

**MINUTES
COUNCIL MEETING
4:30 PM**

**CITY OF OIL CITY
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
FEBRUARY 23, 2026**

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

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Members Absent: None.

Recording Secretary: Jena Knight

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE SESSION

An Executive Session was held at 4:00 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter. No action was taken.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**APPROVAL OF
MINUTES – REGULAR
MEETING – FEBRUARY
9, 2026**

A motion to Approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held February 9, 2026 was made by Councilman Craig, seconded by Councilman Walentosky and was approved.

REVISION OF AGENDA

REVISION OF AGENDA

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

**APPROVAL OF
REVISIONS**

The first revision was Resolution #2026-06 – Authorizing and Approving “BridgeFest” Event and the Temporary Closure of the Veterans Memorial Bridge on August 15, 2026.

**RESOLUTION #2026-06
– AUTHORIZING AND
APPROVING
“BRIDGEFEST” EVENT
AND TEMPORARY
CLOSURE OF THE
VETERANS MEMORIAL
BRIDGE**

A motion to Approve Resolution #2026-06 – Authorizing and Approving “BridgeFest” Event and the Temporary Closure of the Veterans Memorial Bridge on August 15, 2026 was made by Councilman Gustafson, seconded by Councilman Craig and was approved.

**APPOINTMENT OF
COUNCILMEMBER TO
OIL CITY ARTS
COUNCIL**

The next revision was the Appointment of a Council Member to the Oil City Arts Council. Mayor Kluck informed Council that there was a resignation of a Councilmember from Arts Council. He suggested appointing Mrs. Wisniewski to that position with the Oil

**MINUTES
COUNCIL MEETING
4:30 PM**

**CITY OF OIL CITY
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
FEBRUARY 23, 2026**

City Arts Council if she is agreeable. She indicated that she is fine with the appointment.

A motion to Appoint Councilwoman Wisniewski to the Oil City Arts Council was made by Councilman Walentosky, seconded by Councilman Gustafson and was approved. Councilwoman Wisniewski abstained from the vote.

The next revision was a Communique from Oil City Main Street Requesting Use of Towne Square for an Event. Stevette Rosen of the Oil City Main Street Program requested approval to use Towne Square as a temporary workspace for a public mural project in collaboration with area artists, Kaleb Lewis and Rafi. The date would be based on funding.

**COMMUNIQUE FROM
OIL CITY MAIN
STREET – USE OF
TOWNE SQUARE FOR
AN EVENT**

Mayor Kluck asked Mrs. Ryen if she had spoken with Mrs. Rosen regarding this request. Mrs. Ryen said that she did not know much about it. Mayor Kluck asked if she knew where the cubes would go after the use of the Towne Square. Mrs. Ryen replied that there is a grant involved and she does not have much information about it. She said that Mrs. Rosen wanted to place the cubes in Justus Park. Mrs. Ryen did not believe that Council would allow this. She suggested that the cubes be placed along the City of Oil City trail, which is part of the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail. It runs from the sewage treatment plant to the marina. Some places along that area could be considered. She would have to get Council's approval for that.

Councilman Walentosky asked if Mrs. Rosen wanted to have the cubes painted on the trail. Mrs. Ryen said that her understanding is that it would be done at a festival in conjunction with the grant. It would be done in one day. There will be multiple artists working on the panels. People can watch the panels be created. The panels would then be moved to Justus Park during ARMA Fest, which will take place in September. The panels would need to be installed for a period of time according to the grant provisions. Mrs. Ryen suggested they be placed on the City trail. The Justus Trail is in Cranberry Township. The City's portion of the trail begins at the sewage plant and comes toward the City to the marina. That would be the most appropriate place to display the panels.

**MINUTES
COUNCIL MEETING
4:30 PM**

**CITY OF OIL CITY
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
FEBRUARY 23, 2026**

Mrs. Ryen then said that she doesn't know much about the grant. Mrs. Rosen submitted the information just prior to the meeting and there was not much information.

Councilwoman Wisniewski thinks there are too many unanswered questions pertaining to this request. She would like to have more information before making a decision. Councilman Craig believed that this request should be tabled.

Mayor Kluck said that he thought that Mrs. Rosen was asking for the actual painting project at this time and she would approach Council at another time for placement of the panels. Mrs. Ryen then said that she wondered if there must be a grant deadline. Mayor Kluck said that he thought Mrs. Rosen needed Council to approve this project before she can apply for the grant money.

Mayor Kluck said that he wanted to see a motion to hold the event and panel painting and then Mrs. Rosen can approach Council at another time for placement upon completion. Councilman Walentosky was concerned that the panels would be on the trail due to the fact that it would take place on the day of the half marathon. He has no problem if they will not be painted on the trail.

Mrs. Ryen said that she believed that Mrs. Rosen will not apply for the grant. Rafi of Rafi and Klee will apply on behalf of Kaleb Lewis. The applicant has to be an artist of a certain age. Rafi found the grant and asked Mr. Lewis if he was interested. Mrs. Ryen doesn't know much about it.

Mayor Kluck then said that he would ask for a motion for the grant application and use Towne Square for the painting. Councilman Gustafson said that he would like to know what the art cubes are which are referenced in the communicate. He wants to know how durable they may be, how weather-resistant they are, are they prone to vandalism, etc.

Mrs. Ryen said that cubes are talked about, but she would rather see panels. Councilman Walentosky asked if they will be painted in Towne Square and then, at some point, moved to the trail.

**MINUTES
COUNCIL MEETING
4:30 PM**

**CITY OF OIL CITY
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
FEBRUARY 23, 2026**

A motion to Approve the Grant Application for the Mural Painting was made by Councilman Walentosky, seconded by Councilwoman Wisniewski and was approved.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

WRITTEN
COMMUNICATIONS

A Communique was Received from the Oil City Junior Baseball Association Requesting Use of the Hasson Fields for the 75th Season of Baseball in the City. They will maintain the fields as has been done in the past. They will also update the batting cages and make enhancements to the fields to benefit their players and the community.

COMMUNIQUE FROM
OIL CITY JUNIOR
BASEBALL
ASSOCIATION –
REQUEST FOR USE OF
HASSON FIELDS FOR
THE 2026 SEASON

Councilman Craig commented that his son has had a fantastic experience playing ball over the last few years.

Councilman Gustafson said that he doesn't believe the fields would be playable if it wasn't for the association.

Mayor Kluck asked Mr. Gorman if the association is still maintaining the grass. Mr. Gorman replied that they are. Chief Ruditis echoed that and said that they are going to bring in a company to seed and fertilize the fields. He is on the board. The pressbox and steps will be reworked. There will also be other projects in the works. Chief Ruditis said that they want to do the pressbox and put it on the lower field. Councilman Craig asked if the ball association planned to do most of the work themselves. Chief Ruditis said that they would. They have many work days. Various local companies assist. They have \$3-7,000.00 worth of dirt delivered to rework the fields.

A motion to Approve the Request of the Oil City Junior Baseball Association to Use the Hasson Fields was made by Councilman Craig, seconded by Councilwoman Wisniewski and was approved.

Mayor Kluck then thanked all for the work done last week during the flooding situation.

MANAGER'S REPORT

MANAGER'S REPORT

Mrs. Hoovler informed all that the contractors for the Hasson Park restroom renovations have commenced renovations. The work will continue through the spring and should be done by the time school lets out.

UPDATE – HASSON
PARK RESTROOM
RENOVATIONS

**MINUTES
COUNCIL MEETING
4:30 PM**

**CITY OF OIL CITY
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
FEBRUARY 23, 2026**

She then informed Council that the City has been working with Autism Stands. Staff has been in talks to place a confined playground there. The City wants to install a two to five-year-old toddler piece, along with some autistic pieces.

UPDATE – AUTISM
STANDS PLAYGROUND
IN HASSON PARK

The Implementation Grant is coming to a close. Benches and trash cans for the downtown area have been ordered. The estimated delivery date is about six weeks out. The old benches which are in good condition will be utilized in Hasson Park.

UPDATE –
IMPLEMENTATION
GRANT

The Lyric Theatre bid will be going out soon. The drawings will need to be inspected by the City's commercial inspector and RACP and Art grant managers.

UPDATE – LYRIC
THEATRE BID

She then said that the downtown area was spared from flooding last week. She thanked all of the City staff who stood watch and assisted. There was some damage related to the flooding which will need to be dealt with. The Northside pump station had flooded. There is no estimate of cost of the damage as of yet. It is still being assessed. Mr. Wenner is on top of the situation.

THANKS TO ALL
DURING RECENT
FLOOD EVENT

Mrs. Hoovler informed Council that the ice device on the Allegheny River suffered damage when the ice broke free. Chief Alex and Chris Gorman have been in contact with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Representatives from the Corps came to town on this date to review the situation. Chief Alex has several videos taken from a drone of the river and the damage. Those videos will be sent to the Corps so that they may assist the City.

ICE DEVICE DAMAGE
FROM FLOODING

Chief Alex commented that the north shore of the device sustained damage and a buoy was lost. There is still a large amount of ice impeding any assessment of damage at this time.

Mayor Kluck thanked all for their efforts related to the flooding. Chief Alex said that every department head was available in case of the ice showing signs of problems.

THANKS TO ALL FOR
EFFORTS DURING
FLOODING

CURRENT BUSINESS

CURRENT BUSINESS

The first item was a Discussion Related to an Amendment

DISCUSSION –

**MINUTES
COUNCIL MEETING
4:30 PM**

**CITY OF OIL CITY
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
FEBRUARY 23, 2026**

**AMENDMENT TO
STREET EXCAVATION
ORDINANCE**

to the Street Excavation Ordinance. Mr. Varsek said that he has been talking with the manager and engineering department over the last couple of weeks related to this proposed change to the street excavating ordinance. There are some concerns about projected excavations of public streets. It was agreed that the ordinance should be brought up to date. Council was given copies of the proposal. The update provides the addition of a section which deals with bonding. The current ordinance was lax in that respect. It was “beefed up” with some very specific provisions about bonding as a condition of any excavation project. The amended ordinance provides for specifics for the amount of the bond and the amount of time for the disturbance of the street. There has been some dissatisfaction with some of the excavation and repaving, especially when it comes to digging up some streets which had recently been paved.

He went on to say there was a revision to a subsection which deals with specifications when excavating and resurfacing a street. There are three classifications which are being established: state highways, municipal streets and public alleys. The detailed specs are included in the amended ordinance as provided in PennDOT standards. This is an improvement over current standards.

Last, there is an amendment to the penalty section to add “more teeth.” The fines are increased for continuing violations as a separate offense. Also, chapter 179 as it relates to gas and water lines.

Councilman Gustafson remarked that he believed it is primarily National Fuel Gas. He asked if they have been good at getting permits. He said that when Mr. Nelles served as interim manager, this fell by the wayside. He believes that there needs to be some standards as to how the streets need to be reconstructed after an excavation. He could not think of any other entity which does such work.

Councilwoman Wisniewski stated that she believed that it is a good idea to revamp the ordinance.

A motion to Approve Advertisement of the Change to the Excavation Ordinance was made by Councilman Gustafson, seconded by Councilwoman Wisniewski and was approved.

**MINUTES
COUNCIL MEETING
4:30 PM**

**CITY OF OIL CITY
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
FEBRUARY 23, 2026**

The next item was a Discussion Regarding Livestreaming City Council meetings. Mayor Kluck said that this was discussed at the last Council meeting. Junior Councilmember Carlson stated that she briefly mentioned this issue to the broadcasting people at the school. The only concerns that she has are that not a lot of students in the classes know how to operate the professional camera equipment. Also, transportation might be an issue.

**DISCUSSION –
LIVESTREAMING
COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Miss Carlson then reported to Council on something for consideration. It is something called an “owl” and she thinks it is something that the school board uses for their meetings. She distributed information from the internet regarding the device. It has cameras and moves upon a voice recognition. It is expensive – it is over \$1,100.00.

Councilman Craig said he believes it to have a wide-range of views. It will zoom in on whoever is speaking. He said it works well for TEAMS meetings, etc. He is unsure if it would work for livestreaming and could have a connection with YouTube. Miss Carlson then reiterated that the school district uses it for their meetings and seems to be fairly reliable. She said there is probably a way to take the data and upload it to YouTube.

Councilman Walentosky asked if it is self-contained. The answer was yes. It could be referenced at a later date/time. Councilman Craig said that, if it were to be in the form of a Zoom meeting, all citizens would have to have a Zoom code to access the meeting. It would be in the form of invitation only. Councilman Gustafson said he would prefer to see it in the form of YouTube and be available to all.

Mayor Kluck said that there was also a proposal from Explore Venango. They proposed free livestreaming if the City would agree to purchase ten digital notices per year. Councilman Gustafson wondered what that would include. Mayor Kluck said that it could be notices, ads, etc. Mrs. Hoovler remarked that this would be beneficial with no newspaper in print. Councilwoman Wisniewski had a concern in that the proposal included the word “exclusivity.” She did not want anything to be exclusive to them. She feels that, “as a governmental body, the City should not enter into any exclusive deals with any media

**MINUTES
COUNCIL MEETING
4:30 PM**

**CITY OF OIL CITY
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
FEBRUARY 23, 2026**

outlet.” She believes that they would be the only entity which could stream. It was then indicated that the City had been in contact with Mr. Bauer of Explore Venango. A contract would be drawn up. The solicitor would review the contract, along with the manager, and changes could be made. The proposal indicated that “exclusivity” was not problem if not desired. Councilman Gustafson read the paperwork and saw that there would be no problem if exclusivity was not wanted. Councilman Craig said that it would have to be a win-win for everyone. It was then pointed out that the notices could be events, legal notices, etc. Ten per year would be the minimum. Ten could easily be attained over the course of a year.

Councilwoman Wisniewski was also concerned about advertising with the video. She wondered if there are any regulations as it relates to public meetings and advertising. She feels it would be a “conflict of interest.” She feels the City needs “to be careful of the fact that Council would be endorsing something.” She believes that even the association with businesses could be suspect. She would like to have this reviewed by the solicitor. She wants to make sure it would be allowable.

Mr. Varsek reminded all that the City had the PEG channel at one time. There were some issues there with being involved with commercial entities.

Councilman Gustafson said that he believed that political ads would be prohibited.

Mayor Kluck would like to have Jake Bauer of Explore Venango attend the next Council meeting in order to answer any further questions which Council may have.

Mrs. Hoovler asked who would be tasked with running the owl device. The answer was whoever the IT person would be. Councilman Walentosky questioned the owl device. He doesn’t think it is a good idea.

Councilwoman Wisniewski wants to know how well Explore Venango would moderate the comments section. Councilman Craig thought the comments could be turned off.

**MINUTES
COUNCIL MEETING
4:30 PM**

**CITY OF OIL CITY
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
FEBRUARY 23, 2026**

Councilman Walentosky said that, if The Derrick should continue and it will be digital, maybe it will still have the same coverage. It might be a moot point. Mayor Kluck said that even if there is the same coverage, there is nothing wrong with also expanding to have livestreaming.

Councilwoman Wisniewski feels that, from an “ethical” and legal standpoint, it would be an option. It may be the first step before Mr. Bauer’s attendance. If it is not an option, there is no point in his coming to the meeting.

Mayor Kluck said that Explore Venango already streams several meetings in Clarion County. He thinks that if there would be problems, they would have surfaced already. Every one of those municipalities employ a solicitor who would let them know if there were any issues.

The general consensus of Council is that they would like to have the meetings livestreamed. Councilman Walentosky would definitely like to see it. Mayor Kluck said that someone would have to commit to being at every Council meeting. If the City would try to do it, there is the possibility that it may not be done every time.

This will have further review.

**FISCAL, CONTRACTUAL, AND BUDGETARY
TRANSFERS**

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

General Fund	\$	253,493.55
Water and Sewer		141,326.26
Investment Account		110,000.00
Liquid Fuels Tax Fund		14,595.69
Arts Council		3,373.89
Small Communities Program		109,836.35
Industrial Park		244.68

A motion to Approve the Vouchers was made by Councilman Walentosky, seconded by Councilwoman Wisniewski and was approved.

The October 2025 Financial Reports were the next item on the agenda.

**FISCAL,
CONTRACTUAL AND
BUDGETARY
TRANSFERS**

VOUCHERS

**OCTOBER 2025
FINANCIAL REPORTS**

**MINUTES
COUNCIL MEETING
4:30 PM**

**CITY OF OIL CITY
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
FEBRUARY 23, 2026**

A motion to Approve the October 2025 Financial Reports was made by Councilman Craig, seconded by Councilman Gustafson and was approved.

The next item was ECS Mid-Atlantic Proposal for Property Condition Assessment for City Hall. Mrs. Hoovler tasked the Engineering Department with engaging the services of ECS Mid-Atlantic to develop a proposal to assess the condition of the City Hall building. They are located in Cranberry Township, Butler County. This is in conjunction with the proposals for work which could be done to the building. There were a lot of questions last year in pre-constructions meetings with Mr. Schroyer. Asbestos questions were raised in addition to others. No one within the City had any answers.

**ECS MID-ATLANTIC
PROPOSAL FOR
PROPERTY CONDITION
ASSESSMENT FOR
CITY HALL**

She then said that there is not much money to work with. The money should be spent on repairs which are more important than others.

This company can come and evaluate the building to determine what should be highest on the list to address. This will also include an approximate cost of repairs.

Hazardous materials will also be looked at within the building. Chief Alex has some firefighters who are also inspectors who could check into the hazardous aspect of the repairs. ECS would not have to be hired to do this. This type of assessment has not been done with this building.

The cost of the proposal with ECS will be \$5,200.00. The cost seems fair. Councilman Craig said that this proposal sounds like it would assist in making decisions.

Councilman Gustafson said that it appears that the proposal would cover what would be needed to make the decisions. It would not go into too much depth, just enough to proceed.

Mayor Kluck asked where the money would come from for the study. Mrs. Hoovler said it would come from the building maintenance line item.

**MINUTES
COUNCIL MEETING
4:30 PM**

**CITY OF OIL CITY
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
FEBRUARY 23, 2026**

Councilman Gustafson said that there was money left from the bond issue for the repairs. He would like to see the building cleaned. Mrs. Hoovler said that there were questions such as would the windows be able to withstand the pressure washing, etc. She feels that this will be money well-spent in moving forward with the City Hall repairs.

Councilwoman Wisniewski believes that this would be a good tool in future budgeting.

A motion to Approve the Proposal with ECS Mid-Atlantic for Property Condition Assessment was made by Councilwoman Wisniewski, seconded by Councilman Gustafson and was approved.

RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES

**RESOLUTIONS &
ORDINANCES**

INFORMATIONAL

INFORMATIONAL

PUBLIC COMMENTS

PUBLIC COMMENTS

CITY COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMENTS

**CITY COUNCIL
REPORTS/COMMENTS**

Councilman Gustafson remarked that it was an exciting week last week with the flooding issue.

FLOODING COMMENT

Junior Councilmember Cohen said that she will have information for the next meeting regarding a project involving handicrafts. They will be distributed to various charities.

**JUNIOR COUNCIL
PROJECT**

Mrs. Felmlee informed Council that the 2026 recycling events dates have been determined. The electronics event will be held on May 15 and the tire event will be on September 11. They are for City residents only. Proof of residency will be required.

**2026 RECYCLING
EVENTS DATES**

Councilman Walentosky said that he is glad that the newspaper will be in a digital format.

**NEWSPAPER
COMMENT**

**MINUTES
COUNCIL MEETING
4:30 PM**

**CITY OF OIL CITY
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
FEBRUARY 23, 2026**

ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:20 p.m. was made by Councilwoman Wisniewski, seconded by Councilman Craig. Motion approved.

PERSONS IN ATTENDANCE

Robert Varsek, Staff
Kelly Ryen, Staff
Michelle Hoovler, Staff
Terri Felmlee, Staff
Yvonne Greene, Staff
Chris Gorman, Staff
Jason Herman
Tim Alex, Staff
Cory Ruditis, Staff
Clarice Carlson, Junior Council
Abby Copley, Junior Council
Morena Bricca, Junior Council
Allyson Vanderhoff
Amanda Shaffer

MINUTES
COUNCIL MEETING
4:30 PM

CITY OF OIL CITY
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
FEBRUARY 23, 2026

APPROVED BY COUNCIL THIS

9th DAY OF March, 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 February 9, 2026.



Michelle M. Hoovler, City Clerk