

## **OWENSBORO BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

### **Special Called Meeting**

#### **Work Session**

**June 8, 2021 3:30 PM**

Owensboro City Hall

101 E. 4th Street

Owensboro, Kentucky

### **1. CALL TO ORDER - Mayor Tom Watson**

Present: Mayor Tom Watson, Commissioners Larry Maglinger, Mark Castlen and Bob Glenn. Commissioner Jeff Sanford was unavailable.

**2. DOWNTOWN TRAFFIC** – City Engineer Kevin Collignon presented findings of a downtown traffic study for Second Street (attached). The five (5) year crash history on Second Street between Daviess and Frederica Streets revealed one (1) vehicular/pedestrian collision, most accidents were rear end and side swipe collisions (not speed factors), and there were two (2) incidents of vehicles running up over the curb. He spoke about different options that had been suggested to him: 1) Speed Bump; 2) All Way Stop or Complete Signal Desynchronization; 3) Shift Café Seating; or 4) Lower Speed Limit. Various options and opinions were discussed, to include the loud noise from vehicles. Signal desynchronization was discussed in depth. Officer Contratto gave a brief update on his recent downtown patrols. He said their numerous studies over the past few years show the average speed is acceptable, they've had one noise ordinance enforcement which was for bass in a car, there is no ATV issue and a low percentage of the problem is noise. Tim Ross, Public Events Director added that a handful of the businesses within the closure are appreciative to the Friday night street closure, the noise issue is when there is an event going on, the restaurants realize the road will not be closed all the time and they appreciate the effort. They agree with the idea of the café seating being moved more toward the buildings. At the request of Mayor Watson, City Manager Pagan will look into the legality of restricting license vehicles by type. Lisa Aull (Lil Bit Sassy owner) stated the official *We Are Downtown* board was dissolved three (3) years ago and their Facebook is still active and she wanted to express that the group does not represent everyone. She also mentioned the placement of benches, planters and the encroachment for restaurants. Steve Jarvis (307 Links Cove) spoke against closing Second Street for any purpose.

**3. AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT** – Mrs. Waninger gave a presentation on the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund) – presentation attached. Mayor Watson asked if the funds could be combined with other governments for projects, to include another county that is not in the county seat. Mrs. Waninger said she believes there is no prohibition of joining with another government (city/county) for a project; however, she is unsure about a partnership outside of the county seat.

**4. FIREWORKS** – Battalion Chief/Fire Marshal Steve Leonard gave a brief presentation on Fireworks. Seasonal vendors have a list of requirements that have to be met prior to opening their free standing booths that can operate between June 10 and July 7. Owensboro Fire Department inspects each vendor facility and their inventory. BC Leonard covered the Fireworks Ordinance and laws.

**5. CITY PROJECT LIST** – City Manager Pagan said the applications for the Northwest NRSA went live in May and thirty-one (31) applications have been received with an investment of One Hundred Ninety Three Thousand (\$193,000) of local/federal and Three Hundred Twenty-Eight Thousand (\$328,000) of private funds. Mayor Watson requested the budget amounts be listed for each project.

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 4:41 p.m. by acclimation.

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Thomas H. Watson, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Beth Davis, City Clerk