**MINUTES**
**COUNCIL MEETING**
**4:30 PM**

**CITY OF OIL CITY**
**COUNCIL CHAMBERS**
**OCTOBER 12, 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

******An Executive Session was held on October 5, 2026 at 4:30 p.m. to discuss a Personnel Matter. No action was taken.******

EXECUTIVE SESSION – OCTOBER 5, 2026

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING – SEPTEMBER 28, 2026

A motion to Approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held September 28, 2026 was made by Councilman Gustafson, seconded by Councilwoman Wisniewski and was approved.

**REVISION OF AGENDA**

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There was one addition to the agenda. It was a Letter from Oil City Main Street Regarding the Christmas Past Celebration.

APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS/REVISIONS TO AGENDA

A motion to Approve the Addition to the Agenda was made by Councilwoman Wisniewski, seconded by Councilman Craig and was approved.

A Letter was received from Oil City Main Street Regarding the Christmas Past Celebration. Stevette Rosen of Oil City Main Street was present to speak. She said that, in addition to the requests in her letter, she wanted to add gingerbread houses in Towne Square. 4 Your Car Connection will be instrumental in this endeavor. The Victorian figures will be in play again this year. Main Street will be in charge in the future of storing them for the next holiday season. She said that the figures which will be placed in/near City Hall would be lighted with solar lights. She also said that Main Street purchased solar string lights for placement on Seneca Street from Clifford Street to Center Street. Public Works

LETTER – OIL CITY HOMETOWN CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

will be needed for installation and removal of the lights.

Mayor Kluck commented that last year's Christmas celebration was great. He thought that some changes had taken effect last year. He said that the requests in her letter look fine.

Mrs. Rosen indicated that they would like to rename Christmas Past to Oil City's Hometown Christmas. Her letter also stated that on December 4, 2026 they would like to have Sycamore Street beside the Elks Club and Seneca Street from Center to Clifford Streets be closed for the celebration. Also, a request was made for the stage to be placed on Seneca Street, a Fire Department escort of Santa on December 4 and road closures for the annual Jingle Bell 5K.

A motion to Approve the Requests of Oil City Main Street for the Oil City Hometown Christmas Celebration was made by Councilman Craig, seconded by Councilman Walentosky and was approved.

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS**

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

**MANAGER'S REPORT**

MANAGER'S REPORT

Mrs. Hoovler indicated that paving will resume on October 16, 2026. East Bissell will be done first and paving will move on to the other areas in town which are on the list.

PAVING UPDATE

Hydrant flushing began October 11 and will continue for four weeks. It will be done during the nighttime hours. It began on the southside of town. It will continue over a four-week period and cover the entire City.

HYDRANT FLUSHING

The fountain on the southside of town has been shut down and winterized.

SOUTHSIDE FOUNTAIN CLOSURE

A meeting was held on this date with the City and Bert Klapec, Inc. regarding the demolition of St. Stephen's Church. The demolition will begin on October 14. East First Street will remain open. On-street parking will be blocked off. East First Street should not need to be closed at any time. There will be periodic lane closures which will

ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH DEMOLITION UPDATE

affect State Street. The lane closest to the church on State Street going north may be closed from time to time. The middle lane going south from the bridge may also be closed at times. The lane closest to Citizens Bank will, more than likely, be open.

Mayor Kluck remarked that it is a "painful" decision to raze the building; however, he lauded the church for their efforts to remove a blighted building in the City.

PHONE SYSTEM UPDATE

Mrs. Hoovler then gave Council an update regarding the phone service. Full Service Network will be in the City Hall building during the week of October 19 in order to perform on-site surveys and establish dates for installation and training for the new phone system.

GRANT UPDATE – PICKLEBALL COURTS

She then said that the City was not invited to submit an application for funding for the pickleball courts fencing. A new avenue of funding will need to be sought.

ICE DEVICE UPDATE

There will not be a new ice device for the 2026-27 winter season per the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Repairs will be made to the current device. A timeline for the repairs is forthcoming. They plan to have a new device installed next summer. They believe the repairs being made will suffice for this coming winter season. Thanks to Mr. Gorman and Chief Alex for their efforts related to the ice device.

GRANT FUNDING – FIRE DEPARTMENT - PRE-HOSPITAL BLOOD PROGRAM

Kudos to the Fire Department A Crew for a potential grant in the amount of $45,893.10 pending final review by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. This grant will fund a pre-hospital blood program. This will enable EMTs/paramedics to administer blood-related products. Administrative review is needed before the funds can be released to the City. This should be in effect for early 2027.

At the present time, Community Ambulance cannot provide this service. The Fire Department is fortunate that this service will be provided to the community.

CURRENT BUSINESS

**CURRENT BUSINESS**

DISCUSSION – 2027 COUNCIL MEETING CALENDAR

The first item was a Discussion Regarding the 2027 Council Meeting Calendar. Mayor Kluck asked if it is a requirement to have two meetings per month. Mr. Varsek

stated it is not. Mayor Kluck asked if, instead of having back-to-back meetings in December, only one meeting could take place. The answer was no due to needing three separate readings of the budget.

A motion to Approve the 2027 Council Meeting Calendar was made by Councilwoman Wisniewski, seconded by Councilman Walentosky and was approved.

PROBATIONARY PERIOD – PATROLMAN NASH MONTGOMERY

The next item was a Memorandum from Chief Ruditis Regarding the Probationary Period for Patrolman Nash Montgomery. Chief Ruditis informed Council that Mr. Montgomery has done a good job and requested that he be afforded the rights and benefits as a Patrolman of the Oil City Police Department.

Chief Ruditis commented that, if all goes well, another officer will be hired at the end of the month. Flyers are circulating for new hires. The academies have received them. There are at least going to be two applicants. Hopefully, in December tests can take place and more people hired after the first of the year.

FIRE DEPARTMENT COMMENDATIONS

The next item was Two Memos from Chief Alex Regarding Fire Department Commendations. Chief Alex recognized several firefighters for service during two separate incidents.

The first incident involved assisting the City of Franklin in a trench collapse on July 27, 2026. Two individuals were entrapped. Captain Eric McFadden, Lieutenant Sam McSparren, Firefighter Jolene Hurrelbrink and Firefighter Dan Metz were commended for their exemplary service during this collapse. They were awarded certificates and pins.

The second incident involved a fire on Oak Street on September 22, 2026. A structure fire took place with a person trapped inside of the home. The individual was located and removed from the house. He was immediately treated and transported to UPMC Northwest. Unfortunately, the gentleman passed away to his injuries sustained in the fire.

Lieutenant John Horn, Firefighter Bill Goodman, Firefighter Kody Gordon and Firefighter Lance Theiss were

commended for their exemplary service during this collapse. They were awarded certificates and pins.

**FISCAL, CONTRACTUAL, AND BUDGETARY TRANSFERS**

FISCAL, CONTRACTUAL AND BUDGETARY TRANSFERS

The following Vouchers were presented for Council's review and approval.

VOUCHERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| General Fund | $ | 171,479.22 |
| Water and Sewer | | 63,166.42 |
| Liquid Fuels Tax Fund | | 6,701.68 |
| Arts Council | | 146.80 |
| Industrial Park | | 815.68 |

A motion to Approve the Vouchers was made by Councilman Craig, seconded by Councilman Gustafson and was approved.

The next item was August 2026 Financial Reports.

AUGUST 2026 FINANCIAL REPORTS

A motion to Approve the August 2026 Financial Reports was made by Councilwoman Wisniewski, seconded by Councilman Walentosky and was approved.

**RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES**

RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES
RESOLUTION #2026-17 – AUTHORIZING AN APPLICATION FOR A LOAN FOR LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT FROM PA INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AUTHORITY

Resolution #2026-17 – Authorizing an Application for a Loan for the Lead Service Line Replacement Project from the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority. Council was reminded that this has been discussed over the past several months.

A motion to Approve Resolution #2026-17 – Authorizing an Application for a Loan for the Lead Service Line Replacement Project from the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority was made by Councilwoman Wisniewski, seconded by Councilman Walentosky and was approved.

**INFORMATIONAL**

INFORMATIONAL

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

PUBLIC COMMENTS

NATHAN NEELY – CITY CONCERNS

Nathan Neely was in attendance and voiced his concern regarding the structure which he is building and his feelings of not being supported by the City. He would like to see more businesses and industries come to the area and get taxes flowing into the City.

ADAM PULEO – SUPPORT FOR NATHAN NEELY

Adam Puleo of Axion's Arcade was present to show his support for Mr. Neely and his efforts in the City.

CO. COMMISSIONERS TIM HEFFERNAN AND KEN BRYAN – THANKS AND OFFERS FOR ASSISTANCE

County Commissioner Tim Heffernan was present and thanked the City for partnering with the City regarding the County EMA Services. He said that things have gone well with Chief Alex working for the County.

Mr. Heffernan then informed all of an upcoming event which the County will be hosting. It will be through the economic development authority. There will be four or five regional "stakeholder" meetings. Things which will be discussed will be tourism, economic development, infrastructure, housing and blight, etc. Emily Lewis will be issuing an invitation to the events. There are some opportunities in Venango County and the way to take advantage of them is to bring people together. He wants to get the most that they can for the County.

Mr. Heffernan offered the County's services however they can. County Commissioner Ken Bryan then spoke and said that, with this economic summit, they will invite the press. He said that Oil City is the primary focus. They look to Oil City to be a driving force for the County. They appreciate the partnership between the City and the County, as well as the investments by the businesses.

SHAWN PODRAT – CITY CONCERNS

Shawn Podrat of Cork N Screw was in attendance. He thanked City Council for its support of his business. He provided a brief history of how he and his wife made their way to Oil City. They purchased a camp and proceeded to enjoy the outdoor activities the area offers. They eventually made the area home. They have been wine makers for 25 plus years. They began their current business.

He went on to say how the economy is slowing down. People are struggling. They have been doing local events

in order to supplement the wine business. They have been to twenty plus events over a two-hour radius. They like to walk in the towns where they are doing the vending to get an idea of how other areas operate their events. They bring those ideas to town in order to make their business better.

Mr. Podrat commented that Oil City has a lot of condemned signs and boarded up buildings which many other towns do not have. He remarked that the view from the windows of their business is not favorable. The building across the street is boarded up and looks bad. This type of atmosphere deters people from enjoying themselves.

He believes that a few people can make a difference. They try to get the other businesses to come together to promote events. They promoted bar crawls. Many people attended from other communities as well as from Oil City. The First Fridays are their events as well. They have been trying to get more ideas and more events going.

He then went on to laud Mr. Neely for his efforts in the City and surrounding area. He supported his business and what he is trying to do. He then said that he and his wife will evaluate their business next year to see if they will remain open. He again spoke of Mr. Neely and his proposed bar/restaurant/event center. He wants to see it come to fruition. He would also like to see the plywood taken off of the buildings and things made to look better.

LORI HORN – KUDOS TO CITY FOR EVENTS, ETC.

Lori Horn then commended people for trying to get things done in town. She recently visited Detroit. It has a majority of its buildings boarded up and looks very bad. She likes to see events happening.

Mayor Kluck commented that Stevette Rosen of Oil City Main Street has been very instrumental in getting things done in town. Kudos to her.

BILL MOON – CITY COMMENTS

Bill Moon of Gates and Burns Real Estate was present and spoke. He has been the owner of the real estate company for many years. The business has been in existence since 1889. He is a former mayor and has served on many boards/commissions. He continues to serve on several boards. He spoke of the oil summit which will take place on October 19 and 20. He suggested that the City be cleaned up in anticipation of the forum. There will be

people coming in from many cities in the U.S. and abroad.

Councilman Gustafson commented that the forum will be situated mostly in the downtown area. The Transit Building and Museum will be the prime venues. He believes that the City needs to put a better "face" on that part of the City.

LAURA WILBUR – CITY CONCERNS

Laura Wilbur was in attendance and reiterated what Mr. Moon said about the upcoming oil forum. She would like to see the City cleaned up as well. There will be top-level oil executives in attendance. She said that there is nowhere in town to house them. She will be hosting them in her home. She brought to the City's attention that there is a building in the northside downtown area which has a huge hole in it. She would like to see it attended to. She wants to see no additional historical houses/buildings razed. She called for action ASAP insofar as clean up of the City goes.

Councilman Gustafson remarked that he believes the City is behind.

MAYOR KLUCK – STATEMENT REGARDING THE CITY

Mayor Kluck read a statement which he prepared in response to Mrs. Wilbur's and other comments. He apologized for any actions which the City may have taken regarding any unfair treatment of anyone doing business in the City. He wants to reassure everyone that steps are taken to ensure all that anyone doing business in the City will be treated fairly. He wants to make sure the City partners with any incoming businesses and not be an obstacle. As Mayor, he has worked with existing businesses to maintain relationships. He wishes to continue to do so while making Oil City an attractive place in which to do business. Concerns will be heard, communication will be done clearly, response in a timely manner will be accomplished and looking for solutions when possible will be completed. Sometimes government processes can be complicated and frustrating. Efficient processes will be sought and understandable, and the City will be business-friendly, without compromising laws and regulations. Local businesses are an important part of the identity, viability and future of Oil City. When businesses succeed, jobs are created, vacant properties are filled, investments are generated and all of this contributes to the quality of life of the residents of the City. Oil City's strength has always

been its people. Every businessowner who takes a risk with a new business has made a commitment to the community. The City may not be able to say yes, financial or other considerations may limit what can be done, but even when the answer is no, the City has an obligation to explain why, communicate respectfully and work with individuals to find an alternative when one exists. Going forward, he wants Oil City to be where businesses can come to City Hall, be heard, receive clear answers and let people know that the City genuinely wants them to succeed. He believes an environment can be created where responsible investment is welcome, questions are addressed constructively and the City and business community can work together toward the same goal. A lot of that is already done. He thinks there is perception that it is not. A lot of things have been happening in town and the City will make sure they will continue to happen.

COUNCILMAN CRAIG - COMMENTS

Councilman Craig said Council talks and may not always agree about things; however, they do come to a consensus. There are some Council members who want to see issues resolved. He does not appreciate other neighboring municipalities trying to "poach" the "investors." He understands why they think they can do it, but he doesn't appreciate it – not as a Councilman or as a constituent or as a voter. He said that mistakes have been made and they will move forward.

**CITY COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMENTS**

CITY COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMENTS COUNCILWOMAN WISNIEWSKI – COMMENTS RELATED TO MR. NEELY – EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

Councilwoman Wisniewski wanted the record to reflect that comments related to any projects which Mr. Neely is planning have only been discussed in Executive Sessions. There have been no public comments made.

MAYOR KLUCK – VENANGO MUSEUM GALA

Mayor Kluck said that the Venango Museum had a very nice fundraising gala recently. They raised a large sum of money – more than ever. It was a great time.

COUNCILMAN CRAIG – SHOUT OUT TO FIRE DEPARTMENT – FIRE PREVENTION WEEK/REMINDER OF

Councilman Craig said that he wanted to give a shout out to the Fire Department. They did a great job with last week's Fire Prevention Week. Everything turned out great for kids. His daughter is a first grade student and she loved it.

WEBCO FAMILY FUN NIGHT

He then reminded all of the upcoming Webco Family Fun Night/Fire Prevention Night on October 26, 2026. Seneca Street will be closed on that evening. Webco will have a sponsored race car driver, Santino Ferrucci. It should be a great evening.

COUNCILMAN WALENTOSKY – E-BIKE CONCERNS

Councilman Walentosky said that education related to e-bikes for kids is needed. He was hopeful that Chief Ruditis had something in mind. Chief Ruditis said that the department started that this past week. They used flyers received from the Commonwealth related to e-bikes. The officers are making contacts and stopping people. They are counseling people regarding riding on sidewalks, etc. Paperwork is distributed as well indicating what needs to be done.

Mrs. Rosen said that she would like to do a video regarding the e-bike regulations. Mayor Kluck said that riding on sidewalks really needs to be addressed. There are a lot of people who walk out of a business and almost get hit by one of them. Education is a must.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

An Executive Session was held at 5:35 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter. No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before Council, a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:05 p.m. was made by Councilman Walentosky, seconded by Councilwoman Wisniewski. Motion approved.

**PERSONS IN ATTENDANCE**

Robert Varsek, Staff
Michelle Hoovler, Staff
Kelly Ryen, Staff
Jason Herman, Staff
Chris Gorman, Staff
Jeff Wenner, Staff
Cory Ruditis, Staff
Terri Felmlee, Staff
Yvonne Greene, Staff

Tim Alex, Staff
Nate Danzer, Staff
Kobe Kahle, Staff
John Rodgers, Staff
John Horn, Staff
Bill Goodman, Staff
Sam McSparren, Staff
Kody Gordon, Staff
Lance Theiss, Staff
Jolene Hurrelbrink, Staff
Eric McFadden, Staff
Nate Neely
Adam Puleo
Lori Horn
Danielle Zimmerman
Jess Neely
Jeff Karns
Tim Heffernan
Ken Bryan
Shawn Podrat
Christine Plyler
Stevette Rosen
Bill Moon
Laura Wilbur

**MINUTES**
**COUNCIL MEETING**
**4:30 PM**

**CITY OF OIL CITY**
**COUNCIL CHAMBERS**
**OCTOBER 12, 2026**

APPROVED BY COUNCIL THIS

26th DAY OF October, 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 October 12, 2026.

Michelle M. Hoovler, City Clerk