



ORLAND CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, October 6, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Barr at 6:00 PM.

ROLL CALL

Councilmembers Present: Councilmembers JC Tolle, John McDermott, Wade Elliott, Vice Mayor Alex Enriquez, and Mayor Terrie Barr

Councilmembers Absent: None

Staff Present: Interim City Manager Justin Chaney, City Clerk Jennifer Schmitke, City Attorney Scott Drexel, Library Director Jody Meza, Olivia Esquivel, Recreation Manager, Finance Director Joanne Moore

CITIZENS COMMENTS ON CLOSED SESSION - None

MEETING ADJOURNED TO CLOSED SESSION AT 6:01 PM

CLOSED SESSION ENDED AND RECONVENED TO REGULAR SESSION AT 6:20 PM

REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION - *City Council met in Closed Session with City staff and City Attorney Scott Drexel to discuss conference with real property negotiators, as posted on the agenda. Pursuant to Government Code § 54956.8.*

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Yvonna Bennett, County Resident: Shared concerns regarding multiple public records requests.

Earl Megginson, Orland Resident: Requested an update on the Sixth Street water tank. Mr. Chaney reported that the parts have been installed and PG&E has been working on the site.

Jeffrey Tolley, Orland Resident: Asked questions regarding the community garbage day.

Kristy Rumble, County Resident: Inquired about the sidewalk project.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Warrant List (Payable Obligations)
- B. Approve City Council Minutes for September 15, 2026
- C. Approval of a Side Letter Agreement with UPEC, LiUNA Local 792 Amending the Salary Range for the Accounting Technician II Classification, and Adoption of an Amended General Unit Salary Schedule Effective October 15, 2026
- D. Approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Orland and USA Waste of California, Inc (DBA Waste Management)
- E. Request for Contract Service with Tyler Technologies for Year-End Payroll Processing Support

Vice Mayor Enriquez requested corrections to his comments in the Council Communications section of the September 15 meeting minutes.

Mayor Barr asked to pull item D to discuss.

ACTION: Councilmember Elliott moved, seconded by Councilmember Vice Mayor Enriquez to approve items A, B, C and E on the Consent Calendar with the corrections mentioned to minutes. The motion carried by a voice vote, 5-0.

Mayor Barr expressed concerns and asked questions regarding Waste Management exemptions for Orland residents, vacant businesses, and vacant properties. City staff discussed the exemption process at City Hall, and Joel Burbank provided information regarding exemptions and expressed his appreciation for the partnership.

ACTION: Mayor Barr moved, seconded by Councilmember Tolle, to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion carried by a voice vote, 5-0.

Orland resident Janice Noffsinger asked questions regarding a neighbor's need for an exemption. Mayor Barr advised that the neighbor should contact City Hall to discuss the circumstances and determine what exemption may be needed.

PRESENTATION

Lisa Rhodes of Pioneer Community Energy provided an update on the City's planned participation in the Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) program, with service scheduled to launch in October 2027. She outlined Pioneer's planned public education and outreach efforts, including direct mail, media campaigns, town hall meetings, and presentations to community organizations. Pioneer will coordinate with City staff to develop outreach strategies and educate residents and businesses about the program. There is no fiscal impact to the City for these efforts.

Councilmember Elliott asked when a Councilmember would be selected to serve on the Pioneer Board. Ms. Rhoads stated that the selection would take place after the election to include the newly elected Councilmembers. Councilmember Elliott also asked how GridGen differs from other solar sales occurring in the community. Ms. Rhoads explained that GridGen operates based on customer requests and does not conduct door-to-door sales.

Councilmember Tolle asked about the community's ability to opt out of the service. Ms. Rhoads provided information regarding the opt-out process. Councilmember McDermott expressed appreciation for the community's ability to opt out if residents choose not to participate.

Mayor Barr asked about the cost of electricity through PG&E compared to Pioneer. Ms. Rhoads explained that Pioneer purchases electricity for participating residents and businesses, establishes its own electricity-generation rates, and offers energy options as a public, locally governed agency. PG&E continues to maintain the electrical infrastructure, read meters, respond to outages, and provide monthly billing. Customers continue to receive a consolidated bill from PG&E that includes Pioneer's generation charges and PG&E's delivery and other applicable charges. Pioneer's generation charge replaces PG&E's generation charge rather than adding a second charge for the same electricity.

Orland resident Ron Lane asked about the opt-out process, including how easily customers could opt out without incurring a fee. He also shared an acquaintance's experience with the process. Ms. Rhoads stated that there is no charge to opt out and that the process takes only a few minutes to complete.

Orland resident Janice Noffsinger asked whether customers would continue to receive discounts through PG&E, including the California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE) program. Ms. Rhoads stated that existing discounts would remain the same.

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

Community Visioning Discussion - "What's Next for Orland?"

Interim City Manager Justin Chaney introduced a discussion regarding ideas and priorities for Orland's future in anticipation of the incoming City Manager. The Council invited community input on potential projects, programs, and improvements to enhance Orland's quality of life, economic development, and community pride.

Mr. Lane shared that the Economic Development Commission (EDC) would like to meet with a representative from Caltrans to discuss projects along the Highway 32 corridor, including improved lighting for the bee sculptures along Interstate 5. He also discussed making vacant businesses and lots more presentable and improving the overall appearance of downtown. Mr. Lane spoke about potential funding for EDC projects and suggested updating the restrooms at the Library, Lely Park, and Vinsonhaler Park. He also emphasized the need for sidewalks connecting the City to Lely Park to provide children with a safe route to the park.

Ms. Rumble asked about the City's financial capacity for project planning. Mr. Chaney explained that the budget has been established and that any newly selected projects would need to be considered in a future budget. Ms. Rumble also expressed interest in improving the lighting on the bee sculptures and addressing downtown trees that obstruct business signs.

Orland resident Betty Skala expressed interest in showcasing the downtown area through murals, park improvements, and additional art and sculptures to attract visitors. Ms. Skala offered to assist with these efforts in any way she could.

County resident Joannie Woods encouraged the City to take a proactive approach to improving the community and raising standards for downtown businesses and public spaces. She discussed the need to improve streets and concrete block light stands in front of businesses and address lighting concerns. Ms. Woods also suggested completing projects with attention to detail, including exploring mosaics or artwork on the concrete blocks where the light poles were. She expressed the need for additional public restrooms downtown and suggested increased code enforcement for businesses with poorly maintained properties. She also shared concerns regarding transients in the community.

Orland resident Sharon Lazorko suggested adding rails to downtown concrete blocks to improve accessibility. She also recommended providing landscaping options for property owners who need assistance and exploring grant opportunities to support these efforts. Ms. Lazorko encouraged the community to look at Orland with fresh eyes to identify ways to improve its appearance.

Ms. Rumble asked about the possibility of adding benches downtown. Mayor Barr suggested that she attend an EDC meeting to discuss the idea and receive direction from the Commission.

County resident Susie Smith suggested holding two or more community meetings each year to encourage broader participation and provide residents with opportunities to share ideas and suggestions. She also recommended having an interpreter available to assist with translation.

Mayor Barr expressed support for holding a town hall meeting to create a more welcoming and accessible environment for community input. Councilmember McDermott agreed, noting the importance of incorporating a Spanish-language component to encourage meaningful dialogue. Councilmember Elliott agreed that a more relaxed community gathering could encourage greater participation. Councilmember Enriquez also supported the idea and suggested reaching out to local schools to gather input and perspectives from youth. Councilmember Tolle expressed support for a town hall meeting and suggested considering a "Coffee with Council" event.

Mayor Barr stated that the City should ensure code enforcement addresses areas of concern throughout the community once a new City Manager is selected.

Orland resident Janice Noffsinger suggested establishing a Boys & Girls Club in Orland.

City Manager Verbal Report

Mr. Chaney reported that City Hall is back to being fully staffed and the office is back open Mondays through Fridays, 9 a.m.- 5 p.m.

The City has received 18 applications, and a closed session meeting will be set for October 13th to discuss the applicants. The formal interviews are set for October 20th and 21st.

Mr. Chaney discussed obtaining an appraisal for the property located at 824 Fourth Street. Council authorized staff to explore obtaining an appraisal.

Mr. Chaney shared that the 24/25 auditors were on site and in December the final results then they will work on the 25/26 audit.

City Council Communications and Reports

Councilmember Elliott: nothing to report

Mayor Barr: nothing to report.

Councilmember McDermott: nothing to report.

Councilmember Tolle: nothing to report.

Vice Mayor Enriquez: nothing to report.

MEETING ADJOURNED 7:51 PM

Jennifer Schmitke, City Clerk

Terrie Barr, Mayor