

OWENSBORO BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Work Session

March 10, 2020 12:00 PM

Owensboro City Hall

101 E. 4th Street

Owensboro, Kentucky

1. CALL TO ORDER - Mayor Tom Watson

Present: Mayor Tom Watson, Commissioners Pam Smith-Wright, Larry Conder and Jeff Sanford

Unavailable: Mayor Pro Tem Larry Maglinger

2. GREAT RACE UPDATE – Dave Kirk, Visit Owensboro, presented information on The Great Race, which will take place on June 24th in downtown Owensboro. The long-standing event is estimated to bring between 5,000 and 10,000 visitors and downtown hotels are already sold out. The race, which consists of pre-1974 cars, starts in San Antonio, Texas and will make its way cross-country to Greenville, SC. Typically, there are about 500 people associated with the race. Past host cities include San Antonio, Buffalo, Orlando, Nova Scotia, and Anaheim. The event will include a festival with the cars parked along Veteran's Boulevard; vendors, bands and food trucks on hand.

3. 2020 – 2025 CONSOLIDATED PLAN – Ms. Abby Shelton presented the 2020 – 2025 Consolidated Plan (presentation attached). The Plan, which is required for communities who receive CDBG and HOME funds, will be formally presented to the Commission on April 7 for approval. Planning meetings of the Northwest Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area (NRSA) have been on going with input from the community, specifically from the residents and business owners within the NRSA. The top three (3) priority needs are: 1) Increase and maintain affordable housing stock; 2) Support and invest in economic growth and 3) Provide other non-homeless public services. Suggested programs include: First time homebuyer (cannot have owned a home in past three years), commercial façade rehab, existing homeowner rehab, landscape improvements on 1st and 2nd Streets, sidewalk connections, safety lighting enhancements, bus stop installations, downspout removal program and rental rehab. A new senior center is separate from the Plan but could benefit from the NRSA designation. CDBG allocation for 2020 is \$499,972 and HOME funds are \$266,184. Ms. Shelton hopes to increase home ownership to 60%, up from the current 35%. Estimated five (5) year investments are \$3,675,000 for public and \$3,798,000 for private (total of \$7,473,000). Mayor Watson commented that visual impacts have been seen on prior projects; however, Triplett Twist did not seem to have as much. He asked if the area would be visually cataloged before and after the project. Ms. Shelton explained there would be before and after photos taken and that Triplett Twist had a large financial focus on housing rehab and Gabe's Shopping Center; therefore, the visual impact may not have been as noticeable. Commissioner Conder commented on the potential need for extra staff to assist with the upcoming large project.

4. OWENSBORO FIRE DEPARTMENT 2019 ANNUAL REPORT – Chief James Howard presented the 2019 OFD Annual Report (presentation attached). Of note: Training hours were up 20% and Fire and Life Safety Inspections were up 10% from the previous year. The average response time was improved by 24 seconds from 2018. Chief Howard complimented staff and the family unit involved with firefighters.

5. CITY PROJECT LIST – Brief comments were given by staff on the projects that were also contained within the update. Of note: Gabe's Tower will not be imploded. Next week, the Glover Cary Bridge should have 400' of one lane closed to begin work. Drivers should expect delays in the afternoon.

6. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 1:11 p.m. upon motion of Mayor Watson with a second by Commissioner Sanford.

Thomas H. Watson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Beth Cecil, City Clerk