MINUTES
COUNCIL MEETING
4:30 PM

CITY OF OIL CITY
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
OCTOBER 26, 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.

Members Absent: None.

ROLL CALL

Recording Secretary: Jena Knight

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING – OCTOBER 12, 2026

A motion to Approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held October 12, 2026 was made by Councilwoman Wisniewski, seconded by Councilman Gustafson and was approved.

REVISION OF AGENDA

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There was one addition to the agenda. It was a Proclamation for National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

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.

At this time, the Proclamation was presented to Julie Smith and Brittany Donato of Family Service and Children's Aid Society in recognition of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

PROCLAMATION – NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS LETTER FROM OIL CITY FIRST NIGHT COMMITTEE – CLOSURE OF JUSTUS PARK AND ASSISTANCE WITH THE EVENT

A Letter was Received from Oil City First Night Committee Requesting Closure of Justus Park and Assistance with the Event. Bill Moon of Oil City First Night was present and addressed Council about the upcoming First Night event. Mr. Moon informed Council that there will be some great bands on both the north and south sides of town. There will be many types of entertainment, to include clowns and magicians. Fireworks

will be set off at 6:30 p.m. There will be two bonfires. A banner will be placed in Towne Square for people who would like to take photos. The admission buttons cost $10.00 per person. The buttons offer admission to all attractions on First Night. They can be purchased at the library and the art gallery. A local person is making the buttons.

Councilman Gustafson asked how many years First Night has taken place. Mr. Moon replied that he has worked with it for just over twenty years. Bob Flath and Libby Williams were instrumental with it many years ago.

Councilman Gustafson remarked that he has a collection of all of the buttons from years past.

A motion to Approve the Request of Oil City First Night for the First Night Events was made by Councilman Craig, seconded by Councilman Walentosky and was approved.

MANAGER'S REPORT

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CURRENT BUSINESS

CURRENT BUSINESS

FISCAL, CONTRACTUAL, AND BUDGETARY TRANSFERS

FISCAL, CONTRACTUAL AND BUDGETARY TRANSFERS

The September 2026 Financial Reports were reviewed and voted on.

SEPTEMBER 2026 FINANCIAL REPORTS

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

MEMORANDUM FROM REBECCA RICE – LOCAL FEDERAL AID ROUTE FUND GRANT

The next item was a Memorandum from Rebecca Rice Regarding a Local Federal Aid Route Fund Grant. The City of Oil City has been awarded $244,408.00 for the rehabilitation of Colbert Avenue from Graff Street to 180 Colbert Avenue. The scope of the work includes roadway milling and asphalt repaving. There is a two-year time limit in which to complete the project.

A motion to Approve the Award of the Local Federal Aid Route Fund Grant for the Rehabilitation of Colbert Avenue

in the Amount of $244,408.00 was made by Councilman Craig, seconded by Councilman Gustafson and was approved.

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT WITH EVIE'S ADVENTURE – TABLED

The next item was a Settlement Agreement with Evie's Adventure. Mr. Varsek stated that this item should be tabled for the timebeing.

A motion to Table the Settlement Agreement with Evie's Adventure was made by Councilwoman Wisniewski, seconded by Councilman Walentosky and was approved.

RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES

RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES RESOLUTION #2026-18 – AUTHORIZING THE CITY'S ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDING FROM THE LOCAL FEDERAL AID ROUTE FUND FOR THE REHABILITATION OF COLBERT AVENUE

Resolution #2026-18 – Authorizing the City's Acceptance of Funding from the Local Federal Aid Route Fund for the Rehabilitation of Colbert Avenue. This item was discussed under Current Business.

A motion to Approve Resolution #2026-18 – Authorizing the City's Acceptance of Funding from the Local Federal Aid Route Fund for the Rehabilitation of Colbert Avenue was made by Councilman Craig, seconded by Councilman Gustafson and was approved.

RESOLUTION #2026-19 – AUTHORIZING AN APPLICATION FOR A STATEWIDE LOCAL SHARE ASSESSMENT GRANT FOR THE OIL CITY POOL REHABILITATION PHASE I

A motion to Approve Resolution #2026-19 – Authorizing an Application for a Statewide Local Share Assessment Grant for the Oil City Pool Rehabilitation Phase I. Mrs. Ryen of Community Development addressed Council and stated that this Local Share Assessment Grant is ready to be submitted. Last year, an LSA grant was submitted for $1 million for the pool rehabilitation. That grant was not awarded to the City. They have gone back to square one and have broken it down into multiple phases. She said that the "worst of the worst" is what is being considered in the first phase. It would be the rehabilitation by removing the old plaster surface of the entire pool, repairing any damaged subsurface and replaced with an enhanced plaster which should wear better. The new ceramic tiles will be installed in racing lanes, around the gutters and the zero-entry access point. This is repairing the structural foundation to ensure that the pool is functional. They are requesting $459,144.00 from the LSA grant. The resolution is necessary for the grant application submission. Mrs. Ryen said that there were 16,000 patrons of the swimming pool in three months. The pool is definitely an

asset for the community.

A motion to Approve Resolution #2026-19 – Authorizing an Application for a Statewide Local Share Assessment Grant for the Oil City Pool Rehabilitation Phase I was made by Councilwoman Wisniewski, seconded by Councilman Walentosky and was approved.

Resolution #2026-20 – Authorizing the Execution of a Settlement Agreement and General Release with Evie's Adventure, LLC and Nathan Neely Concerning Stormwater Conditions at One Seneca Street; Making Findings as to the Reasonableness and Public Purpose of the Settlement; Documenting and Ratifying the Allocation of the Costs of the Initial Sanitary Sewer Tie-In at the Property, Including the City's Bearing of $7,880.00 in Manpower and Equipment Costs; and Appropriating Funds.

RESOLUTION #2026-20 – AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND GENERAL RELEASE WITH EVIE'S ADVENTURE, LLC AND NATHAN NEELY CONCERNING STORMWATER CONDITIONS AT ONE SENECA STREET; MAKING FINDINGS AS TO THE REASONABLENESS AND PUBLIC PURPOSE OF THE SETTLEMENT; DOCUMENTING AND RAATIFYING THE ALLOCATION OF THE COSTS OF THE INITIAL SANITARY SEWER TIE-IN AT THE PROPERTY, INCLUDING THE CITY'S BEARING OF $7,880.00 IN MANPOWER AND EQUIPMENT COSTS; AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS

Mr. Varsek indicated that, as was done with the Settlement Agreement with Evie's Adventure earlier in this meeting, the resolution in connection with the agreement should also be tabled.

A motion to Table Resolution #2026-20 – Authorizing the Execution of a Settlement Agreement and General Relase with Evie's Adventure, LLC and Nathan Neely Concerning Stormwater Conditions at One Seneca Street; Making Findings as to the Reasonableness and Public Purpose of the Settlement; Documenting and Ratifying the Allocation of the Costs of the Initial Sanitary Sewer Tie-In at the Property, Including the City's Bearing of $7,880.00 in Manpower and Equipment Costs; and Appropriating Funds was made by Councilman Gustafson, seconded by Councilwoman Wisniewski and was approved.

INFORMATIONAL

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PUBLIC COMMENTS

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*****At this point of the meeting, Mr. Varsek addressed the audience. He reminded everyone in the audience that, if they are attending to participate, the City has rules and protocols to follow. At the previous Council meeting, a member of the public approached the Council table and "attacked" one of the City staff. It was inappropriate, disrespectful and offensive.**

SOLICITOR VARSEK – SETTING BOUNDARIES FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS

Mr. Varsek said that he would ask that the Police Chief, in the future, monitor the behavior of the public and keep those not following the rules in line.

Mr. Varsek then went over the rules of a Council meeting. There is a five-minute time limitation for each person speaking. Be courteous of other attendees who would like to speak. The Council table should not be approached by anyone unless permission is given by Council. No one from the audience should address any member of Council/City individually. Do not address individual Council members or staff members. The City and Council should be addressed as a "body." Any criticism or complaint should be made respectfully. This is a comment period only, not an interrogation. Comments should be made within the five-minute period. Following the comments, the attendee must be seated. Everyone will be treated with dignity and respect.***

Eric Cook of the Venango County Historical Society was present and voiced his support in any efforts made to save architectural buildings in Oil City. They are saddened to see some of the things happen which have been happening, such as the demolition of St. Stephen's Church. They offered their services to the City in order to find ways to preserve the present art and architectural elements, especially on the southside of the City. Mr. Cook serves on the board of the Oil City Civic Center which takes care of the National Transit Building. They do not want to see any additional demolition occurring.

ERIC COOK – VENANGO CO. HISTORICAL SOCIETY SUPPORT FOR CITY HISTORICAL BUILDINGS

County Commissioner Sam Breene thanked all for "putting Oil City's best foot forward" for the Drake Forum. The City has a "sister City" agreement with Baku, Azerbaijan.

CO. COMMISSIONER SAM BREENE – THANKS FOR DRAKE

FORUM SUPPORT

It is very meaningful to them that so many were in attendance. Many thanks to the Mayor and Council.

Councilman Craig thanked Mr. Breene for organizing the forum.

ANDREW TABLER – DRAKE FORUM AND SUGGESTIONS FOR DOWNTOWN BUILDINGS

Andrew Tabler then spoke and also thanked everyone in the City for their attendance at the forum. He recognized Mr. Breene, Mr. Moon, Mrs. Motter and Miss Parkinson for their efforts with the forum. They have been involved for a number of years.

He went on to thank the Mayor and Council for their participation in the forum. A proclamation was received from Baku related to the 250th anniversary of the United States. Representatives from Azerbaijan will return in early December. The date will be forthcoming. A plaque will be presented.

He then spoke about the oil industry and how Oil City has played a part in the world's oil history.

He talked about the future of the City. He proposed establishing an Oil City Petroleum Port Historic District. He said it could be termed "Port District." It would extend from the Venango Museum toward the confluence of Oil Creek and the Allegheny River. It would encompass the historic blocks along Seneca and Elm Streets, adjacent to the waterfront.

He said that Oil City became one of the world's important oil ports. Much has been learned during the years with the Drake Dialogues. In the 1870's the oil exchange in Oil City became an important part of the oil industry insofar as trading and pricing went. The National Transit Building was the site for the trading.

He went on to give more historical information regarding the oil industry.

He said that Kay Dawson has been instrumental in documenting the history of the City and its beginnings as a forerunner with the oil industry. He lauded her for her efforts.

He would like to see many of the buildings in the City preserved. He quoted some of the properties in the northside business district as being historic. He proposed that a six-month moratorium be placed on demolitions in town. He doesn't want to see a "gap-toothed smile."

With winter coming, he wants to see some of the buildings repaired so that no issues come to them which may be irreversible.

He wanted to see four steps take place before the next Council meeting. First, recognize the proposed port district as an historic preservation area. This would include Seneca and Elm Streets from the Museum to the river. Second, commission an independent professional assessment of the historically-significant buildings in the proposed port district, prioritizing those threatened by deterioration or demolition. Third, establish a presumption in favor of a preservation or an emergency demolition within the proposed port district. Demolition findings should rest on professional consideration of preservation alternatives. Fourth, consider a 180-day moratorium on non-emergency demolitions of historically-significant buildings within the port district. Six months will allow assessment of the buildings, potentially stabilize roofs and identify investors who may be willing to assist with the buildings.

He did not ask the City to preserve every building. He asked for six months to determine what can be saved in the proposed port district. Preservation can assist with economic development. The proposed bar/restaurant and hotel could strengthen the downtown area. He said that it is possible the Oil Creek and Titusville Railroad could come to the City as well. He cited Pittsburgh's downtown area with the Strip District as an example of bringing properties back to life.

JOSEPH BEHILE – PAVING COMMENTS

Joseph Behile thanked the City for paving this year. He lives on Cedar Avenue. He did have a complaint. There is a gap. Mayor Kluck said that the street is not completely finished. The top coat will be placed. The paving project will be completed before the end of the month.

CITY COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMENTS

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COUNCILMAN CRAIG –

Councilman Craig reminded all about the Webco Family

Fun Night/Fire Prevention event on this evening. There will be fire trucks, the Webco-sponsored racecar driver and many activities. It should be a fun-filled time.

WEBCO FAMILY FUN NIGHT/FIRE PREVENTION EVENT/BOO MILE RUN HALLOWEEN

Councilman Craig then said that the Boo Mile Run Halloween event was a lot of fun.

Mayor Kluck said that he witnessed a near-miss with a small child and a vehicle near McNerney's on Seneca Street. He asked for better signage in that area for crossing.

MAYOR KLUCK – PEDESTRIAN CROSSING CONCERN

Councilwoman Wisniewski reminded everyone that Trick or Treat will take place on October 31 from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. Safety is a priority on this evening.

COUNCILWOMAN WISNIEWSKI – TRICK OR TREAT/NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE/HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMENTS

Councilwoman Wisniewski then recognized Julie Smith, Brittany Donato and the PPC Violence Free Network for their work with those people needing their services. There is help and support for those in need.

Councilwoman Wisniewski then thanked Mr. Tabler for his comments related to historic preservation. She would like to see buildings in the City saved. Other communities have preserved historic architecture. Thanks to both Messrs. Tabler and Cook.

Councilman Gustafson agreed with Councilwoman Wisniewski's comments. He said that stabilization/roofing work is less costly than demolition. He thinks it should be further explored. He appreciates any input from those interested.

COUNCILMAN GUSTAFSON – DOWNTOWN BUILDING COMMENTS

Councilman Walentosky liked Mr. Tabler's four-point plan.

COUNCILMAN WALENTOSKY – MR. TABLER'S FOUR-POINT PLAN

Mrs. Rosen asked what the City thought about those buildings which need some attention. Mayor Kluck said that would need to be discussed going forward. The City cannot force private owners to do anything to their buildings. Councilman Gustafson said that it is less costly than demolition. Mr. Tabler said in that case, code enforcement is very important. He said that he has looked at all of the downtown buildings. He doesn't believe there

COMMENTS – DOWNTOWN BUILDINGS

is code enforcement in the City. He said if it is being done, there must be a "pile of violations." Mayor Kluck told Mr. Tabler that there were a pile of violations which were thrown out by a magistrate. Once the violations are thrown out, the City cannot do anything. Mr. Tabler said that if codes are not enforced in Washington, DC (where he owns a house), the property values go down. He said that, with the proper code enforcement, things can get better.

Mr. Behile asked if an historic port district were to be designated, would grants be available for preservation. Mr. Tabler replied that he is unsure of this. His organization has never applied for any federal or state grants. He believes that funding could come from private entities. Councilman Craig said funding could be sought from whatever sources may be available. Councilman Gustafson stated that CDBG funds are only used for demolition. Councilwoman Wisniewski said that private funding opportunities are always preferable. There tends to be less red tape compared to some government grants.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:10 p.m. was made by Councilman Gustafson, seconded by Councilman Walentosky. Motion approved.

PERSONS IN ATTENDANCE

Robert Varsek, Staff
Michelle Hoovler, Staff
Kelly Ryen, Staff
Jason Herman, Staff
Chris Gorman, Staff
Cory Ruditis, Staff
Terri Felmlee, Staff
Yvonne Greene, Staff
Morena Cohen, Jr. Councilmember
Deb Delia
Stevette Rosen
Julie Smith

Brittany Donato
Kyla Parkinson
William Moon, Jr.
Kay Dawson
Eric Cook
Heather Motter
Devin Zagar
Sam Breene
Andrew Tabler
Joseph Behile
Maureen James

MINUTES
COUNCIL MEETING
4:30 PM

CITY OF OIL CITY
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
OCTOBER 26, 2026

APPROVED BY COUNCIL THIS

2nd DAY OF **November**, 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 26, 2026.

Michelle M. Hoovler, City Clerk