

OWENSBORO BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Called Meeting
August 1, 2023 5:00 PM
Owensboro City Hall
101 E. 4th Street
Owensboro, Kentucky

1. CALL TO ORDER - Mayor Tom Watson

2. ROLL CALL – Beth Davis, City Clerk

Present:

Mayor Tom Watson

Mayor Pro Tem Mark Castlen

Commissioner Sharon NeSmith

Commissioner Bob Glenn

Commissioner Pam Smith-Wright

3. INVOCATION & PLEDGE - Mayor Tom Watson

4. PRESENTATION

4.A. Jeff Esposito, OVG 360 General Manager, presented the 2022-23 Year in Review for the Owensboro Convention Center and Owensboro Sportscenter (presentation attached). Ultimately, both facilities are projected to beat their budgets, thus reducing the subsidy from the City. Mr. Esposito touted the community partnerships in place at the facilities, the number of events planned – both new and returning. He states events are booked for 2023-2024 equaling \$1.6 Million. There was brief discussion on the status of the third downtown hotel under construction and the larger conventions that can be sought after its opening.

5. BUSINESS

5.A. Minutes dated July 11 and July 18, 2023 were unanimously approved by motion of Mayor Watson and a second from Commissioner Smith-Wright.

5.B. The following board appointments were unanimously approved by motion of Mayor Watson and a second from Commissioner Glenn:

- **Seven Hills Neighborhood Alliance** – Appoint Wanda Cooper to a two-year term effective August 1, 2023
- **Property Maintenance Code Enforcement Board** – Reappoint Lisa Fulkerson to a three-year term effective August 16, 2023

- **Senior Community Center of Owensboro-Daviess County Board** – Appoint Calvin Williams to fill the remainder of an unexpired term which ends February 16, 2024 (replacing Nathan Godeke). Appoint Lora Wimsatt to fill the remainder of an unexpired term which ends December 31, 2024 (replacing Jennifer Allen).

6. ORDINANCES - 2nd READING

6.A. Ordinance 18-2023 entitled AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE I, SECTION 2-4 OF THE OWENSBORO MUNICIPAL CODE TO UPDATE THE OPEN RECORDS POLICY, was unanimously approved on second reading by motion of Mayor Watson and a second from Mayor Pro Tem Castlen.

The State made changes to the statute related to open records. Although the City has been adhering to the changes, they had not yet been made a part of the ordinance. Therefore, these changes are reflected, as well as general updating of the ordinance.

7. ORDINANCES - 1st READING

7.A. ORDINANCE 19-2023 entitled AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AND ADOPTING TEXT AMENDMENTS TO APPENDIX F, ARTICLES 3, 8, 10 AND 17 OF THE OWENSBORO METROPOLITAN ZONING ORDINANCE FOR THE CITIES OF OWENSBORO AND WHITESVILLE, AND DAVIESS COUNTY, was introduced and publicly read on first reading.

The Owensboro Metropolitan Planning Commission met in regular session on July 13, 2023 and proposed amendments to the text of the Zoning Ordinance for the Cities of Owensboro and Whitesville, and Daviess County regarding revisions to Articles 3, 8, 10 and 17. The amendments are attached for consideration. OMPC Executive Director Brian Howard explained the proposed changes include the following text amendments: 1) Articles 3 and 17 related to sight triangles and visibility requirements, the current zoning ordinance has a table and chart showing dimensions for sight distance and visibility at intersections which is out of date – this eliminates the outdated table and updates the text to refer to the AASHTO Standard; 2) relates to the setback for residential swimming pools; 3) increases the height of rear and side yard fences to six (6) feet when adjoining arterial, collector or local streets; 4) Article 8 as it relates to the storage of distilled spirits, elimination of a buffer that was a requirement for trees along the perimeter, and changes to Agriculture, Horticulture or Silviculture industries; and 5) Article 10 related to required spillover parking for townhouses or multi-family units.

Commissioner Smith-Wright mentioned difficulty seeing around the Tropical Smoothie sign on Emory Drive when pulling onto Frederica. Mr. Howard will refer the issue to the City Engineering Department.

8. CITY MANAGER ITEMS

8.A. The following personnel appointments were unanimously approved by motion of Mayor Watson and second by Commissioner NeSmith:

NEW HIRE/PROBATIONARY STATUS:

- **Charles J. Barlow** – Probationary, full-time, non-civil service appointment to Police Officer with the Police Department, effective August 14, 2023, ***contingent upon successful completion of all post-offer, pre-employment requirements***
- **Jordan R. McMurdie** – Probationary, full-time, non-civil service appointment to Firefighter with the Fire Department, effective August 14, 2023
- **Elijah W. Anderson** – Probationary, full-time, non-civil service appointment to Road Worker with the Public Works Street Department, effective August 14, 2023, ***contingent upon successful completion of all post-offer, pre-employment requirements***
- **Jonathan J. Bell** - Probationary, full-time, non-civil service appointment to Road Worker with the Public Works Street Department, effective August 14, 2023, ***contingent upon successful completion of all post-offer, pre-employment requirements***
- **Tyler D. Rhoades** – Probationary, full-time, non-civil service appointment to Construction Inspector with the Public Works Engineering Department, effective August 14, 2023, ***contingent upon successful completion of all post-offer, pre-employment requirements***

PROMOTIONAL/PROBATIONARY STATUS:

- **Christopher A. Brown** – Probationary, full-time, non-civil service, promotional appointment to Police Officer with the Police Department, effective August 14, 2023

REGULAR STATUS:

- **Patrick H. Sunn** – Regular, full-time, non-civil service appointment to Maintenance Worker with the Public Works Grounds Department, effective August 14, 2023

8.B. City Manager Comments - None

9. COMMUNICATIONS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS

Members of the Commission discussed the events they recently attended.

Commissioner Smith-Wright mentioned her “Give a Hand, Pay It Forward Owensboro” campaign that is occurring over the next two (2) weeks and congratulated the Dust Bowl Basketball Tournament on their fifty year anniversary.

Commissioner NeSmith thanked Abby Shelton for helping her meet new residents in the northwest area and expressed the importance of the OMPC.

Commissioner Glenn recognized David Daniel, OHS student that was elected as the President of the American Legion’s Boys Nation (first Kentucky high school student to hold the position).

Mayor Watson announced the upcoming ribbon cutting for Addiction Recover Care (ARC), as well as the 331 ground breaking at the Owensboro Riverport Authority. Governor Beshear plans to attend both events. He also announced that applications are open for members of the Senior Center Board as several people have resigned. Applications are available on the website.

10. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM – None

11. CLOSED SESSION

11.A. Motion was made by Mayor Watson and seconded by Commissioner Smith-Wright to enter into closed session under KRS 61.810(1)(b) to discuss future property acquisition or sale of real property; motion carried unanimously.

12. Motion was made by Mayor Watson and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Castlen to return to open session.

13. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 6:04 p.m. by motion of Mayor Watson and a second by Commissioner Smith-Wright.

Thomas H. Watson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Beth Davis, City Clerk