# CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
## July 14, 2026

The scheduled meeting of the Ontario City Council was called to order by Mayor Deborah Folden at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 14, 2026, in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Council members present were Deborah Folden, Susann Mills, Michael Braden, Penny Bakefelt, John Kirby, Ken Hart, and Adrianna Contreras.

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

### AGENDA

This Agenda was posted Friday, July 10, 2026. Copies of the Agenda are available from the City Hall Customer Service Counter and on the city's website www.ontariooregon.org.

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

### CONSENT AGENDA

MILLS moved, CONTRERAS seconded, **TO ADOPT THE CONSENT AGENDA, WHICH CONSISTED OF ADOPTION OF COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 23, 2026, AND JOINT CITY COUNCIL/PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 10, 2026.** Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Braden-yes; Hart-yes; Contreras-yes; Kirby-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 7/0/0.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Jeff Parker, Ontario Sanitary Service, Ontario, stated: *Good evening. My name is Jeff Parker. I am from Ontario. I'm the manager of Ontario Sanitation. It was brought to my attention that we had an Ontario resident that was a little irritated because since Western Recycling in Fruitland had closed, they were unable to recycle certain materials and certain plastics that they were able to over there at the time. I'm just kind of here to let you know that we do actually offer that stuff over at our Ontario site here in Ontario. We do still offer the curbside recycling, which is what everybody has been used to, papers, certain plastics, the lighter plastics and stuff, but if you come to the actual site down at Ontario Sanitary, we do have two receptacles that, we are with a program, it's called Pro, and they are taking heavier plastics, they are taking aluminums, they're taking metals, we do take Styrofoam down there, which have deterred from taking curbside from the residents. It's just, everything that they did offer in Idaho, they do offer down there. It is onsite, so unfortunately, we are unable to pay. We get a lot of people that bring in like big quantities of cardboard. At the moment, we're not able to pay out on it because we do not have cash on hand at that site. And also, on top of that, at the last meeting we brought up that the Ontario Transfer Station site is currently open. We've been running for about two weeks now, on Fridays, from 1:00 to 4:00. We've had a few customers, so I just want to let you know that is also up and running.*

Councilor Bakefelt asked Mr. Parker to provide the site's address again.

Mr. Parker stated they were located at 540 SE 9th.

Mr. Paker: *Yeah, so that's kind of why I'm here. Like I say, we did see a comment that somebody was, and we do have quite a few people that are coming, that call from Idaho, wanting to come over, and wanting to know where they could come bring stuff to.*

Councilor Kirby stated they used to be open more than one day a week.

Mr. Parker: *Yeah, we were, like I say, at the time we were shut down due to insurance issues and were unable to open. The new company, they're slowly working on it. I know Travis, my boss, he knows more about that. He's been dealing firsthand with it. But currently at the moment, we're expecting, we're hoping, to shoot for a couple more days a week, like maybe a Monday, Wednesday, Friday, but as of right now, we're just trying to get set up. We do, like I said, we don't accept cash, so we're trying to get a whole new computer system, and everything set up out there and with our scales and get it all squared away.*

Councilor Kirby stated he hoped a media outlet was paying attention, because people were taking out yard waste, and one day a week might not make them happy, but only through volume would they be able to work up to three days a week. As it hadn't been offered for the past few years, people might be out of the habit of knowing that service is available.

Mr. Parker; *Yeah, I do know that they're working with our website, trying to get it updated on there. Any customers that we do have come in and pay their bill, we do have flyers on the counter. Any new customers that come in and sign up for new service, we do give them information. We staple it to their thing, so we're doing what we can to get it out there. Hopefully, we get a lot more customers that'll come rolling through there.*

## NEW BUSINESS

**Liquor License Application: Café Huichol, LLC**
Tatiana Burgess, Community Development Director, presented.

Café Huichol, LLC, would operate in the existing building, formerly known as the Mallards Convenience Store, located at 797 North Oregon Street. The applicant, Gerardo J. Esparza, completed the "New Full On-Premises Sales, Commercial" liquor license application through the Oregon Liquor & Cannabis Commission. The Oregon Liquor Control Commission updated the licensing procedure, so applications now came to the local government for endorsement before completing the application process through the State of Oregon Liquor Control Commission office in Salem.

The application forms had been filled out appropriately and the required fees would be received after Council action. All permit and license requirements could be met through the City of Ontario Planning, Building, and Fire Departments.

The previous owners of the Mallard Store, and then The Curb, held their own liquor licenses. Upon the sale of the premises, a new liquor license had to be obtained. Cafe Huichol, LLC intended to obtain their own Full On-Premises, Commercial license for retail sales. Additionally, the applicant intended to operate a 48-seat restaurant within the existing building, and would offer on-premises indoor liquor consumption. If granted, the liquor license would require an annual renewal.

This action had no true effect on the process, as the Oregon Liquor Control Commission might take the city's objections to the action into consideration, but was not obligated to do so. Th OLCC was the ultimate authority on issuing the license.

Councilor Braden asked if anyone knew what the trade name, Mariscos La Cueva Del Pulpo, meant in English.

Ms. Burgess stated in conversations that she had with the applicant, they were proposing to operate the restaurant portion with a focus on seafood. She believed the tradename related to seafood, and was focusing more on the restaurant portion of the application.

KIRBY moved, CONTRERAS seconded, **THAT THE CITY COUNCIL RECOMMEND THE NEW FULL ON-PREMISES, COMMERCIAL LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION FOR CAFE HUICHOL, LLC.** Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Braden-yes; Hart-yes; Contreras-yes; Kirby-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 7/0/0.

**Appointments to Planning Commission: Megan Cook and Annah Tubbs**
Tori Barnett, MMC, City Recorder, presented.

There were currently two vacancies on the Planning Commission, and two applications had been received, one from Megan Cook and the other from Annah Tubbs. Ms. Tubbs was in the audience, should the Council have any questions. There was also a vacancy on the Budget Board, if anyone was interested. Otherwise, if these two individuals were appointed, the city's committees, except for Budget, would be fully seated.

Ms. Tubbs: *Hi, I'm Annah Tubbs, I'm a resident of Ontario, Oregon. I put in my application for the Planning and Zoning Committee, and part of what I put on my application are things that I've already been involved with in the city, which include, currently I'm on a committee with Lindsay Grosvenor's food center committee for a new food center that's coming to the River Bend area. I've also been involved with previous Origin's Homeless Shelter, as a building manager over there, also involved with the opening up of the tiny homes over there. Also, involved with the Ontario Saturday Market, with hosting the SNAP and Double Up Food Bucks processing machine for them for a few years back in 2021. So that's my little history. I'm not from here. I am from Boise, but I have really enjoyed being in the city and how involved that you can get in so many different things, and it seems like there's lots of places to serve, and I really appreciate that.*

Council consensus to appoint Megan Cook and Annah Tubbs to the two vacant seats on the Ontario Planning Commission, effective immediately.

**Resolution #2026-118: TVP Donation to OPD for AEDs**
Kari Ott, Finance Director, presented.

The Ontario Police Department received a $4,388 donation from Treasure Valley Paramedics to equip the remaining police cars with automated external defibrillator (AED) units. If approved, $4,388 would be appropriated within the police department for expenditure. The proposed resolution needed to be approved in order to give budget authority to purchase the AED units.

Councilor Bakefelt asked how this donation came to be.

Chief Cooper stated he believed it had been done in the previous year, too, and TVP had some form of trust where they were able to distribute funds to local entities to help supplement their equipment. This would help improve the equipment for the city, which would extend to the community if and when it was needed. With the previous donation, some AEDs were purchased to fit the patrol cars, as they were first responders. This additional donation would enable the department to finish furnishing the remaining cars, along with AEDs also in the Police Department and City Hall in general.

HART moved, MILLS seconded, **THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE RESOLUTION #2026-118: A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT A SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET TO RECOGNIZE UNEXPECTED DONATIONS FROM TREASURE VALLEY PARAMEDICS AND APPROPRIATING $4,388 FOR EXPENDITURE IN THE 2026-2027 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET.** Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Braden-yes; Hart-yes; Contreras-yes; Kirby-yes; Bakefelt-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 7/0/0.

**Amendment #10: Approval of Operations Management International, Inc. (Jacobs) Contract**
Casey Mordhorst, Public Works Director, presented.

Operations Management International, Inc., (Jacobs) was contracted to operate and maintain the city's Public Works Department starting July 1, 2014. Annually, the increase was based on the CPI and ECI and negotiated with the City Manager and Finance Director. The annual increase had varied from year to year. The annual contract increase could not go above 5% and typically had been lower. With the cost of inflation that was seen in all areas, staff was asking for a 4.26% increase for this fiscal year.

Amendment #10 covered the Fiscal Year July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027. This amendment asked for a 4.26% increase to the base contract between the City of Ontario and Operations Management International, Inc., (Jacobs) to operate the City of Ontario's Public Works Department. The formula increase was calculated based on appendix E.3.

The 4.26% increase had been factored into the city's budget and was approved by the Budget Committee and City Council. Staff worked with the City Manager and Finance Director prior to the budgeting process to ensure this was added.

Annually, Jacobs would provide an amendment to the contract for any increase or modifications made to the original contract between Operations Management International, Inc., (Jacobs) and the City of Ontario.

Councilor Kirby asked what type of dialogue did Casey have with the City Manager when discussing how to address changes in tasks, but not necessarily changing the monetary portion.

Mr. Mordhorst stated he worked closely with the City Manager, and it was sometimes a give and take. This year, for example, there had not been a lot of snowfall. They were also assisting with cleaning up graffiti and trash. If was needed, they worked closely with the City Manager, the Ordinance Officer, and the Police Department, along with everyone else. Issues got brought up, discussed, and addressed. They all viewed it as a partnership, not an "us and them" situation. It was a seamless team. There were typically not a lot of things to be charged for. Public Works had the best trucks, toys, and big equipment, so they were relied on, and they were willing to help wherever needed.

Councilor Hart asked if this was the amount presented to the Budget Committee.

Ms. Ott stated it was exactly the number presented to the Committee.

Mr. Mordhorst stated they met every year with Ms. Ott and other staff to ensure any increase was built into the upcoming Budget Committee documents before going to the Committee, and then Council.

Councilor Bakefelt voiced her appreciation for all the work Jacobs did in this community.

Councilor Mills verified this increase would begin July 1st, and if so, what was the reason it was being voted on after that date.

Mr. Mordhorst stated they generally wanted the city's budget approved prior to bringing a contract amendment to the Council. It typically came to Council at the meeting following the adoption of the annual budget.

MILLS moved, HART seconded, **THAT THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE CONTRACT AMENDMENT #10 WITH OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT INTERNATIONAL, INC., (JACOBS), FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2026, THRU JUNE 30, 2027, AND APPROVE THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN ALL DOCUMENTS.** 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

### Police Department: Quarterly Report
Jason Cooper, Police Chief, presented.

Councilor Mills offered her congratulations to Officer Frazier for his ten years of service to the city.

Councilor Bakefelt stated she had received a report from a citizen that one of the newer officers, she didn't get the name, was witnessed doing a great job out on a recent call.

## DISCUSSION ITEM

### Appoint Council Liaison to Airport Committee
Councilor Contreras stated her interest in the appointment. Last month, she had visited the city's airport, and she, her daughter, and her daughter's friend, had been taken up on a plane ride, which was amazing. They viewed all of Ontario, and there were a lot of great things out there. She'd like to sit on the committee and learn more.

Councilor Braden asked if here was a reason for the liaison vacancy.

Councilor Hart stated he had missed a few meetings, and the committee stated if he was not able to attend, could someone else be placed as liaison. The committee was very dedicated, and they did not miss their meetings. He believed he did some good, with frank budget discussions, and he voiced his concerns about an overall operating deficit. However, he had some business conflicts, so when he was asked to be there more often, he felt it best to have a different Councilor take that appointment. He was excited to see someone new attend those meetings.

Mayor Folden stated as she heard of no other interest by Councilors, she appointed Adrianna Contreras to the liaison position on the Ontario Airport Committee.

Mr. Cummings thanked Councilor Hart for his past service on the Airport Committee. He had been a great asset to that committee. He told the committee they were being a little unfair, and it was really just one person who had an issue with the attendance. Councilor Hart had concerns before being appointed, but then saw all the projects and issues, and had been amazing on the committee. They were a tough group.

Andy Wood, Airport Manager, also thanked Councilor Hart for his input and value that he'd added to the airport. The service he gave to the community was great, and the time he spent as a Councilor, devoted to helping grow the community.

## HAND-OUTS

**Minutes**
County Court 06/17/2026, 06/24/2026; Airport 06/01/2026

## CORRESPONDENCE, COMMENTS, AND EX-OFFICIO REPORTS

- Councilor Kirby thanked the Council and staff for the flowers that he'd received during his time away. He appreciated all the concern about his health, and he hoped he was on the way to recovery.

- Mr. Cummings stated he and Corinna had met with Dellas, of Waldo Insurance, who represented the city's CIS insurance. There were minor housekeeping items addressed, but during the budget it was unknown what the insurance costs would be, so they estimated a 10% increase from before. Last year, the city paid $419,758, so a 10% increase would be an additional $41k. However, insurance was decreased 2.8% without losing any coverage. The main savings was in general liability, at about $3,946, auto physical damage decreased $4,048, and property claims decreased $4,160, for a total savings of $11,897. Including the increase, that was $53k that stayed in the budget. That contract had now been approved.

  Councilor Hart stated in today's environment, to have property insurance decrease was unheard of. Good job to staff and the city. They must be doing something right to see that type of reduction.

## ADJOURN

MILLS moved, HART 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 6:45pm.

| ACCEPTED: | ATTEST: |
| --- | --- |
| Deborah K. Folden | Tori Barnett |
| Deborah K. Folden, Mayor | Tori Barnett, MMC, City Recorder |