

MUNICIPAL ORDER 14-2022

A MUNICIPAL ORDER RENAMING MAX RHOADS PARK AT SEVENTH AND WALNUT STREETS TO “MONETA SLEET JR. PARK.”

WHEREAS, in 1982 the Board of Commissioners named the city park located at Seventh and Walnut Streets “Max Rhoads Park” in honor of the former Owensboro City Manager; and

WHEREAS, on March 24, 2022, the Owensboro Parks & Recreation Advisory Board recommended renaming the park in honor of Moneta Sleet Jr. in response to a request from the Northwest Neighborhood Alliance; and

WHEREAS, the Northwest Neighborhood Alliance has contacted Matt Rhoads, the grandson of Max Rhoads, who consents to the name change provided recognition remains within the park to honor his grandfather; and

WHEREAS, Moneta Sleet Jr., was born in Owensboro on February 14, 1926, and grew up in a home across the street from the park. Sleet served in an African American unit in World War II. Sleet graduated cum laude from Kentucky State College in 1947 and obtained a master’s degree in journalism from New York University in 1950. He was a photographer for Ebony magazine for forty-one (41) years and captured numerous historical moments of the civil rights movement. Sleet was the first African American to win the Pulitzer Prize for photojournalism. He died on September 30, 1996 at the age of 70.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED BY THE CITY OF OWENSBORO, KENTUCKY, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. That Max Rhoads Park is hereby renamed “Moneta Sleet Jr. Park.”

Section 2. That the Mayor, City Manager and appropriate staff members are hereby authorized and directed to execute any additional instruments or other documents necessary and appropriate to effectuate and implement the renaming of the park, including providing for honoring Max Rhoads in another manner at the park.

INTRODUCED, PUBLICLY READ AND FINALLY APPROVED ON ONE READING, this the 19th day of April, 2022.

Thomas H. Watson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Beth Davis, City Clerk