



ORLAND CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, February 3, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Terrie Barr at 6:30 PM.

ROLL CALL

Councilmembers Present: Councilmembers John McDermott, JC Tolle, Matt Romano, Vice Mayor Alex Enriquez and Mayor Terrie Barr

Councilmembers Absent: None

Staff Present: City Manager Joe Goodman, City Clerk Jennifer Schmitke, Police Chief Joe Vlach, City Attorney Scott Drexel, City Engineer Paul Rabo and Public Works Director Zach Barber

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Orland resident Barbara Marzolf asked about the preliminary budget posted on the City's website and whether an updated or revised budget was available. City Manager Joe Goodman explained that the Council approved the preliminary budget for the current fiscal year shortly after he was hired. Mayor Barr added that City staff is currently working with the City's new accounting software and expects to return to the Council with a more complete budget update in the near future.

Mr. Goodman noted that the process has been extensive and that staff is working toward providing third-quarter budget updates. He explained that staff is reconciling Tyler accounting system data with department information to ensure clearer and more transparent budget numbers for the Council.

Ms. Marzolf asked whether the City Manager had met with individual department heads regarding their budgets. Mr. Goodman confirmed that he has met with all department heads to review their budgets and current financial status, and that both he and the Assistant City Manager are continuing to work with departments to align budget information within the Tyler system.

County resident Sarah Bosley asked a question regarding an expenditure listed on the Consent Calendar. City Manager Joe Goodman explained the purpose of the expenditure. Ms. Bosley also asked about the status of a new part-time employee, and Mr. Goodman clarified that no one has been hired at this time.

County resident Breanne Lowe expressed interest in the vacant Economic Development Commission seat. She briefly introduced herself, explained her interest in serving, and shared insight regarding attracting a hotel to Orland.

Chico resident Scott Howard requested a response regarding a letter he submitted to the City concerning his five-acre property along SR 32. Mayor Barr directed the City Manager to follow up.

Orland resident and future downtown business owner Kristen Baugher of Newville Brewing stated that she has contacted the City Manager multiple times since December regarding the façade improvement grant and requested a response. Mayor Barr directed the City Manager to follow up.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Warrant List (Payable Obligations)
- B. Approve City Council Minutes from January 20, 2026
- C. Receive and File Planning Commission Minutes from October 17, 2026

ACTION: Councilmember McDermott moved, seconded by Councilmember Tolle, to approve the consent calendar as presented. Motion carried by a voice vote 5-0.

PRESENTATIONS

Public Works and Engineering Departments Annual Presentation

Public Works Director Zach Barber presented the annual review of the department's activities and accomplishments over the past year. He highlighted ongoing efforts to operate and maintain critical City infrastructure, including water and sewer systems, streets, parks, storm drains, buildings, and fleet vehicles,

Director Barber also reviewed key accomplishments achieved by the Public Works Department during the past year, including completion of five sewer lift station pump replacements; installation of flashing crosswalks on 6th Street (near Moes Market) and new stop signs throughout the City; relocation of the 8-inch water main at Mill Street; installation of new chlorine injection systems at the City's well sites; repair of the sewer pond auger; upgrades to the Orland Arch and Water Tower lighting; and continued support of the Department of Water Resources project, including the new storage tank and new well on West Walker Street.

City Engineer Paul Rabo provided an update on current and upcoming capital improvement projects, including the Walker Street Well and the 6th Street Storage Tank. He also discussed proposed SB 1-funded projects and Caltrans projects scheduled for the 2026–2033 timeframe.

Director Barber concluded with a discussion of future departmental goals, which include upgrading lighting at the Lely Ballfield, utilizing SB 1 funding to rehabilitate selected roadways, initiating the City Hall relocation project, and restoring full staffing levels to support effective departmental operations.

Councilmembers asked Director Barber to identify areas where public awareness could assist the City. Director Barber discussed the ongoing challenges caused by grease entering the sewer system and the impacts it has on Public Works operations. Council also inquired about departmental needs, and Director Barber emphasized the need for additional staffing to support day-to-day operations and ongoing projects.

Councilmembers asked Director Barber about future focus areas, and he stated that improving storm drainage in the downtown area is a priority; however, implementation would require a significant capital investment that the City would need to budget for in a future fiscal year.

Council questioned City Engineer Paul Rabo regarding expenditures related to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) grant. Mr. Rabo explained that the City is estimated to contribute between \$300,000 and \$400,000 from the Water Enterprise Fund to complete the project, which is anticipated to be completed in July. Council also asked questions regarding M ½ Street and East Street.

The Council collectively thanked the Public Works Department and the City Engineer for their hard work and dedication over the past year.

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

Commission Appointments

City Clerk Jennifer Schmitke provided an update on vacancies on the City's commissions. She reported that an appointment to the Economic Development Commission made on January 20 is now back open due to a scheduling conflict, leaving the seat vacant. Ms. Schmitke noted that Council reviewed and discussed applicant Sarah Bosley at the previous meeting and her application was being brought back forward for consideration of the 2-year vacancy on the EDC.

Ms. Schmitke noted additional vacancies are on the Public Works and Safety Commission and the Library Commission, both for two-year terms ending December 2027, which are posted on the City's website. She stated that applications will be brought back to the Council for review and appointment once received.

Ms. Schmitke also noted that additional applications had been received since Friday but were not presented with at this meeting as they came in after the agenda was posted.

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Ms. Bosley briefly provided background information to the Council regarding her qualifications for the Economic Development Commission vacancy. She expressed frustration that she was not notified that her application would be considered at the January 20 meeting and stated that she believed she was not selected due to her absence from the meeting. Ms. Bosley further stated her opinion that the previous candidate was selected based on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) considerations. Ms. Bosley also addressed the Council regarding concerns she had related to City expenditures.

Orland resident Coreen DeLeon expressed support for the Council appointing an individual to fill the vacancy who is committed to working collaboratively.

Council deferred the presented appointment and directed staff to return at a future meeting with the commissioner appointment procedures.

Economic Development Strategy and Revenue Generation Direction

City Manager Joe Goodman provided an overview of the City's fiscal conditions, noting ongoing structural pressures in the General Fund and emphasizing the need for long-term revenue growth through economic development and an expanded tax base. He highlighted foundational efforts, including the West Side Annexation to support commercial and light industrial growth, and a hotel market study indicating potential for a 90-room hotel.

Mr. Goodman noted that the City currently lacks a formal economic development strategy and outlined potential elements for Council consideration, including targeted industry recruitment, marketing of development sites and the hotel study, evaluation of incentive structures, and potential studies on development impact fees and market absorption. He also discussed options for shifting from a reactive to a proactive approach, such as direct developer outreach, participation in industry conferences, development of marketing materials, and establishment of clear incentive policies.

Orland resident Jan Walker shared that for several years she has heard discussion about a new hotel coming to Orland and asked about the status of those efforts.

Orland resident Earl Megginson spoke about prior discussions related to improving the City's website and increasing advertising to highlight what Orland has to offer, including Black Butte Lake and local businesses.

Ms. Bosley asked about the potential costs to the City associated with participating in trade shows.

County resident Betty Skala suggested exploring grant opportunities that could assist with planning-related projects.

Ms. Baugher requested that Council not forget small businesses, stating they are the core of Orland and a key reason people visit the community.

County resident Becky Johns asked why neighboring Willows appears to be attracting hotel development while Orland is not, and whether Willows is offering incentives.

County resident and downtown business owner Joanie Woods noted that Orland already has a hotel and asked whether the City has reached out to the Orland Inn to see if assistance with improvements is needed. She also suggested increased marketing along the freeway.

County resident Kristi Rumble spoke about population growth in Orland and shared her opinion that businesses may be more interested in locating in the City as it continues to grow.

Orland resident and Economic Development Commission Chair Ron Lane stated that he has visited the Orland Inn but has not received a response from the owner. He also noted that the current freeway exits are not designed to accommodate truck traffic, which may be a challenge given the City's interest in attracting freeway-oriented businesses.

Council held a broad policy discussion on the City's approach to economic development, including whether recruitment efforts should be proactive or reactive, the use and appropriateness of incentives, the competitiveness of current development and impact fees, the need for additional market data, and the level of financial investment the Council is willing to support. Council expressed interest in reducing

impact fees to encourage development and emphasized that objective design standards are necessary to attract investment, noting that developers are less likely to build without clear and predictable standards. Council also discussed exploring investment in fiber internet infrastructure and the potential consideration of a vacant building tax.

Council directed the City Manager to research relevant trade shows, conduct an in-house comparison of development fees with neighboring jurisdictions, explore the feasibility of hosting a roundtable with local developers and property owners, and engage with existing businesses to identify any barriers or areas needing attention to support business expansion within the City.

City Manager Verbal Report

City Manager Joe Goodman provided an update on several ongoing community matters, including that West Side Ambulance would like to present at the next City Council meeting on February 17th.

City Council Communications and Reports

Councilmember McDermott:

- Attended the Glenn County Veterans Stand Down and noted it was very successful.
- Announced that the *Wall that Heals* is coming to Orland March 26-29th and volunteers are needed.
- Shared that the Orland Volunteer Fire Department annual Spaghetti Feed will be held on Saturday, February 11th, from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Vice Mayor Enriquez:

- Attended the CalCities New Mayor and Councilmember Conference.
- Suggested delaying discussion on e-bike safety to reference Chico's plan.
- Requested a future discussion on housing and zoning.

Mayor Barr:

- Attended the CalCities New Mayor and Councilmember Conference.
- Met with Chief Justin Chaney to discuss Fire Department budgeting.

Councilmember Romano:

- Expressed excitement about the near completion of the water tank project.
- Shared it was nice to see the water line project in the alleys between 3rd and 4th, and 4th and 5th Streets underway.
- Noted that the City Planner is working on the west side annexation and objective design standards.

Councilmember Tolle:

- Attended Fire Department training on January 26th.

MEETING ADJOURNED 8:58 PM

Jennifer Schmitke, City Clerk

Terrie Barr, Mayor