

**MINUTES
COUNCIL MEETING
4:30 PM**

**CITY OF OIL CITY
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
FEBRUARY 9, 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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

APPROVAL OF
MINUTES – REGULAR
MEETING – JANUARY
26, 2026

A motion to Approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held January 26, 2026 was made by Councilman Gustafson, seconded by Councilman Walentosky and was approved.

REVISION OF AGENDA

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There was one addition to the agenda. It was a Discussion Regarding Livestreaming of the City Council meetings. Mayor Kluck indicated that this discussion will take place in light of the upcoming closure of The Derrick newspaper. There should be access to City news and issues to the community. Councilwoman Wisniewski commented that she believed this is something which has been talked about over the last several years. She believes that there is a need to livestream Council meetings. She thinks that it would make meetings more accessible to the public. There are some people who are not able to attend meetings for many reasons. She feels that people can go to You Tube and watch the meetings at any time. She said it would be a way for people to stay informed. The high school and middle school stream some of their events at the current time.

DISCUSSION –
LIVESTREAMING OF
CITY COUNCIL
MEETINGS

She went on to say that the proper audio-visual equipment would need to be obtained. She wondered if the Junior Council people could be persuaded to assist. She said that the City could partner with the school district to see if they could help to stream the meetings. Perhaps that could count as volunteer hours. It would be beneficial to see what type of equipment is used, as well as the cost. She thinks it

**MINUTES
COUNCIL MEETING
4:30 PM**

**CITY OF OIL CITY
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
FEBRUARY 9, 2026**

might make sense for the City to own the equipment.

Junior Councilperson Carlson indicated that the students who currently work with the audio-visual equipment are earning volunteer hours by assisting with livestreaming events. She will talk to them to try to find out more information.

Mayor Kluck then suggested that the current “Main Street Minute” could morph into the “Main Street Hour” to livestream the meetings. Mrs. Rosen of Oil City Main Street was present and said that a cell phone is needed to do that.

Councilwoman Wisniewski said that it could be a good way for the students to get involved and “build civic engagement.” Mrs. Rosen said that there may be some seniors at the high school who are looking into communications and mass media and could assist.

Councilman Gustafson remarked that Venango Video and The Stream used to tape the meetings. It was related to the City’s access to cable. He thinks You Tube sounds more simple. He went on to say that several years ago, the taping was tried again, with only a few meetings being aired. He doesn’t think that the majority of the community knows what goes on with City business. If livestreamed, it can be posted to the website along with the minutes.

Junior Councilperson Carlson believes that livestreaming can “get rid of miscommunication.” Councilwoman Wisniewski said that, in terms of the City owning audio-visual equipment, grant funds may be available for its purchase. She thinks if the school can assist with the initial information, it would be a step in the right direction. The number of “streams” could justify that amount asked for in a grant.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A Letter was Received from the Oil City Arts Council and Oil City Main Street Regarding BridgeFest. Kay Woods of the Oil City Arts Council and Stevette Rosen of Oil City Main Street were present to speak to Council about the BridgeFest events. Friday, August 14, 2026, beginning at 4:00 p.m. and ending at 9:00 p.m. will be the date and time

**WRITTEN
COMMUNICATIONS**

**LETTER FROM OIL
CITY ARTS COUNCIL
AND OIL CITY MAIN
STREET – BRIDGEFEST
REQUEST**

**MINUTES
COUNCIL MEETING
4:30 PM**

**CITY OF OIL CITY
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
FEBRUARY 9, 2026**

for the Center Street BridgeFest closure. This event has been going on since 2018. It was requested that the City assist as follows: sweep bridge before event, provide support personnel on day of event, provide signage/barriers for bridge closure, provide portable trash containers and provide electrical hook-ups on the bridge. Another request was the closure of the northbound lane of Seneca Street from Billy's to Center Street as a part of the fest on this date. This will accommodate vendors who will be on the street.

Also, Saturday, August 15, 2026 beginning at 4:00 p.m. and ending at 10:00 p.m. will be the date and time for the Veterans' Bridge BridgeFest closure. It was requested that the City assist as follows: sweep bridge before event, provide support personnel on day of event, provide electric hook-ups, provide signage/barriers for bridge closure, set up/remove portable stage, provide a truck for garbage transport and provide cardboard garbage containers.

Councilman Gustafson commented that this is his favorite event of the year. The fest brings many people out and is a lot of fun for all.

A motion to Approve the Request of the Oil City Arts Council and Oil City Main Street Program to Host the BridgeFest Event was made by Councilwoman Wisniewski, seconded by Councilman Walentosky and was approved.

The next item was a Communique from Venango Pride Requesting Use of Justus Park for the Venango Pride event, scheduled to take place on June 13, 2026. It will begin at 11:00 a.m. and end at 4:00 p.m. There was no problem with this event in the past. Mayor Kluck lauded kudos to all who were involved with the event in the past. He was very appreciative of the City employees who assisted. There were about 600 attendees last year.

COMMUNIQUE FROM
VENANGO PRIDE – USE
OF JUSTUS PARK FOR
A VENANGO PRIDE
EVENT

A motion to Approve the Request of Venango Pride for Use of Justus Park for the Venango Pride event on June 13, 2026 was made by Councilman Walentosky, seconded by Councilman Gustafson and was approved.

**MINUTES
COUNCIL MEETING
4:30 PM**

**CITY OF OIL CITY
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
FEBRUARY 9, 2026**

MANAGER'S REPORT

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Mrs. Hoovler informed Council that the Oil Region Alliance has secured a federal EPA grant for the recreation economy for rural communities. It is a national program. It will result in a comprehensive plan focused on leveraging natural resources to enhance the local economy. As part of the study, a consulting firm will visit for two days in order to begin a public process. It may happen in August, but nothing has yet been confirmed. Members of the community will be invited to provide input related to local outdoor assets. The final plan will offer insight specific to Oil City and explore ways to better link the City with neighboring communities, i.e., Franklin, Titusville and Emlenton.

**OIL REGION ALLIANCE
– EPA GRANT FOR
RECREATION
ECONOMY FOR RURAL
COMMUNITIES**

She went on to say that Mrs. Ryen and Mrs. Rosen are representing the City with this project. This is a nice project in the making. They will attend meetings in the near future. She indicated that this will not result in any grant funds; however, it will facilitate a strategic plan to move forward.

Councilwoman Wisniewski asked if this will be coordinated with the Planning Commission and its comprehensive plan. She asked because some of the plans for the comprehensive plan look at use of outdoor space. Mrs. Hoovler said that there was a meeting with The EADS Group recently. Mrs. Ryen informed them about the project. This study will be completed before the City's comprehensive plan is finalized. This information can be included in the City's comprehensive plan.

Councilman Walentosky said that it appears to be a general plan. He asked if, once the firm has looked at everything, there will be specific recommendations. Mrs. Ryen replied in the affirmative. There will be some grant opportunities identified. He then asked if bike trails, etc. would be looked at. The answer was yes. All will be reviewed. Mrs. Rosen said that communities in other states will be looked at as well. They will include Alaska, Utah, Colorado, Wyoming and Idaho. Mrs. Ryen said that it is a prestigious grant program. Only twenty-five are awarded per year across the country. This is the third round.

**MINUTES
COUNCIL MEETING
4:30 PM**

**CITY OF OIL CITY
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
FEBRUARY 9, 2026**

Councilman Walentosky asked if recommendations would be made after their review. The answer was yes. Mrs. Ryen said that they would be made to the ORA and then disseminated to the owner of the grant. This will assist the communities in utilizing their natural resources to their best advantage for economic stimulation. They will look at everything.

Mrs. Ryen said that they are in the beginning process. They have asked for some steering committee ideas. She has asked two of the Junior Councilpeople if they would like to be involved. The study will go into 2027. There will be recorded meetings. If the students cannot attend during the time of the meetings, they can watch the recordings. They will then be able to make recommendations.

Mrs. Ryen said that this project is in the very beginning stages. Councilman Walentosky feels it is good to have people from the "outside" review things here. Mrs. Rosen said that there are so many other communities involved. Mrs. Ryen said that they are all connected as this is a federal program. The USDA will be involved as well as the forest service and other agencies statewide. The committee will be small and there will also be public input. More information will be forthcoming.

The paving committee recently met to make plans for the 2027 CDBG application. The City also applies for funds from the Conservation District's low-volume/dirt application and also for Liquid Fuels funds for paving.

She issued a reminder related to the winter weather. Keep heat on in residences. There have been several water breaks with the cold weather. The Water Department has been kept busy with them.

She then said that the Street Department has been cleaning snow from the downtown areas. In the downtown area, there is a no-parking edict from 2:00 a.m. until 6:00 a.m. People should refrain from parking so that things such as snow clearing and street sweeping can take place. The Police Department has given courtesy tickets to vehicle owners parking on the downtown streets recently.

**PAVING UPDATE FOR
2027**

**WINTER
WEATHER/FROZEN
PIPES REMINDER**

SNOW CLEAN UP

**MINUTES
COUNCIL MEETING
4:30 PM**

**CITY OF OIL CITY
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
FEBRUARY 9, 2026**

She then said that Chief Alex and Mr. Gorman are keeping a watchful eye on the ice situation on Oil Creek and the Allegheny River. With the upcoming thaw, hopefully there will be no problems. Both gentlemen recently participated in an on-line seminar related to spring thaws and waterways.

**ICE SITUATION – OIL
CREEK AND
ALLEGHENY RIVER**

Mayor Kluck asked if anything could be done to break up the ice. Chief Alex said that a major concern is that people will go out onto the ice. He cautioned that people should stay off of it. He asked that a warning be placed in the newspaper. There are very limited resources available to assist should anyone go out onto the ice. It is a very dangerous situation. He is hopeful that the ice goes out of the river over the next week or so. The river appears to be opening up from the sewage treatment plant, going south.

Chief Alex said that the webinar provided a lot of contacts of people to speak with in the case of ice problems. A state agency put the webinar on. There was a lot of good information which came out of it.

Councilman Gustafson remarked that, although everyone would wish spring would come quickly, a slow thaw is what is needed. Chief Alex commented that it doesn't appear that any rain will happen until week's end. It will be good to have moderate temperatures for a slow thaw. He said that the water is so warm under the ice that there are pockets opening up.

Mayor Kluck thanked Mr. Gorman and his department for the snow removal. Everything looks great.

CURRENT BUSINESS

CURRENT BUSINESS

**FISCAL, CONTRACTUAL, AND BUDGETARY
TRANSFERS**

**FISCAL,
CONTRACTUAL AND
BUDGETARY ANSFERS**

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

VOUCHERS

General Fund	\$	183,649.26
Water and Sewer		67,516.63
Arts Council		2,275.30

**MINUTES
COUNCIL MEETING
4:30 PM**

**CITY OF OIL CITY
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
FEBRUARY 9, 2026**

Small Communities Program	283,676.19
Industrial Park	704.28

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

Councilman Gustafson asked about the payment of electric bills at the Industrial Park. He asked if that is for the office building. Mrs. Hoovler said that some of the larger buildings are still owned and used by the City; hence, the need for electric. The Water Department uses some of them.

The August 2025 Financial Reports were next on the agenda.

**AUGUST 2025
FINANCIAL REPORTS**

A motion to Approve the August 2025 Financial Reports was made by Councilman Gustafson, seconded by Councilwoman Wisniewski and was approved.

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

**SEPTEMBER 2025
FINANCIAL REPORTS**

A motion to Approve the September 2025 Financial Reports was made by Councilman Craig, seconded by Councilwoman Wisniewski and was approved.

The IBEW Contract was next on the agenda for approval. Mrs. Hoovler commented that the contract was negotiated when Mr. Schroyer was the manager. There was an issue with language in the contract which required assistance by attorneys for both parties.

**IBEW CONTRACT
APPROVAL**

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

The next item was an Engineering Retainer Agreement with The EADS Group. Mrs. Hoovler stated that the City would like to retain them for the year 2026 on an "as needed" basis. The City solicitor has reviewed the contract and it appears to be in order. There was some wording which needed to be changed and it was taken care of.

**ENGINEERING
RETAINER
AGREEMENT WITH
THE EADS GROUP**

**MINUTES
COUNCIL MEETING
4:30 PM**

**CITY OF OIL CITY
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
FEBRUARY 9, 2026**

Councilman Gustafson commented that he reviewed the table of the proposed rates and they do not look to be out of line.

A motion to Approve the Engineering Retainer Agreement with The EADS Group was made by Councilman Walentosky, seconded by Councilwoman Wisniewski and was approved.

RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES

Resolution #2026-04 - Regarding the Section 504 Officer and Grievance Procedure. This is an annual “housekeeping” item. It names Kelly Ryen as the Section 504 Officer.

A motion to Approve Resolution #2026-04 – Regarding the Section 504 Officer and Grievance Procedure was made by Councilman Craig, seconded by Councilman Walentosky and was approved.

Resolution #2026-05 – Regarding Fair Housing. This is also an annual “housekeeping” item. It appoints Kelly Ryen as the local Fair Housing Officer.

A motion to Approve Resolution #2026-05 – Regarding Fair Housing was made by Councilman Craig, seconded by Councilman Gustafson and was approved.

INFORMATIONAL

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Stevette Rosen of the Oil City Main Street Program reminded all of the annual Clean Up Day. It will be held on April 15. Mayor Kluck stated that it had been discussed that the Junior Councilpeople might clean up in the downtown area on a monthly basis. He hopes that the Junior Councilpeople will assist Mrs. Rosen and the ORA with this event.

Beverly Lawrence and Gina Burris of the YWCA were present to speak about parking near the Oil City YWCA. Mrs. Lawrence had a concern about the patrons of the Y

RESOLUTIONS &
ORDINANCES
RESOLUTION #2026-04
– REGARDING THE
SECTION 504 OFFICER
AND GRIEVANCE
PROCEDURE

RESOLUTION #2026-05
– REGARDING FAIR
HOUSING

INFORMATIONAL

PUBLIC COMMENTS

OIL CITY MAIN
STREET – CLEAN UP
DAY

YWCA – PARKING
ISSUES

**MINUTES
COUNCIL MEETING
4:30 PM**

**CITY OF OIL CITY
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
FEBRUARY 9, 2026**

and parking issues. They would like to see the maximum amount of time allowed on the parking meters located in front of the Y and across the street on Central Avenue be changed to four hours. The amount currently on the meters is two hours. Many of the Y patrons attend several classes in one day. Mrs. Lawrence said that some of their elderly attendees may have difficulty crossing the street to feed the meters.

Mrs. Lawrence feels that allowing a four-hour parking option would help ensure that the patrons could remain inside the building safely while they are conducting their business/classes at the Y and adhering to the City's parking regulations. She believes that this would assist all with their experience at the YWCA.

She wondered if the meters are old and can only handle two hours. Mayor Kluck said that would be a question for Chief Ruditis. Chief Ruditis then spoke and said that the department has two-hour and ten-hour meters. There are no meters with time other than those.

Mayor Kluck asked about the permitted spaces in Lot 11. Chief Ruditis said that the PCO would have that information. Mayor Kluck said that he didn't know if any of the available spaces could be made accessible to the YW. Councilman Gustafson said that if there are four-hour meters, that might be more reasonable. He said that the request which was made last year was to completely eliminate the meters. The "fear" was that would happen all over town.

Mrs. Lawrence said that they understand the City's position. The Y would pay for the longer time.

Councilman Craig stated that if the meters cannot be updated and provide more than two-hour parking, could a four-hour pass be sold. A hang tag could be used. The Y would collect the money and deliver it to the City at month end.

Councilman Gustafson commented that he wouldn't think the patrons would be at the Y all day. Mrs. Lawrence said that many are there for four hours. They participate in many of the activities and classes. In between times, meters need to be fed. She asked for whatever assistance

**MINUTES
COUNCIL MEETING
4:30 PM**

**CITY OF OIL CITY
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
FEBRUARY 9, 2026**

the City could provide to the folks who patronize the association.

Councilman Gustafson stated that he believes the four-hour permit proposal would work since there are no four-hour meters.

Councilman Craig lauded the YWCA for the services which they are offering. He likes the idea that more people can come and enjoy the classes and activities.

Mayor Kluck said that the PCO and Chief Ruditis would be able to provide more information as to the passes for Lot 11. The ladies from the Y said that they are willing to assist in any way they can.

CITY COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMENTS

**CITY COUNCIL
REPORTS/COMMENTS**

Councilman Walentosky thanked the Mayor, Council and staff for coming together last weekend to see a new business open. Councilman Craig said that Mr. Lewis has become a staple in the community. He appreciates that Mr. Lewis chose Oil City to open his business. Mayor Kluck said that he feels it is important that Council does this on a regular basis. He said that anyone who relocates to Oil City is an asset to the community.

**NEW BUSINESS IN
TOWN**

Councilman Gustafson appreciated the update on the ice and thaw situation.

ICE SITUATION

Councilman Gustafson then said that he is upset over the news that the local newspaper, The Derrick, is going to shutter its doors. He doesn't know how the gap will be filled. Mayor Kluck said that he spoke with someone from the paper recently. It is a decision which has been a long time coming. Councilwoman Wisniewski said that the decline of a print newspaper is a national trend. She is "concerned about other entities filling the void." She noted that school honor rolls and things of that nature are published at this time. They will not be once the paper closes. Councilman Walentosky said that the newspaper has been a part of peoples' lives for decades. He said that it is "devastating." Councilman Gustafson remarked that more "fake" news will be in the works.

**CLOSING OF THE
DERRICK**

**MINUTES
COUNCIL MEETING
4:30 PM**

**CITY OF OIL CITY
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
FEBRUARY 9, 2026**

Councilman Gustafson also said that, when public meetings are covered by media, it makes the governing body “behave themselves.” With media coverage, it assists the public with finding out what is going on within the confines of the entity.

Councilman Walentosky commented that carrying newspapers used to be a great first job for kids. It taught them responsibility and punctuality.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:12 p.m. was made by Councilman Craig, seconded by Councilwoman Wisniewski. Motion approved.

PERSONS IN ATTENDANCE

Kelly Ryen, Staff
Michelle Hoovler, Staff
Terri Felmlee, Staff
Chris Gorman, Staff
Tim Alex, Staff
Cory Ruditis, Staff
Clarice Carlson, Junior Council
Abby Copley, Junior Council
Morena Bricca, Junior Council
Beverly Lawrence
Gina Burris
Dale Massie
Stevette Rosen
Kay Woods

MINUTES
COUNCIL MEETING
4:30 PM

CITY OF OIL CITY
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
FEBRUARY 9, 2026

APPROVED BY COUNCIL THIS

23rd DAY OF February, 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