

OWENSBORO BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Work Session

January 11, 2022 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. JUVENILE CURFEW UPDATE – Major Jason Winkler, Owensboro Police Department, discussed the potential impact of changing the curfew ordinance. Between 2019 and 2021, the Owensboro Police Department (OPD) issued a total of forty-six (46) curfew violations, with forty-two (42) of them being dismissed by the court system. One (1) offender received a \$25 fine and three (3) received a \$50 fine. According to Major Winkler, the court system views curfew violations as a minor offense and they are often dismissed. OPD statistics show that between 2019 and 2021 only two (2) of the gun crimes committed involving juveniles occurred during the curfew hours. Furthermore, the majority of juvenile crimes do not occur during curfew hours. Changing the curfew within the City of Owensboro may potentially cause juveniles in the City to be held to a different standard than those in the County. Enforcing the curfew ordinance puts officers in the position to have negative encounters with young citizens, a wedge OPD has spent years trying to overcome. Major Winkler recommended creating a community survey to receive public input on implementing an earlier curfew for juveniles, as well as getting input from stakeholders and criminal justice practitioners. Mayor Watson suggested that the Chamber of Commerce and Neighborhood Alliances may be good avenues for creating a community survey and requested OPD put together a list of potential survey questions for consideration. Mayor Watson also requested that City Attorney Mark Pfeifer review the current curfew ordinance.

3. CRAVENS POOL UPDATE – Amanda Rogers, Parks Director, gave a presentation with staff recommendations for the future of Cravens Pool (presentation attached). She provided a brief history of the pool and discussed the violations cited by the Green River District Health Department that must be addressed before the pool is operational. The following options for Cravens Pool were considered: 1) repair and add amenities; 2) spray park at current location; 3) new build at current location; 4) new build at new location; 5) close the pool; or 6) close both Combest and Cravens Pools and develop an Aquatics Center. The Parks Department sought public input by creating a survey and hosting a public meeting. The general consensus from the public was to keep Cravens open and to review costs for a new build at the current location or to repair and add amenities at the current location. Based on this information, staff recommends the Board of Commissioners consider funding the necessary repairs (\$383,000) and add signature water features and amenities at Cravens Pool (\$217,000), for a total project cost of \$600,000. This will extend the life of the location for no less than ten (10)

seasons, and more than likely fifteen (15) years or more. Commissioner Castlen asked if the proposed cost of the repairs would include an expansion of the pool, to which Mrs. Rogers responded the intent is to add flat water square footage to the pool and add spray features. The estimate includes adding 40-50 feet in pool length. Mayor Watson asked the number of guests that visit Cravens Pool. In previous years, attendance has ranged from 5,042 to 6,800 participants. There was brief discussion about the pool being located on property owned by Owensboro Public Schools (OPS), yet the City owns, operates and insures the pool. Additionally, OPS has no interest in helping fund the pool; their tax base and revenues generated are not there for public recreational use.

4. OWENSBORO FIRE DEPARTMENT STRATEGIC PLAN – Fire Chief James Howard presented the 2022-2027 Strategic Plan (presentation attached). The objective of the strategic plan is to develop an organizational plan for mission-driven success that emphasizes continuous improvement. The implementation of a strategic plan is an integral part of the accreditation process. To develop the plan, Owensboro Fire Department (OFD) took into consideration: the City of Owensboro 2021-2022 Strategic Goals, OFD Vision 2020, ISO Classification, solicited community input with a survey and feedback from an internal stakeholder review group (members of OFD).

5. CITY PROJECT LIST – Project list attached. Abby Shelton, Community Development Director, gave a brief update on the Northwest NRSA. To date, ninety-two (92) applications have been received with an investment of \$852,139 of public funds and \$2,206,716 of private funds. After seeking public input, the new name selected for the Northwest NRSA is “Riverview”. Local resident Paul Morsey submitted the winning suggestion and will receive a One Hundred Dollar (\$100.00) gift card. Mayor Pro Tem Maglinger commented on the substantial increase of the private investment taking place within the Northwest NRSA. Ms. Shelton said the increase was primarily due to the announcement of new transitional housing that will be located on Ohio Street. Commissioner Glenn asked City Manager Pagan the potential impact to the community and Gateway TIF if the Malco Theatre closed. Madisonville’s only theatre recently closed and he shared concern about the impact of COVID-19 to the theatre.

6. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned by motion of Commissioner Glenn with a second by Commissioner Sanford at 1:03 p.m.

Thomas H. Watson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Beth Davis, City Clerk