

OWENSBORO BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION
August 8, 2023 12:00 PM
Owensboro City Hall
101 E. 4th Street
Owensboro, Kentucky

1. CALL TO ORDER - Mayor Tom Watson

Present: Mayor Tom Watson, Commissioners Mark Castlen, Sharon NeSmith and Pam Smith-Wright. Commissioner Bob Glenn joined via teleconference through item number 5.

2. OPIOID SETTLEMENT UPDATE – Mark Pfeifer, City Attorney and Angela Waninger, Director of Finance & Support Services presented an update on the Opioid Settlement Funds (attached). Mr. Pfeifer explained the background information on the litigation, including the three (3) main rounds of settlements, the legal background, and the abatement trust fund. Mrs. Waninger explained the allocation determination, and the funding summary. The 2021 National Settlement (Distributors Settlement) resulted in the City of Owensboro receiving payments to-date of \$110,373.58 with a total projected allocation of \$944,063.27. The 2021 National Settlement (Janssen Settlement) resulted in the City of Owensboro receiving payments to-date of \$156,651.76 with a total projected allocation of \$216,848.64. The City has opted into the 2022 National Settlement (CVS, Walgreens & Walmart, Teva, Allergan); payment amount and timeframe are being determined. The City will not receive another payment from the Janssen Settlement for five (5) years. Mr. Pfeifer rounded out the update by stating that the settlement agreements require states and local governments to use funds for opioid remediations which are specified in KRS 15.291. Some of these approved uses include: reimbursement for the cost of outpatient and residential treatment services, emergency response services, administering an opioid antagonist (Narcan). The funds may be used to provide funding for any project in 29 categories relative to opioid remediation. The main categories include: treatment and recovery services, life support services, education/training, mother/child, legal/judicial, and catch-all. Mayor Watson requested for city staff to speak at a legislation committee meeting in Frankfort on August 24.

3. CENTRAL DISPATCH UPDATE - City Manager Nate Pagan and 9-1-1 Director Paul Nave presented an update and overview of Central Dispatch (presentation attached). Mr. Pagan explained that Daviess County has initiated discussion about potentially terminating from the current combined central dispatch structure. Commissioner Glenn requested an overview of the current structure and context. In 2009, beginning of 2010, the City and County entered into an agreement to create a combined central dispatch within the Owensboro Police Department. The agreement created an Oversight Committee with end-user members as advisory members. The cost shared with the County is based on call volume averaged from the previous three (3) year incidents. This is a standard structure across the country for combined dispatches. In Kentucky, there are only two (2) or three (3) stand-alone communities with separate city/county dispatch centers. In the current agreement, the City funds 73% and the County funds 27%, based

on call volume. Mr. Nave explained the operational functions of the dispatch center with several stats and examples of calls. He stated they are starting their fifth hiring process; and since January 1 they have been able to hire one person due to a multitude of reasons. Mr. Nave feels if the dispatch is separated, the response time will be delayed. Commissioner Castlen asked if dispatchers could work from home. Mr. Nave explained that it could be done, however, it would be very expensive due to connectivity and equipment.

4. INDOOR SPORTS FACILITY UPDATE – Assistant City Manager Lelan Hancock unveiled a rendering for the proposed facility (attached). The 86,000 square foot facility can accommodate various sporting events: basketball, futsal, tennis, archery, volleyball, pickleball, dance, cheer, etc. and includes a 10,000 square foot mezzanine watching area. Multiple discussions occurred with key stakeholders during the development of the facility and will continue. City Manager Pagan added that along with the discussions of the various user groups, the City worked with consultants and visited other similar facilities.

5. FIRE STATION #3 UPDATE - Assistant City Manager Lelan Hancock also unveiled a rendering for the renovation of Fire Station #3, on Cravens Avenue (attached). The renovation is part of the *Operation Firehouse* plan to upgrade the firehouses and training center. Coed accommodations are part of the renovation. This will be the first fire station built with a fire pole.

6. CITY PROJECT LIST – was made available. Mr. Hancock stated the bridge lights on the west side have been repaired after being damaged by a lightning strike. The east side work continues with a projected completion date of this week.

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 1:08 p.m. by acclamation.

Thomas H. Watson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Beth Davis, City Clerk