



ORLAND CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, February 17, 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, Recreation Manager Olivia Esquivel, City Building Official Wyatt Paxton and City Building Inspector Nic Paxton

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

PUBLIC COMMENTS:
CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Warrant List (Payable Obligations)
- B. Approve City Council Minutes from February 3, 2026
- C. Receive and File Recreation Commission Minutes from October 29, 2025
- D. Receive and File Public Works and Safety Commission Minutes from October 9, 2025
- E. Receive and File Economic Development Commission Minutes from January 13, 2026

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

PRESENTATIONS

Building Department Annual Presentation

Building Official Wyatt Paxton and Building Inspector Nicholas Paxton presented an overview of the Building Department's 2025 operations.

The department is comprised of Wyatt Paxton, Certified Building Official, Plans Examiner, and Inspector, and owner of Paxton Family Inspection Services; Nicholas Paxton, Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer; and Permit Clerk Deysy Simpson.

In 2025, the department issued 304 permits, generating \$508,389 in permit fees. These included 185 building permits, 65 solar permits, 9 electrical permits, 27 mechanical permits, and 18 plumbing permits. The total valuation of permitted projects reached \$35.6 million.

Nic Paxton shared that looking ahead, the department anticipates completing inspections for the CHIP Housing and Village West Haven projects, as well as continuing to work on Purpose Village Phase 2 and 501 Walker Street.

Mayor Barr asked the City Attorney, Mr. Drexel, to explain the difference between fees and taxes. Mr. Drexel provided an overview outlining the legal distinctions between the two.

County resident Sarah Bosley expressed concerns that the numbers presented during the meeting did not align with those shown in the 2022 Building Department presentation. Nic Paxton explained that he obtained the figures directly from iWorQ, the Building Department's software system. Wyatt Paxton further clarified that when he began working for the City in 2022, he collected fees on older permits that had been issued prior to his employment, which may have contributed to discrepancies in reporting.

Chico resident Jeff Krumpneck stated that he was impressed that the Building Department attended the meeting. He expressed appreciation for a department that stays informed on codes and code updates and thanked staff for their service to the community.

Mayor Barr also spoke briefly about the City's financial records, noting past reliability concerns and stating that the City is currently moving forward with transitioning to Tyler. She commented that the Building Department's iWorQ software, the source of Mr. Paxton's information, should be considered reliable, as it is the system the system staff works with daily. However, she acknowledged that the numbers presented did not match previous annual building department presentations and stated she did not have an explanation for the discrepancy at that time. Mayor Barr concluded by stating that the City Manager would return to Council at the next meeting with a budget update.

Hidden Treasures Presentation

Valerie Johnson, owner of Hidden Treasures Cat Sanctuary and Rescue, introduced Jody Putnam, who provided a brief presentation to the Council regarding the nonprofit feline voucher program. Ms. Putnam explained that \$50,000 has been requested to support the spay and neuter voucher program.

Ms. Putnam outlined the program's goals, including humane population control, reducing the spread of disease, decreasing shelter intake, and alleviating the burden on animal control services. She also shared 2025 program statistics and explained that voucher funds would cover veterinary services, surgical supplies and medications, staff time, and related overhead costs.

Mr. Krumpneck expressed his support for Hidden Treasures Cat Sanctuary and stated that trap-neuter-return programs are effective for reducing the feline population.

County resident Elaine Allison shared her experience trapping cats for the past 21 years, noted that Butte County has supported services benefiting Glenn County residents, and expressed her support for Hidden Treasures Cat Sanctuary and its programs.

Orland resident Jan Walker voiced her support for Hidden Treasures Cat Sanctuary and thanked the organization for all they do for the community.

County resident Heather Ledonne expressed her support for Hidden Treasures and the voucher program.

Mayor Barr informed the public that the initial \$25,000 was approved by a previous Council, and set aside in the City's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, with additional funding anticipated from the Glenn County Board of Supervisors. Mayor Barr explained that certain restrictions and conditions were required for the City to distribute the funds. Since those conditions were established, Ms. Johnson has developed a fully operational surgical center with licensed veterinarians on staff, which has received county approval.

Westside Ambulance Presentation

Scott Studybaker, Westside Ambulance Board President, presented a proposal to the Council regarding funding support for the 24-hour ambulance service.

Mr. Studybaker provided historical context, noting that Westside Ambulance has operated a 24-hour ambulance in Orland since the 1930s and has long served as a cornerstone of public safety for the City and surrounding rural areas. He explained that while the service itself is not new, the financial landscape has significantly changed. Rising operational costs, including wages, benefits, fuel, medications, equipment, insurance, and capital replacement, combined with declining reimbursements, have resulted in an annual operating deficit.

Mr. Studybaker reported that the 24-hour ambulance generates approximately \$1.16 million in annual revenue based on average call volume; however, total annual operating and capital costs are approximately \$1.42 million, resulting in a yearly shortfall of roughly \$266,000, or about \$22,200 per month.

He emphasized that Westside Ambulance is a local nonprofit governed by volunteer board members who reside in the community and are committed to maintaining local control and long-term service stability. He stated that the organization views the 24-hour ambulance as essential public safety infrastructure, comparable to police and fire services.

Mr. Studybaker respectfully requested that the City of Orland partner with Westside Ambulance by committing approximately \$266,000 annually to cover the operational shortfall. He stated that this support would ensure the continuation of a locally controlled, 24/7 advanced life-support ambulance service in Orland, maintain response times, and preserve reliable emergency medical services for the community.

Ms. Bosley asked several questions regarding Westside's 90+ Accounts Receivable related to the insurance billing side and inquired about the structure and terms of the partnership contract.

Mr. Studybaker, along with Westside staff members, provided clarification and additional information in response to her questions.

Councilmembers engaged in discussion, asked clarifying questions, and expressed their appreciation for the presentation. They acknowledged that Westside Ambulance is a critical asset to the community and thanked its representatives for bringing the proposal forward for consideration.

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

Westside Ambulance Service Funding Discussion

City Manager Joe Goodman provided an overview of the City's financial participation in local ambulance services. He explained that the City currently participates in two funding arrangements: a cost-sharing agreement with Glenn County for a 12-hour ambulance unit based in Orland (approximately \$17,800 per month), and a direct subsidy to Westside Ambulance for a 24-hour primary ambulance (approximately \$17,000 per month). The 24-hour subsidy concluded in December 2025 and was not included in the adopted FY 2025-26 budget.

Mr. Goodman reviewed operational and financial considerations, noting that while the 12-hour unit improves response times and service coverage, it is not economically viable on its own. He stated that one ambulance unit is the most efficient operating model financially, but two units provide greater service reliability and redundancy. He also emphasized that a significant portion of service calls originate outside City limits, raising the policy question of how costs should be shared regionally.

Preliminary estimates indicate the 12-hour unit may require approximately \$200,000 from the City in 2026. Continuing both subsidies at prior levels would total roughly \$400,000 annually and would require a budget amendment and identification of a funding source.

Mr. Goodman outlined policy options for Council consideration:

1. Maintain both the 12-hour and 24-hour units at current service levels.
2. Focus financial support on the 24-hour unit only.
3. Discontinue City subsidy participation entirely.

Mr. Studybaker stated that Westside Ambulance plans to meet with representatives from the City and the County in the coming weeks to present a proposal outlining the funding request necessary to operate the 12-hour ambulance. He also discussed the positive impact the 12-hour unit has had in supporting the Orland Volunteer Fire Department, including improved response capacity and service reliability.

Orland resident Daniel Louder expressed his support for continued funding of Westside Ambulance services.

Orland resident Earl Megginson voiced concerns regarding the lack of financial participation from the City of Willows and the County in supporting Westside Ambulance services.

Orland resident Ron Lane expressed concern about the City of Willows not contributing toward the funding of ambulance services.

Councilmembers asked additional questions regarding Westside's financials and discussed the importance of continuing to support Westside Ambulance, acknowledging it as a valuable community resource. The Council expressed interest in reconvening the ambulance ad hoc committee following completion of the ambulance study and shared their hope that moving forward Glenn County and the City of Willows would fund ambulance services alongside the City of Orland.

ACTION: Vice Mayor Alex Enriquez moved, seconded by Councilmember Romano, to approve funding for Westside Ambulance's 24-hour ambulance service in the amount of \$22,200 per month, utilizing Measure J funds for calendar year 2026. The motion included the condition that the Council revisit the funding arrangement upon completion of the ambulance study. Motion carried by a voice vote 5-0.

Commission Appointment Procedures and Proposed Standardized Process

City Manager Joe Goodman presented a report regarding City commission appointment procedures following Council's request for clarification on consistency and applicant communication.

Mr. Goodman explained that the City currently has six commissions established by ordinance: Planning, Library, Arts, Economic Development, Public Works & Safety, and Parks & Recreation. While all commissioners are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council, interview requirements vary by commission under the Municipal Code. He noted that the City has historically followed an informal administrative process to manage vacancies, reappointments, and recruitment.

The report outlined existing ordinance requirements, including residency provisions and commission-specific interview panels for the Planning Commission and Public Works & Safety Commission. Staff identified several concerns with the current process, including inconsistent communication with applicants, limited applicant pools, procedural variations between commissions, and the absence of a formally adopted Council policy.

Mr. Goodman presented a proposed standardized appointment process to improve transparency and consistency. The proposal includes:

- A defined annual recruitment timeline;
- A formal communication protocol to ensure applicants receive confirmation, interview notification, and final status updates;
- Standardized interview procedures consistent with Municipal Code requirements;
- Enhanced recruitment efforts, including expanded public outreach; and
- Improved documentation and tracking of commission terms and vacancies.

Staff recommended adoption of the standardized process by resolution to formalize the administrative framework while preserving Council flexibility. In addition, staff recommended two Municipal Code amendments to update outdated position titles in the Planning Commission ordinance and to remove the mandatory interview panel requirement for the Public Works & Safety Commission. Draft ordinances were presented for Council direction.

Councilmembers asked questions regarding the process for notifying applicants and discussed both current and future interview procedures.

City Attorney Scott Drexel addressed the Council and recommended omitting Section 5B from Exhibit A, which referenced interview procedures for other commissions. He advised that interviews should be required only for the Planning Commission and stated that applicants for other commissions may be considered directly by the Council without a formal interview process.

ACTION: Councilmember McDermott moved, seconded by Councilmember Romano, to adopt Resolution 2026-03 establishing a Standardized Commission Appointment Process as an administrative policy of the City, including language clarifying that the policy is directory in

nature and does not create enforceable rights for applicants. The motion included amendments to omit Section 5B and to revise Section 5C to state that interviews for other commissions shall be conducted at a publicly noticed meeting at City Hall. Motion carried by a voice vote 5-0.

Council reached consensus to direct staff to prepare an ordinance amending OMC 2.32.030 to replace the title "Community Services Director" with "Community Development Director or designee," and to amend OMC 2.36.030 to remove the mandatory interview panel requirement for the Public Works & Safety Commission and to bring that ordinance back for introduction at a future meeting.

Proposal to rename Lely West Field

Recreation Manager Olivia Esquivel presented a recommendation from the Recreation Commission for a request to name the Lely West baseball field in honor of Bob Boyles and Wes Wilson.

Both individuals were longtime Little League coaches and played a key role in the original development and construction of the field. Staff recommended naming the facility 'Boyles Wilson Field' to honor their lasting contributions and legacy in youth recreation within the Orland community.

Debbie Boyle, wife of Bob Boyle, spoke on behalf of the two gentlemen and stated that she was the individual who originally approached the Recreation Commission regarding the proposed field name change. Ms. Boyle spoke about the significant contributions the men made toward the creation of the field and their longstanding service to the community.

Councilmembers discussed the request and expressed general support for recognizing the individuals' contributions. However, the Council also acknowledged the importance of consulting with the Lely family, for whom the park is currently named, to gather their input regarding any potential renaming of the field. Mayor Barr suggested the idea of installing storyboards at Lely Park to share the history of the park and the individuals associated with it, providing the public with greater historical context.

Following discussion, Council directed staff to reach out to the Lely family and deferred the item to a future meeting pending additional information.

City Manager Verbal Report

City Manager Joe Goodman provided an update on several ongoing community matters. He shared that he recently attended the Cal Cities City Manager Conference and provided a brief overview of key discussions and networking opportunities.

He reported that work on the Walker Street Well is currently underway.

For the alley water main project, all water mains have been installed, and the next phase will include completing the individual water services.

The City Engineer has submitted the City Dump grant application to CalRecycle, and a related resolution will be brought forward to the City Council for consideration at an upcoming meeting.

Rebecca Webster is continuing to work diligently on aligning department head budgets within Tyler, and a detailed report will be presented at the next Council meeting.

Lastly, applications for the Community Enrichment Committee will be brought before the Council in the near future for review and consideration.

City Council Communications and Reports

Councilmember McDermott:

- Attended the Economic Development Commission meeting
- Attended the Fire Department Spaghetti feed
- Volunteer fire fighters will be going door to door March 1st in County and March 8th in City limits

Vice Mayor Enriquez:

- Attended the Fire Department Spaghetti feed
- Attended the Recreation Commission meeting
- Would like Planning Commission to discuss zoning and housing

Mayor Barr:

- Attended the CalCities board meeting
- Attended the Fire Department Spaghetti feed
- Would like to see on a future agenda item: Budget Accountability past, present and future

Councilmember Romano:

- Nothing to Report

Councilmember Tolle:

- Attended Fire Department spaghetti feed
- Attended the Public Works and Safety Commission (PWSC) meeting

MEETING ADJOURNED 9:07 PM

Jennifer Schmitke, City Clerk

Terrie Barr, Mayor