

OWENSBORO BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Work Session

July 13, 2021 12:00 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, Bob Glenn and Jeff Sanford.

2. LEADERSHIP OWENSBORO PROJECT – Drew Hardesty and Emilee Woosley, Leadership Owensboro Class of 2021 graduates, presented a video pitching an idea for creating a Brews & Tunes Trolley. The concept is to sell wristbands at the Convention Center so that riders (age 21 and up) can ride the city-owned trolley to visit various bars and restaurant establishments. This would include a specified cup for alcoholic beverages and utilizing a set transit route. Musicians would be scheduled in partnership with Visit Owensboro to ensure live music is on the trolley, which would make the trolley a destination attraction. They would like to have the trolley service available beyond the area of The District. Set times and days have not been established. Ms. Woosley said the trolley service could be a quieter option over the pedal taverns and a savings since the City already owns the trolley. The proceeds from the wristbands/cups would be available to assist with the cost of trolley maintenance, driver, etc. There was discussion related to having designated parking spots for Uber and Lyft for riders as they finish with their ride. The elected officials' complimented the concept.

3. SPECTRA BOOKING GUIDELINES & UPDATE – General Manager Laura Alexander presented the FY 21-22 plan for both the Convention Center and Sportscenter (presentation attached). The largest revenue generator is food and beverage.

4. OMU CUSTOMER SUPPORT – Kevin Frizzell, General Manager, gave a presentation on Customer Support and the COVID-19 challenges (presentation attached). At the beginning of the pandemic, OMU suspended disconnections, waived late fees and reconnected those that had been recently disconnected. Toward the end of December 2020 and early January 2021, the disconnects were reinstated. COVID payment plans were set up for those that needed assistance, and to date there is still \$316,000 outstanding in the plan. Community Cares Program has been in existence for many years and assists OMU patrons struggling to pay their bill. OMU, its employees and citizens can donate to the program. The Salvation Army administers the program for no administration fee and vets the OMU customers for need. The goal for their telecommunication service is to have fiber-to-home throughout the city in two and a half (2 ½) years. Each year, approximately \$250,000 is written off as uncollectible and that amount has gone up during COVID. City Manager Pagan added that both the City and County each donated \$300,000 to the Green River CARES Fund which also provided financial assistance with utilities.

5. TIF UPDATE – Director of Finance and Support Services Angela Waninger presented an update (presentation attached). Mayor Watson asked what the outcome would be if the third downtown hotel is not built. Mrs. Waninger responded that according to the TIF consultant and based on the construction taken place so far, the State award could potentially go down from \$24.5M to \$9M. The difference would have to come from the General Fund. The third hotel is the single largest revenue producer of the Downtown TIF, mainly based on sales tax. Any material changes to the TIF have to be reported and negotiated with the State. If a different hotel is built, Mrs. Waninger does not see that as a material change, however, it would need to be in the state/local footprint.

6. CITY PROJECT LIST – City Manager Pagan will get back with Commissioner Glenn to confirm the current building material costs of Fire Station #2 have been updated in the construction cost.

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 1:23 p.m. by motion of Mayor Watson and second from Commissioner Glenn.

Thomas H. Watson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Beth Davis, City Clerk