF ADOPTION OF COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 28, 2026, AND A PROCLAMATION: ELK'S YOUTH WEEK**. Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Braden-out; Hart-out; Contreras-yes; Kirby-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 5/0/2.

Mayor Folden read the Proclamation into the record: *City of Ontario Mayoral Proclamation #2026-102, Elk's Youth Week 2026: Whereas, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks has designated May 1-7, as Youth Week to honor America's Junior Citizens for their accomplishments, and to give fitting recognition of their services to Community, State, and Nation; and whereas Ontario Elks Lodge #1690 will sponsor an observance during that week in tribute to the Junior Citizens of this Community; and whereas no event could be more deserving of our support and participation than one dedicated to these young people who represent the nation's greatest resource, and who in the years ahead will assume the responsibility for the advancement of our free society; and whereas our youth need the guidance, inspiration, and encouragement which we alone can give in order to help develop those qualities of character essential for future leadership, and go forth to service America; and whereas to achieve this worthy objective we should demonstrate our partnership with youth, our understanding of their hopes and aspirations, and a sincere willingness to help prepare them in every way for the responsibilities and opportunities of citizenship. Now, therefore, be it resolved that I, Deborah K. Folden, Mayor of Ontario, Oregon, do hereby proclaim the first week in May as Youth Week in Ontario, and urge all departments of government, civic, fraternal and patriotic groups, and our citizens generally, to participate wholeheartedly in its observance. Signed this 12th day of May, 2026. Deborah K. Folden, Mayor*

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance #2846-2026: Repealing OMC Title 2, Chapters 3, 4, 9 [Golf/Library/YAC]

Dan Cummings, City Manager, presented.

City of Ontario ("City"), an Oregon municipal corporation, had all the powers that the constitutions, statutes, and common law of the United States and Oregon expressly or impliedly granted or allowed. Chapter 2, Title 3 – Golf Committee established on November 6, 1995, Ordinance #2368, Chapter 2, Title 4 – Library Committee established on November 18, 1985, Ordinance #2191 and Chapter 2, Title 9 – Youth Advisory Committee established on February 4, 2002, Ordinance #2488, of the Ontario Municipal Code (the "Code"). All three were committees that were no longer in place or used by the city. The city no longer had a Municipal Golf Course, no longer had the responsibility of the Library (Library District was formed) and had not had or



used a Youth Advisory Committee since 2009. This proposed ordinance was a housekeeping ordinance to remove titles no longer needed.

Councilor Bakefelt what types of things the Youth Advisory Committee did?

Mr. Cummings deferred to Tori Barnett, whose daughter served on the committee while in high school.

Ms. Barnett stated they worked with their liaison, Councilor John Gaskill, on different projects to increase awareness and interest in government, as well as to let the Council know what the students were doing and what they were interested in. It had been a struggle to get kids interested in serving. It was established for eighth grade through senior year.

KIRBY moved, MILLS seconded, **THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE ORDINANCE #2846-2026: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ONTARIO REPEALING ONTARIO MUNICIPAL CODE TITLE 2, CHAPTER 3, CHAPTER 4, AND CHAPTER 9 IN THEIR ENTIRETY, WHICH CHAPTERS CONCERN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GOLF COMMITTEE, THE LIBRARY BOARD, AND THE YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE, ON FIRST READING BY TITLE ONLY.** Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Braden-out; Hart-out; Contreras-yes; Kirby-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Folden-yes. Motion passed 5/0/2.

MILLS moved, CONTRERAS seconded, **THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE ORDINANCE #2846-2026: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ONTARIO REPEALING ONTARIO MUNICIPAL CODE TITLE 2, CHAPTER 3, CHAPTER 4, AND CHAPTER 9 IN THEIR ENTIRETY, WHICH CHAPTERS CONCERN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GOLF COMMITTEE, THE LIBRARY BOARD, AND THE YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE, ON SECOND READING BY TITLE ONLY.** Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Braden-out; Hart-out; Contreras-yes; Kirby-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Folden-yes. Motion passed 5/0/2.

PUBLIC HEARING

Deed of Dedication: Public Right of Way for Street and Public Utilities [8C School District to City]

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

Dan Cummings, City Manager, presented.

This action was to dedicate a right of way for a portion of West Idaho Avenue. The existing street was constructed sometime in the late 1950s, but no right of way dedication could be found.

School District 8C received the property where the current Ontario High School was on November 21, 1950. Records showed the Ontario High School was constructed in 1954. School District 8C received the property where the current Aiken Elementary school was on December 12, 1956. Records showed the elementary school was constructed in 1957.

In 2011, a survey was performed by CK3 LLC of the high school property and during the title search and survey, it was discovered that there was no dedicated right of way for West Idaho Avenue and the existing street was totally on school property. It was suggested to the school district and the city that a right of way should be dedicated.

In 2025, a survey was performed by Idaho Survey Group, LLC of the Aiken Elementary School property, and it was also discovered that there was no dedicated right of way for West Idaho Avenue and all the existing street was on school property.

City Manager/City Surveyor, Dan Cummings, contacted the school and highly recommended the school district dedicate the right of way to the existing West Idaho Street for safety reasons and city maintenance reasons of the street and underground city utilities.

In April 2026, 8C School District contacted Mr. Cummings to notify him that the District agreed with his recommendation and was willing to dedicate the right of way as shown on the attached Deed of Dedication.



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, KIRBY seconded, **THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY FOR A PORTION OF WEST IDAHO AVENUE FROM SW 10TH STREET TO NORTH VERDE DRIVE AS SHOWN ON THE ATTACHED DEED OF DEDICATION AND AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO SIGN THE DEED.** Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Braden-out; Hart-out; Contreras-yes; Kirby-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Folden-yes. Motion passed 5/0/2.

DEPARTMENT HEAD UPDATES

Public Works: Quarterly Report

Casey Mordhorst, Public Works Director.

Mr. Cummings gave kudos to Chief Cooper and the Jacobs crew for the flashing speed light up on 12th Street in front of the Chevron Station. That was the intersection where the two kids had been hit by a car.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Requested Letter of Support: Treasure Valley Paramedics

Mayor Folden stated she had been asked by TVP to write a letter of support for them; however, Mr. Cummings did have a comment he'd like to make regarding the action.

Mr. Cummings expressed some concern. He noted that both the Fire Chief and Fire Captain had also been asked to submit a letter. He checked on the situation, and the county had an RFQ on their website for this ambulance service. He stressed that TVP was a private company under a private contract. It was not governmentally subsidized. Because of his concerns, he spoke with Stephanie Williams (County Attorney), and she had received a letter from another city sent directly to the commissioners, but she caught it and pulled it, because the Commissioners were part of the interview panel, and should not receive any information prior to getting all the proposals. It was his understanding that at least two other firms had expressed interest in submitting an RFQ. Ms. Williams expressed concern about politics being played. The RFQ was set to close on September 7, 2026. Staff's concerns were that for the past three years, they'd been having issues with the ambulance service, which had been discussed with the ambulance service and with the county. Heather was great, and she was doing what she could, but economies was hitting there, too, and she could not get qualified people, but that was not the fault of the city. TVP was not providing the service they were supposed to provide, as outlined in their contract. That had been discussed multiple times. TVP had been contracted since 1999, but they were now using city resources, and that's where his issues came up. He was getting complaints from the city's union that they were having to provide services that TVP was supposed to provide, and using the city's manpower. For example, once someone had to go for service, if there was not a paramedic there, and the city responded, too, by state law, the city guys had to stay with that patient and transport the person. If they had to go to Boise, city personnel had to go, too. That left a shortage on the Ontario crew. They needed to be careful about recommending one particular company because what were they going to say to the other companies that might ask for a recommending, too? Hopefully, TVP would submit a good proposal, and get some staff on board. In speaking with Stephanie, the new contract would require them to have qualified medical on staff, so they were not relying on public entities to support them. He suggested they look into adding a penalty clause in the new contract. Stephanie also asked that if any entity was going to submit letters of support for any of the providers, that the letters be sent to her, not to the Court.

Mayor Folden stated she was unaware there were other entities that had made any type of proposal.

Mr. Cummings stated he did not know if they had been submitted; he'd only heard that there were at least two other firms interested. He had also been told that Baker switched to a new company, and it was not working out perfectly for them.

Mayor Folden asked for consensus from the Council to sign the letter.

The Council was not in favor of signing a letter.



Request Letter of Support: Country Resolution by Riley Hill

Riley Hill stated: *Thank you, Madam Mayor and Council. I don't know if Dan, in your packet, if you gave them a copy of the resolution, so...*

Mr. Cummings stated yes, it was in the packet.

Mr. Hill: *...so I don't have to read it to you, but for the record, the County Court put a resolution together to support some additional PTE training at the high schools. So, a little background on this is that I'm appearing as a member of Malheur County Poverty to Prosperity group. Five of us formed a 501(c)(3) about 15 years ago and one of the goals, couple of the goals, was to expand industrial land in different cities, and we accomplished that. And one of the ongoing ones was to create career (?) for education opportunities for the students in the different districts. I'm glad that some attended the awards ceremony at the college last week and we were able to hand out about 120 recognized certificates for kids that were in high school, Juniors and Seniors, Allied Health was there, welding, machinists, robotics, and I think I'm forgetting something here, oh, proficiency in computers. So anyway, in that vein, another opportunity that we're short on here, or an opportunity that could present itself, is training for plumbers and electricians at the high school level. And about a year and a half ago, I convened a meeting at 8C school district and had Bureau of Labor and Industries there, some contractors there, obviously 8C was there, their superintendent and principal, to try and convince BOLI to let us start an apprenticeship program for plumbers and electricians at the high school level. And, after, and the 8C school district, to their credit, agreed that they would start a curriculum for apprenticeship programs for plumbers and electricians. Well, after that meeting, I never head back from BOLI again, and I wrote them, each Commissioner, and letters and no responses from them. So, currently, the way things work right now, is that most of the trainees have to be trained in Idaho, and the regulations that the Bureau of Labor and Industries has set up, it's not the law, it's the regulations they set up, you have to be 18 years of age to start a program. Secondly, at BOLI, they've created an apprenticeship ratio of three journeymen electricians to two apprentices. And with the plumbers, they've created a ratio of one journeyman to one apprentice. I should be using the term journeywoman because I have women working for me out in the trades, so...but, anyway, Idaho legislature faced this same reality about, I think, four years ago, so they changed the law, and they made the ratios of one journeyman/journey worker, to six apprentices for electricians, and one to unlimited for plumbers with a little caveat in there that you had to have some other journey workers with some experience, but one to unlimited (?). And they have a program going like that in Nampa at the college over there, so what I'm attempting to do, or we're attempting to do, is to influence BOLI to change the regulations so that we can get the same opportunities going here for kids in Malheur County. So, we, the County Court was kind enough to draft this resolution that you have in front of you, and in that resolution, it says that it was supported by the school districts, and I have in my hand here the letters of support from all three school districts involved. I have in my hand a letter from the City of Nyssa, City of Vale is acting on it tonight, to give a letter of support. This is going to be a long process and it's going to take quite a bit of work to influence BOLI or the legislature to change the rules so that we can get a good start for young men and women down at the high school level. So, I'm asking for a letter of support from the Council to support the resolution that the County Court has in front of them. Any questions?*

Mayor Folden stated in the resolution, it showed the kids concerned were aged 16 instead of 18?

Mr. Hill: *Yes, and Idaho allows 16. And they always make the argument at BOLI that training and safety, so I guess most of our workers over here are unsafe and untrained because it's reciprocal and most of this work is done by Idaho people. So, we need to give these young people an opportunity to get some training now, and one of the things that Bureau of Labor and Industries are saying, too, is that we don't have the training, you're unsafe, you're on and on, so we have a pre-apprenticeship program. The pre-apprenticeship program is worthless because it doesn't get you into the system, it doesn't get you, it doesn't count towards your training, towards an apprentice or towards your goal of being a journey worker, and so we've addressed that in this resolution for the county, so I'm asking for the city's support. Any other questions?*

Councilor Mills stated a lot of students took classes through the college while they're still in high school. Did TVCC not provide classes like electrical, plumbing, anything like that?

Mr. Hill: *Well, there is a training committee that John Howard from Idaho heads, and the classes are usually held at Treasure Valley, but you have to be 18 years or older to do it, and 8C school district, to their credit, told BOLI at the meeting we had that they would create a curriculum if BOLI would change the regulations down to 16.*



Mr. Cummings stated he had asked Mr. Hill to present this to the Council because he told him that if the county approved the resolution, he was going to ask the city to approve a similar resolution, so he wanted the Council to understand that because it was difficult to give a letter of recommendation to one entity and then turn around and deny it when it was brought before them.

Mr. Hill: *He's right. It's kind of like the chicken and the egg. The County Court didn't really want to sign the resolution until they knew that there was support from the community for it, so once they do that, then the Judge has agreed, Judge Joyce has agreed to introduce me and let me speak when all the county judges get together and see I can get some support there from that group.*

Councilor Kirby stated this was an opportunity the city needed to take.

Mr. Hill: *I might add one more thing. The way the system is set up, you could become a journey worker fast, you could become a mechanical engineer or an electrical engineer faster than you can go through the process to be a journey worker plumber or electrician. Any other questions? Thank you.*

Mr. Cummings stated they needed to do a vote to approve and sign the letter.

KIRBY moved, BAKEFELT seconded, **THAT THE CITY MANAGER WORK WITH MR. HILL TO WRITE A LETTER ON OUR BEHALF TO BRING TO THE COUNCIL, AND SIGN IT.** Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Braden-out; Hart-out; Contreras-yes; Kirby-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 5/0/2.

Mr. Cummings asked when Mr. Hill needed the letter.

Mr. Hill: *I've got everything, I'll have everything accomplished by tonight, if Vale passes and the city passes, so I'll try to get on next week's agenda.*

Mr. Cummings stated the motion was to bring it back and the Council wasn't going to meet again until June.

Councilor Kirby stated it would be for the Mayor to sign.

HAND-OUTS

Minutes

County Court 04-01-2026

Check Register

March 2026

CORRESPONDENCE, COMMENTS, AND EXOFFICIO REPORTS

Tatiana Burgess, Planning Director, reminded the Council that she had sent an email out to them all a few weeks ago about a work session coming up between the City Council and the Planning Commission, on June 10, 2026, 6:00 pm. Since there would not be a second meeting in May, she wanted to remind them all to attend. It was to discuss the ongoing efforts to update the development code.

Tori Barnett, City Recorder, reminded everyone this was an election year, and Council candidate packets would be available for pickup on June 3rd. It was posted on several mediums.

ADJOURN

MILLS moved, KIRBY seconded, the meeting be adjourned. Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Braden-out; Hart-out; Contreras-yes; Kirby-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 5/0/2. Meeting concluded at 6:53 pm.

ACCEPTED:


Deborah K. Folden, Mayor

ATTEST:


Tori Barnett, MMC, City Recorder

