

OWENSBORO BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Special Called Meeting
May 27, 2020 12:00 PM
City Hall
101 E. 4th Street
Owensboro, KY 42303

1. CALL TO ORDER - Mayor Tom Watson

2. ROLL CALL - City Clerk Beth Cecil

Present:

Mayor Tom Watson

Mayor Pro Tem Larry Maglinger

Commissioner Pam Smith-Wright

Commissioner Larry Conder

Commissioner Jeff Sanford

3. 2020-2021 BUDGET PRESENTATION - City Manager Pagan, along with members of the staff, presented the budget presentation (copy attached). The \$128,574,851 budget is divided into five categories: General Fund, Special Revenue Funds, Capital Projects Funds, Enterprise Funds, and the Internal Service Funds. City Manager Pagan requested a three percent (3%) cost of living increase for city employees. No proposed tax rate changes are requested. COVID-19 Implications of \$2,027,551 include: \$1,506,384 in Reduced Revenue (\$1.1M in Occupational Tax, Net Profits of \$250,000 and Municipal Road Aid of \$143,078); \$321,167 in Higher Subsidies (Convention Center, Sportscenter and Parks events); and a Contingency of \$200,000 for future needs. We did receive a COVID-19 related Transit Grant which offset the General Fund Transit transfer of \$994,256.

Mayor Watson asked Tim Ross, Public Events Director about the possibility of restructuring the Barbecue Festival to bring it back to its original theme or reinventing itself. Mr. Ross explained within the past few years, the Board has worked to bring back the barbecue theme. Commissioner Smith-Wright suggested opening up the church cooking teams to other denominations to rebuild the cooking teams. Mayor Watson suggested the use of Towne Square Mall parking lot to host a music event which would allow for social distancing.

Mayor Watson asked about the future of the Senior Center. Ms. Abby Shelton, Community Development Director, explained that some developers were not aware of the application opportunity for historic accreditation which would allow them to receive tax credit dollars. Also, the developers could not make the numbers work to build a new facility, therefore, other options are being reviewed.

There was discussion on the estimated subsidies for Edge Ice Center (\$243,806), Ben Hawes (\$628,409) and Hillcrest Golf Courses (\$125,631). Mayor Watson again suggested naming one of the football fields at Waymond Morris Park after Houston Hogg. There was a consensus from the Commission and Mrs. Rogers will look into it.

City Manager Pagan noted on the Agency Funding slides – since Friday After 5 cancelled their series this summer, the City will hold the budgeted funds from 19-20 for use next year. The United Way Vision Grant is a new line item which has flexibility for funding agencies at the discretion of the Board of Commissioners. Mayor Watson requested the Sister Cities (Japanese line item) be addressed since there is no longer contact with them. He suggested the funds be appropriated to another agency in need. Commissioner Conder commented that OMPC received no increase. City Manager Pagan explained that OMPC receives fees for their services and they have not needed an increase. Mayor Pro Tem Maglinger asked how much funding OMPC receives from the County. Pagan responded that there is a joint ordinance that dictates how much funding each governmental agency provides – it is currently \$159,510. Commissioner Smith-Wright and Mayor Watson both suggested that Sister Cities should have an economic aspect versus the social aspect it currently maintains. Mayor Watson mentioned the possibility of finding a Sister City within the United States that has similar characteristics of Owensboro and learn from each other leaning toward economic development.

Questions and comments were received from the elected officials and appropriate city staff responded.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m. upon motion made by Commissioner Smith-Wright, seconded by Commissioner Sanford and carried unanimously.

Thomas H. Watson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Beth Cecil, City Clerk