

OWENSBORO BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**Special Called Meeting
Work Session
September 8, 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; Mayor Pro Tem Larry Maglinger was unavailable.

2. **ELECTRIC SCOOTERS** – Nick Tharp (506 W. 15th Street) presented a concept for offering electric scooters (Bird) in the City, focusing on the downtown area and colleges. Mr. Tharp would be responsible for collecting, charging and maintaining the scooters; Bird is responsible for insurance coverage while receiving a percentage of each ride. Scooters could be rented from the station and dropped once the rider is finished; another rider can pick up to go from there. Riders must be 18 years of age, no license is required, may not be ridden on the sidewalk or Greenbelt (as ordinance is currently written) and a helmet is recommended. The concept involves an application being downloaded to a smart phone whereby the rider can locate the available scooter, agree to terms and make payment. Text service is available for those without smart phones. Riders must agree to be age 18 or older to ride and follow all laws and rules (which are customizable). No-ride zones can be installed to prevent the scooters from being taken into specific areas and slow zones can be installed to lower the speed in certain areas. The scooters can easily be moved to different locales within the City based upon occurring events. Bird estimates that Owensboro is rated for three hundred (300) scooters, however, Mr. Tharp would like to start with one hundred (100). The application contains many customizable settings, to include a Preferred Parking Area (PPA). If the scooter is left at a location other than the PPA, the application will encourage the rider to drop off at the PPA. This could help with the scooters accumulating outside of the stations.

Lelan Hancock, Assistant City Manager, explained that the popular scooters are in both Louisville and Lexington and each city has ordinances governing them. They are designed to be ridden on streets and bike lanes and are prohibited from sidewalks, parks, and the Greenbelt. One current ordinance protects the downtown area which also prohibits bicycles, skateboards, inline skates, etc., in the Smothers Park area. An amendment will need to be made to the ordinance if the scooters are allowed. Geo-fencing can be set up to protect no-ride areas. Major Winkler said the Police Department's (OPD) primary concern is the requirement to be age sixteen (16) years of age to operate a vehicle vs. scooter riders need to be eighteen (18); it could be hard to control. He also expressed concern with the negative impact it

could have on the community relationship with OPD. There was general conversation on golf carts in neighborhoods and the illegality of them.

3. NORTHWEST NRSA – Abby Shelton, Community Development Director presented proposed projects for the Northwest NRSA (presentation attached). Over the next five (5) years, the City is expected to invest over \$3.8 million in federal funding (both HOME and CDBG funds) in the area. The presentation includes the assumption that the City will invest \$500,000 in local funds. Several programs were presented for consideration. City Manager Pagan explained the local funds are less restrictive than the federal funding, thus it can be beneficial for residential owners. Mayor Watson asked for the HUD contact in Louisville to discuss the delay in the City receiving Cares Act Funds that are earmarked for use in the OBKY Rental Assistance program. Options are being explored for a new Senior Center and the property is not a part of the Northwest NRSA. Commissioner Sanford suggested creating a smaller boundary to see more of an impact in a closer proximity. Mayor Watson requested frequent updates on the project.
4. SANITATION ORDINANCE UPDATE – Public Works Director Wayne Shelton presented proposed changes to the current sanitation ordinance (presentation attached).
5. CITY PROJECT LIST – Attached – no discussion.
6. ADJOURNMENT – There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm upon motion of Mayor Watson with a second from Commissioner Sanford and carried unanimously.