

## OWENSBORO BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

### Regular Called Meeting

July 19, 2022 5:00 PM

Owensboro City Hall

101 E. 4th Street

Owensboro, Kentucky

1. CALL TO ORDER - Mayor Tom Watson

2. ROLL CALL - City Clerk Beth Davis

Present:

Mayor Tom Watson

Mayor Pro Tem Larry Maglinger

Commissioner Mark Castlen

Commissioner Bob Glenn

Commissioner Jeff Sanford

3. INVOCATION & PLEDGE – Commissioner Mark Castlen

4. PRESENTATIONS

4.A. Mayor Watson recognized the following employees that will retire on July 31, 2022:

- **Heath Stokes** - Police Officer, Owensboro Police Department (gave remarks)
- **Tim Goff** - Assistant Finance Manager, Finance Department
- **Allen Tanner** - Maintenance Specialist, Public Works (unable to attend)

4.B. Mayor Watson presented the “Dust Bowl Week” Proclamation to Michael Johnson, Dust Bowl volunteer.

5. BUSINESS

5.A. Minutes dated June 21, 2022 were approved 5-0 upon motion of Mayor Watson with a second by Commissioner Glenn.

5.B. Consider Board Appointments

- **Dugan Best Neighborhood Alliance** – Reappoint Andrea Johnson to a two-year term effective August 2, 2022.

- **Shifley-York Neighborhood Alliance** – Reappoint Scott Gilliam, Terri Hedges, Tracey Bivins-Helm, Eric Houtchen and Timothy Scheidegger to a two-year term effective July 22, 2022. Reappoint Robin French to a two-year term effective August 5, 2022.
- **Northwest Neighborhood Alliance** – Appoint Michael Johnson to a two-year term effective July 19, 2022.

## 6. ORDINANCES - 2nd READING - None

## 7. ORDINANCES - 1st READING

**7.A.** Ordinance 16-2022 entitled AN ORDINANCE REVISING EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK POLICIES 109 AND 110, THEREBY CHANGING AGE AND EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR FIREFIGHTERS AND CHANGING ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR LATERAL TRANSFER POLICE OFFICERS AND FIREFIGHTERS, was introduced and publicly read on first reading.

It is necessary to revise Policies 109 and 110 in the Employee Handbook to facilitate the hiring of police officers and firefighters. The minimum age requirement for firefighters shall now be 18 at the time they become sworn, and the education requirements have been revised. The requirements for lateral transfers have also been revised. City Manager Pagan explained that Policy 109 sets forth the minimum requirement for Police Officers and Firefighters. This revision reduces the minimum age for Firefighters from 21 to 18 years of age. Additionally, it alleviates the requirement of an Associate's Degree, there are additional education and certification requirements contained in the job description. For example, OFD candidates would still be required to have EMT or higher registry certification, an Associate's Degree or 60 hours of college credit, or equivalent work experience in another career fire department, the military, or as an EMT. The major change in this policy is the reduction in age from 21 to 18. Many local students now graduate with an Associate's Degree simultaneously with their high school diploma through the dual credit. Such students would be eligible to apply for the Fire Department if the policy change is approved.

Similarly, Policy 110 sets forth the minimum requirements for a Lateral Transfer candidate for both Police and Fire. The current policy requires a "lateral" to have had three (3) consecutive years of paid experience, and, be currently employed in their respective field. Both Police Chief and Fire Chief agree that the departments wish to have discretion of hiring a lateral candidate with two (2) years of experience, and, that they must have been employed in their respective field within the previous twelve (12) months. An example may be the Police or Fire department considering a candidate that had recently relocated to the Owensboro area, or recently retired from another department, but may not be currently employed with their previous department. Again, the candidates must still meet the requirements of the job description. Both policy changes are designed to broaden the pool of potential candidates for the Police and Fire Departments.

## **8. MUNICIPAL ORDERS - None**

## **9. CITY MANAGER ITEMS**

**9.A.** The following personnel appointments were approved 5-0 with a motion by Mayor Watson and a second by Commissioner Glenn:

### **NEW HIRE/PROBATIONARY STATUS:**

- **Jeffery A. Johnson** – Probationary, full-time, non-civil service appointment to Laborer/Maintenance Helper in the Public Works Grounds Department, effective July 25, 2022

### **PROMOTIONAL/PROBATIONARY STATUS:**

- **John D. Rudy** – Probationary, full-time, non-civil service, promotional appointment to Crew Leader with the Public Works Grounds Department, effective July 24, 2022

**9.B.** City Manager Comments – The City has received several complaints over the past few months regarding the condition of Frederica Street, particularly the south portion. Frederica Street is a state-maintained route; therefore, it is not the responsibility of the City nor County. The street has been included in the State's repaving paving bid, which should be completed by mid-November. The State has asked the contractor to prioritize Frederica Street, so the work may be completed sooner.

## **10. COMMUNICATIONS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS**

Members of the Commission discussed the events they attended recently.

Mayor Watson invited the public to a ribbon cutting on July 20 for the Fairview Drive extension.

## **11. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM**

Glenn Ashby (Agile Court) spoke in favor of the Pride events held recently at the RiverPark Center (RPC) and said he personally sponsored the event. The RPC staff felt their jobs were threatened by hosting the event and advertising had been reduced. He mentioned the possibility of a fairness ordinance being passed.

DeMarcus Curry (3140 Adams Court) requested a meeting with Owensboro Fire Department to gather information and help get young people interested in firefighting. He said the court system needs a better solution for handling youth and mentioned the curfew ordinance.

## 12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 5:37 p.m. by motion of Mayor Watson and a second by Commissioner Castlen; motion carried unanimously.

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Thomas H. Watson, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Beth Davis, City Clerk