

**MINUTES
COUNCIL MEETING
4:30 PM**

**CITY OF OIL CITY
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
MAY 18, 2026**

Meeting called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance by Mr. Kluck at 4:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Members Present: Mayor Kluck, Councilman Walentosky, Councilman Craig, Councilman Gustafson, Councilwoman Wisniewski.

ROLL CALL

Members Absent: None

Recording Secretary: Jena Knight

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to Approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held May 11, 2026 was made by Councilwoman Wisniewski, seconded by Councilman Craig and was approved.

APPROVAL OF
MINUTES – REGULAR
MEETING – MAY 11,
2026

REVISION OF AGENDA

A motion to Revise the Agenda to add a Proclamation was made by Councilman Craig, seconded by Councilman Walentosky and was approved.

REVISION OF AGENDA

There was one revision to the agenda. It was a Proclamation of Friendship and Azerbaijan Independence Day Recognition.

ADDITION OF
PROCLAMATION –
AZERBAIJAN
INDEPENDENCE DAY

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A Letter was Received from Cork N Screw Wines Requesting a Revision to a Previous Request to Close a Portion of Seneca Street on August 15, 2026. Jody Podrat of Cork N Screw Wines was in attendance and wished to request a revision to a previous request. She said that, rather than have a full street closure of Seneca Street on August 15, she would like to alter the request to close one lane of Seneca Street. The event would coincide with BridgeFest. She feels that a one-lane closure would be safer for them.

WRITTEN
COMMUNICATIONS

LETTER FROM CORK N
SCREW WINES –
REVISION TO
PREVIOUS REQUEST
TO CLOSE A PORTION
OF SENECA STREET
FOR AN EVENT

Mrs. Hoovler informed Council that PennDOT opined regarding the street closure. Their answer was “the bridge closure will be causing circulation issues in the city and

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introducing an additional lane closure will add to the difficulty for folks to safely move around the city/find parking, etc. It is likely that we would deny this request if they applied.”

Mayor Kluck asked if it would be feasible to place “No Parking” bags on meters directly in front of the business for a bit of extra space. Mrs. Hoovler didn’t know why that would be a problem.

Councilman Gustafson doesn’t have a problem with having just a single lane on Seneca Street. He believes it is a state road. Mrs. Hoovler said that even a single-lane closure would need to be approved.

Councilman Gustafson remarked that he was unsure about the closure of the entire street with the bridge closed off.

Councilman Walentosky asked Mrs. Podrat of her thoughts about blocking off a parking space to hold her event. She thought it might be something to think about. She said that they are concerned about safety. Drivers sometimes go too fast on Seneca Street. She wondered about a barricade that could be placed along the parking spot(s). She is worried that, if there is no physical barrier, something may happen. Councilman Walentosky suggested cones be placed. Mayor Kluck had suggested that at one point as well. He then asked if cones might be placed down the center line on Seneca Street to warn drivers to slow down. Mrs. Hoovler wasn’t sure if PennDOT would allow this. Councilman Gustafson then suggested some type of signage alerting drivers as to an event taking place. Councilwoman Wisniewski stated that there is signage during the wine walks. She then thought barricades might work. Mrs. Hoovler said that the County might have barricades and they could be acquired for a short time.

Councilman Walentosky asked Mrs. Podrat if her event could take place on the sidewalk. She said that had been thought of. There are some people who live in apartments over the businesses who have motorized scooters and that might be difficult. They thought that if a lane was blocked off, there would not be a huge problem. She said that it wouldn’t be a huge area, but some people in scooters can be very aggressive. They are trying to minimize issues.

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Councilman Walentosky asked about the timeframe for the event. Mrs. Podrat said it would be from 5:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. He said that he thought some space could be utilized for this.

Councilman Gustafson asked if any of the other businesses were going to participate in addition to Cork N Screw. Mrs. Podrat stated that she has not had any discussions with anyone.

Mrs. Hoover stated that, perhaps the City could get some signage for "event ahead" from the County. Some barriers could be obtained for parking spots.

Mayor Kluck suggested that Mrs. Podrat petition PennDOT for the street closure. He said that, based on their initial response, they probably would not agree to the street being closed. He said that parking spaces could be cordoned off, with barriers being used for safety. He said that a tent could be used in the parking spaces. The sidewalk could be opened for access for the event.

Councilman Walentosky said that the City would work to make this happen without closing the lane of traffic off.

Councilwoman Wisniewski said that Mrs. Podrat has a right to apply to PennDOT for the closure. Mayor Kluck said that he would have no problem with the lane closure if PennDOT said it was fine.

Mrs. Podrat asked who she would ask for cones, barriers, etc. Mayor Kluck said that Mr. Gorman would be the go-to person.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Mrs. Hoover stated that she and Mr. Herman recently spoke with representatives from Aqua. They approached the City to discuss the possibility of purchasing water on a long-term permanent basis. Should they continue to have an interest, Council will be updated.

She then said that the swimming pool preparations have begun. The pumps have not yet been started. The pool appears to have sustained minimal damage over the winter months. Cosmetically, the pool is in much better shape this

MANAGER'S REPORT

**DISCUSSION FOR
WATER PURCHASE BY
AQUA**

**SWIMMING POOL
UPDATE**

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year than last year.

Pool passes can be purchased on-line and in-person at the Treasurer's Office. The pool will open for the season on June 6.

She then said that Chief Alex will conduct interviews for two full-time firefighters. Four part-time employees in the Fire Department have shown interest in the full-time positions.

**FULL-TIME
FIREFIGHTER
INTERVIEWS
(UPCOMING)**

CURRENT BUSINESS

CURRENT BUSINESS

The first item was a Drug Free Workplace Policy. Mrs. Ryen of the Community Development Department spoke about this item. She informed Council that nothing has changed with this policy. This is another one of the policies which needs to have signatures updated. The last time it was updated was in 2014.

**DRUG FREE
WORKPLACE POLICY**

A motion to Approve the Drug Free Workplace Policy was made by Councilman Gustafson, seconded by Councilwoman Wisniewski and was approved.

The next item was the Introduction of Summer Arts Interns. Barbara Pierce of ARTS Oil City was present to speak. She informed Council that, last year, ARTS Oil City had a dedicated intern for the first time. She said that the McElhatten Foundation partnered with Penn West University to provide funding for a multi-year program so that students can have paid internships at non-profits and small businesses that would not have funding to pay. The goal is to bring more students into the community. She said that the program benefits both Venango and Clarion Counties. Students must currently be enrolled in Penn West. Once students are selected, they work with the company or organization which hires them. They are actually paid by the university. She went on to say that she was happy that ARTS Oil City was selected last year. The intern who was on board last year was very active in the community. She was able to extend her internship through the fall.

**INTRODUCTION OF
ARTS OIL CITY
SUMMER ARTS
INTERNS**

The arts program at Edinboro was excited to learn more about the arts community and Oil City. They asked for more opportunities with Oil City. In budget preparation

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this year, they asked for more funding for an intern with ARTS Oil City. The administrator at Edinboro asked Mrs. Pierce and her husband if they would start the program in Oil City.

Mrs. Pierce then introduced the two students who will be working with her this summer. Tom Lewis and Morgan Tuber will be working with Mrs. Pierce and C.J. Hurley at the Century Arts Studio and with ARTS Oil City. They will have the opportunity to work with the community. They are both students in the art program at Edinboro. Neither live in Venango County.

At this time, Mrs. Pierce allowed both students to introduce themselves. Morgan Tuber introduced herself and stated that she is studying animation. She lives in Pittsburgh. She is excited to work with the artist community.

Next, Tom Lewis introduced himself. He is an illustrator/painter. He grew up in Mercer; however, he lived in Oil City for several years when he was growing up. He is focused on community and looks forward to working with the community as well.

Mrs. Pierce said that they each have 225 hours which have been approved in conjunction with the program. It is a really good thing that this is occurring. Main Street will also have an intern as a part of the program. She said that the young people will receive a very valuable experience with this program.

She went on to say that Mr. Lewis began school “post-COVID.” He revived the school’s illustration club which was defunct. He will lead a group of students who will travel to Toronto with the illustration club.

Mrs. Pierce then stated that Miss Tuber has been hired in the past by an animation studio in Erie which is well renowned. She has also worked with a student film fest.

The next item was a Memorandum from Kelly Ryen Regarding the 2026 CDBG Timeline. Mrs. Ryen said that it is outlining the citizen participation requirements for the CDBG program. The allocation for the City is \$306,656.00. She said that she is requesting June 22 for the first public hearing. It will contain information for the

MEMORANDUM – 2026
CDBG TIMELINE

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program. A comment period will follow.

The second public hearing will take place on August 10. The projects which have been chosen for the grant will be outlined. Subsequently, at the next Council meeting, the three-year community development plan will be voted on.

She said that the application will not be due until the end of October. She gives herself extra time to prepare; hence her projected date of October 1 for submission.

Councilman Walentosky asked if the projects involved economically disadvantaged areas. Mrs. Ryen replied that is the case. The money is geared toward low to moderate income areas. Thirty percent of the funds can be used for spot blight and demolition of commercial or residential areas. They must be non-historic.

Mrs. Ryen stated that surveys need to be performed where street paving is concerned in order to prove they are in low to moderate income neighborhoods. They have received requests for paving on streets which are in need of work. Mr. Herman will be replacing some waterlines on some streets which will be paved.

**FISCAL, CONTRACTUAL, AND BUDGETARY
TRANSFERS**

The first item was Permission to Apply for the Venango Conservation District's Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Roads Grant. The grant will accept two dirt and gravel applications and one low volume road application. The City's paving committee chose of all of Hasson Park Avenue, to include the horseshoe bend, East Fourth Alley from Central Avenue to State Street and Lindon Alley from East Fourth Street to East Third Street for the application.

A motion to Approve Permission to Apply for the Venango Conservation District's Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Roads Grant was made by Councilwoman Wisniewski, seconded by Councilman Craig and was approved.

The next item was Permission for the Venango County Land Bank to Purchase Six Parcels at Judicial Sale on Behalf of the City. They include 10 Manning Street, 18 Plum Street, 13 East Third Street, 8 Clearfield Street, 39

FISCAL,
CONTRACTUAL AND
BUDGETARY
TRANSFERS

PERMISSION TO APPLY
FOR THE VENANGO
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT'S DIRT,
GRAVEL AND LOW
VOLUME ROADS
GRANT

PERMISSION FOR THE
VENANGO COUNTY
LAND BANK TO
PURCHASE SIX

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Plummer Street and 209 Halyday Street. The dwellings on the parcels would be razed. No monies would be requested from the Land Bank. The City would find ways to perform the spot blight remediation, to include CDBG funds.

PARCELS AT JUDICIAL
SALE ON BEHALF OF
THE CITY

A motion to Approve Permission for the Venango County Land Bank to Purchase Six Parcels at Judicial Sale on Behalf of the City was made by Councilman Gustafson, seconded by Councilwoman Wisniewski and was approved.

RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES

RESOLUTIONS &
ORDINANCES

INFORMATIONAL

INFORMATIONAL

PUBLIC COMMENTS

PUBLIC COMMENTS

CITY COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMENTS

CITY COUNCIL
REPORTS/COMMENTS

Councilwoman Wisniewski stated that she received concerns about the American flag at the end of the Veterans' Bridge. It is in need of replacement. They are replaced for Memorial Day and the summer.

AMERICAN FLAG
COMMENT

Mayor Kluck wished everyone a Happy Memorial Day. He also reminded all about the next First Friday event. It will be held on June 5.

HAPPY MEMORIAL
DAY

Councilman Craig informed all that, on June 4, from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. a meeting will be held related to the ORA ATV Association forum at the Rhodes Auditorium.

ORA ATV ASSN
MEETING

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:06 p.m. was made by Councilwoman Wisniewski, seconded by Councilman

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Walentosky. Motion approved.

PERSONS IN ATTENDANCE

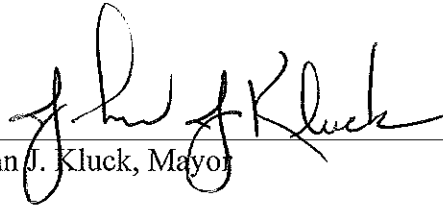
Michelle Hoovler, Staff
Kelly Ryen, Staff
Chris Gorman, Staff
Jeff Wenner, Staff
Cory Ruditis, Staff
Tim Alex, Staff
Larry Drake, Staff
Morena Bricca, Junior Council
Jody Podrat
Barbara Pierce
Michelle Inciarrano
Tom Lewis
Morgan Tuber

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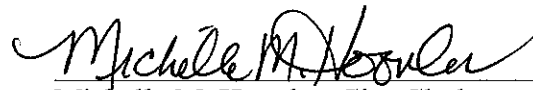
APPROVED BY COUNCIL THIS

8th DAY OF June, 2026



John J. Kluck, Mayor

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Council meeting of May 18, 2026.



Michelle M. Hoovler, City Clerk