

## ORDINANCE NO. 23-1007

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### AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF OREGON CITY DESIGNATING THE PROPERTY KNOWN AS THE ERMATINGER HOUSE AS A PARK UNDER OREGON CITY CHARTER CHAPTER X

**WHEREAS**, the City of Oregon City acquired Lot 4 in Block 63, of the Plat of Oregon City by Clackamas County deed Book 459, Page 716, recorded on August 15, 1952; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Oregon City acquired Lot 3 in Block 63 as well as a portion of the adjacent vacated alley of the Plat of Oregon City by Clackamas County deed Book 327, Page 642, recorded on July 3, 1944;

**WHEREAS**, more specifically the legal description of Lot 3 in Block 63, and part of the vacated alley in said block of the Plat of Oregon City, was more specifically identified by legal description in the deed as:

“Beginning at the most southerly corner of Lot 3 on John Adams Street; thence westerly on the line between Lots 3 and 4, a distance of 105.00 feet, more or less, to the most westerly corner of said Lot 3; thence northeasterly parallel with John Adams Street, 71.00 feet, more or less, to the center of the vacated alley in said block; thence easterly at right angles to John Adams Street, 52.50 feet, to a point; thence northeasterly parallel with John Adams Street, 5.00, feet to a point; thence easterly at right angles to John Adams Street 52.50 feet to John Adams Street; thence southerly along John Adams Street 76.00 feet, more or less to the place of beginning”; and

**WHEREAS**, the Ermatinger House has a storied history having been built c. 1843 for Francis Ermatinger, a key official of the Hudson’s Bay Company, and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1977; and

**WHEREAS**, although the structure was relocated a few times, its final move was in 1987 to its current location by preservationist Ruth McBride Powers who entered into an agreement with the City of Oregon City whereby Mrs. McBride Powers would acquire the house, move it to its current location on land owned by the City and then restore the house with the purpose that the house would eventually be owned and operated as a historic tourist facility; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. McBride Powers passed in 1995 and her family, wanting to maintain their mother’s legacy, gifted the house and loaned the contents of the house to the City of Oregon City for the continued operation as a pioneer museum; said gift deed was recorded at Clackamas County as 96-059135; and

**WHEREAS**, the 1999 Parks Master Plan identified the Ermatinger House as a developed park being used as a museum and the 2008 Parks Master Plan described the house as being the oldest existing house in Clackamas County and one of the most historically significant; and

**WHEREAS**, the status of Oregon City’s parks as charter parks has been discussed by the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC) and the City Commission on multiple occasions going back to at least 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, designating the Ermatinger House as a park under Chapter X of the City Charter would ensure protection of the park by preventing the transfer, sale, vacation or major changes to the Ermatinger House without a legal vote of the people which is also in accordance with the wishes of Ms. McBride Powers and her family; and

**WHEREAS**, at a City Commission Work Session on January 10, 2023, consensus was reached to designate the Ermatinger House as a charter park and staff was directed to prepare an ordinance for adoption by the City Commission recognizing the Ermatinger House as a Charter Park.

**NOW, THEREFORE, OREGON CITY ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1.** The Ermatinger House, identified as the structure and land located at Lot 4 in Block 63, as well as Lot 3 in Block 63, and a portion of the vacated alley adjacent to Lot 3, of the Plat of Oregon City, with the boundaries as shown on the map attached to this Ordinance as Exhibit A, is hereby designated as a park in accordance with the Charter of Oregon City, Chapter X, Section 43, creating a permanent park for the enjoyment of the citizens of Oregon City.

Read for the first time at a regular meeting of the City Commission held on the 17th day of May, 2023, and the City Commission finally enacted the foregoing Ordinance this 21<sup>st</sup> day of June, 2023.

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DENYSE C. MCGRUFF, Mayor

Attested to this 21st day of June 2023:

Approved as to legal sufficiency:

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Jakob S. Wiley, City Recorder

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City Attorney

Attachment:  
Exhibit A –Map of Park