

OWENSBORO BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Work Session

September 14, 2021 12:00 PM

Owensboro City Hall

101 E. 4th Street

Owensboro, Kentucky

1. CALL TO ORDER - Mayor Tom Watson

2. ROLL CALL – Present - Mayor Tom Watson, Commissioners Larry Maglinger, Mark Castlen, Bob Glenn and Jeff Sanford.

3. EMS TECHNOLOGIES – Lt. Brad Leonard, Owensboro Fire Department, discussed and demonstrated the newly acquired emergency medical services enhancement, LUCAS 3 Chest Compression System. The device allows CPR efficiency to go up 80% since there is no interrupted CPR. The system was placed on Engine 1 in August 2021 (handout attached) and is essentially a life-saving device. The department currently has one (1) device, but is working on grants to receive additional units. The unit costs approximately \$20,000/each. Chief Howard would like to have a unit on each engine, thus needing four (4) more.

4. PUBLIC EVENTS UPDATE – Public Events Director Tim Ross gave a post-event update for both the Airshow and Hydrofair (presentation attached). The Airshow saw its typical large crowds and the net cost was \$185,000, while the Hydrofair did not see as high of spectator attendance as expected and the net cost was a little over \$150,000. More than likely, the high level of the river and delayed racing contributed to the lower attendance. It was noted that new events can take more than one year to gain traction. Mayor Watson said that the racing teams were not deterred by the racing delays. Mayor Pro Tem Maglinger stated that Visit Owensboro reported an occupancy record (since 2012) for the months of July and August. Although there was a combined 70,000+ in attendance at the events, distancing measures were taken in lieu of the pandemic. There was brief discussion on the possibility of alternating future large events.

5. ARPA UPDATE – City Manager Pagan gave an update on the recent ARPA directives (presentation attached). The City is scheduled to receive \$13.3M; we have already received our first payment and the second one will be received in May 2022. Eligible uses include public health emergency and economic impacts; premium pay; revenue loss; and investments in infrastructure. An addition to the public health eligible use is investment in parks in qualifying census tracts. The eligible census tracts are the same location the City has been investing CDBG funds; Northwest, Triplett Twist, downtown, etc. Mayor Watson stated that the City has received multiple funding requests from various entities. The City has invested \$1,673,951 in COVID assistance through various programs. Owensboro invested more toward COVID assistance programs than most other Kentucky cities. The ARPA funds do not all have to be appropriated at this time. Mr. Pagan presented a list of potential projects for use of the ARPA funds. Mayor Watson pointed out that the goal is to use the funds for non-

recurring expenses. The potential projects include: \$8.3M in revenue replacement (max amount that can be claimed); \$4M for drainage/stormwater in York Drive area; \$2.5M to RWRA for projects; and \$2.5M to OMU for projects. Mr. Pagan presented the possibilities to begin discussion on future uses of the funds. Mayor Watson's initial response to the funding proposal was to reduce the revenue replacement, since the City budget has performed so well, and free funds to be used for other projects.

6. CITY PROJECT LIST – Mayor Pro Tem Maglinger complimented on the private investment taking place in the Northwest NRSA.

7. CLOSED SESSION – Mayor Watson made a motion to enter into Closed Session under KRS 61.810(1)(b) to discuss property acquisition; motion was seconded by Commissioner Glenn and carried unanimously.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Watson made a motion to return to open session; motion was seconded by Commissioner Glenn and carried unanimously.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m. by acclamation.

Thomas H. Watson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Beth Davis, City Clerk