

OWENSBORO BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**Regular Called Meeting
December 5, 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 – Commissioner Bob Glenn

4. BUSINESS

4.A. City Manager Pagan explained that Kentucky Revised Statutes require the City to be audited each year. He introduced Mac Neel, ATA CPAs + Advisors, PLLC, who presented the audit report for 2023 (attached). After brief discussion, motion was made by Mayor Watson and seconded by Commissioner Smith-Wright to approve the 2023 audit report; motion carried unanimously.

4.B. Minutes dated November 21, 2023 were unanimously approved by motion of Mayor Watson and a second from Commissioner Glenn.

4.C. The following board appointments were unanimously approved by motion of Mayor Watson and a second from Mayor Pro Tem Castlen:

- **Seven Hills Neighborhood Alliance** – Reappoint Kaye Yeiser-Taylor, David Norris, and Dinah Crowley to a two-year term effective December 14, 2023
- **GRADD Board of Directors** – Reappoint Lauren Osowicz as a joint city-county appointment to a three-year term effective January 1, 2024
- **Police and Firefighters' Retirement Fund Board (Closed)** – Ratify the election of Charles Hayden and Helen Nash to a one-year term effective January 1, 2024

5. ORDINANCES - 2nd READING

5.A. Ordinance 28-2023 entitled AN ORDINANCE AFFIRMING AND ADOPTING THE REVISED “GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR OWENSBORO, WHITESVILLE, AND DAVIESS COUNTY”, was unanimously approved upon motion by Mayor Watson and a second by Commissioner Glenn.

Per statute, the Owensboro Metropolitan Planning Commission (OMPC) is required to prepare a comprehensive plan, including a statement of goals and objectives, which shall serve as a guide for the physical development and economic and social well-being of the City of Owensboro, City of Whitesville, and Daviess County. Statute further requires OMPC to review and either amend or readopt the elements of the comprehensive plan at least once every five (5) years. OMPC met on September 14, 2023, conducted a public hearing and voted unanimously to propose the attached amendments. City Manager Pagan explained that OMPC drafts and administers the community’s comprehensive plan for land use. The minor changes to the goals and objectives are a result of the five (5) year review as required by law.

5.B. Ordinance 29-2023 entitled AN ORDINANCE REVISING THE CITY OF OWENSBORO EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK CHAPTER 1000, SUBCHAPTER 1004, PAY CHART ENTITLED “FULL-TIME PAY GRADES” THEREBY ADDING THE POSITION OF “INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROJECT AND SUPPORT MANAGER”, was unanimously approved upon motion by Mayor Watson and a second by Commissioner Smith-Wright.

The ordinance amends Chapter 1000, Subchapter 1004 in the Pay Chart entitled "Full-Time Pay Grades" and the associated organization chart to add the position of "Information Technology Project and Support Manager". City Manager Pagan explained the ordinance creates the new position, however, it does not increase the number of current employees. An existing employee will transition into the new position because it better describes the tasks or role the employee is currently performing. Because this is an existing employee moving to a new title, there is no cost increase or financial implication for this change.

6. ORDINANCES - 1st READING - None

7. MUNICIPAL ORDERS

7.A. Municipal Order 45-2023 entitled A MUNICIPAL ORDER APPROVING A 3.2% COST-OF-LIVING INCREASE FOR ALL ELIGIBLE PENSION ANNUITANTS UNDER THE (CLOSED) CITY EMPLOYEES’ PENSION FUND, was unanimously approved by motion of Mayor Watson and a second by Mayor Pro Tem Castlen.

The Board of Trustees of the (closed) City Employees’ Pension Fund met in special session on November 15, 2023 and voted unanimously to recommend to the Owensboro Board of Commissioners that eligible annuitants receive a 3.2% cost-of-living increase

effective with pension checks received in January 2024. City Manager Pagan stated the closed, legacy retirement plan is not the County Employee Retirement System in which current or recently retired city employees participate. The plan has thirteen (13) remaining members and is financially sound, meaning funds provided to the members come from investments in the plan.

7.B. Municipal Order 46-2023 entitled A MUNICIPAL ORDER APPROVING A 3.2% COST-OF-LIVING INCREASE FOR ELIGIBLE ANNUITANTS OF THE OWENSBORO POLICE AND FIREFIGHTERS' RETIREMENT FUND (CLOSED), was unanimously approved by motion of Mayor Watson and a second by Commissioner Glenn.

The Board of Trustees of the Police and Firefighters' Retirement Fund (closed) met on November 15, 2023 and voted unanimously to recommend a 3.2% cost of living increase effective with pension checks received in January 2024. City Manager Pagan added that this fund is a closed fund and has no assets. Therefore, the city funds the cost each year from the General Fund. There are twenty-six (26) remaining members in the legacy pension plan.

7.C. Municipal Order 47-2023 entitled A MUNICIPAL ORDER AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH RIVER CITY PICKLEBALL, INC. ESTABLISHING PICKLEBALL COURTS WITHIN BEN HAWES PARK AND FURTHER ESTABLISHING SPONSORSHIP FUNDING, was unanimously approved by motion of Mayor Watson and a second by Mayor Pro Tem Castlen.

The City and River City Pickleball, Inc. have engaged in discussions and negotiations for the creation of an outdoor pickleball facility. This order authorizes a Partnership Agreement between the two parties for the location and construction of a pickleball facility located within Ben Hawes Park. City Manager Pagan explained that the Partnership Agreement provides the terms for the development and construction of a pickleball facility at Ben Hawes Park. Basic information provided in the Agreement includes terms of funding, that each dollar raised by the club will be matched by Two Dollars (\$2.00) from the City, with a maximum contribution from the City of \$1 Million Dollars. The club can pursue sponsorship and naming requirements to generate revenue for the facility. This Agreement marks the beginning of the partnership, so the facility is not designed at this time. However, both parties envision a tournament quality site to host events building on the City's sports tourism strengths, while also serving the fast-growing local pickleball community. This is a great public-private partnership, as has been accomplished in other locations in the past, to create an additional amenity within our park system. Alex Ross, President of River City Pickleball, Inc. spoke on behalf of their 507 members. He will present the Agreement to the membership for approval.

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:

- **Aiden I. McGaw** – Probationary, full-time, non-civil service appointment to Telecommunicator with the Police Department, effective December 18, 2023
- **Devin B. Adkins** – Probationary, full-time, non-civil service appointment to Systems Administrator with the Information Technology Department, effective January 2, 2024
- **Jordan T. Hall** – Probationary, full-time, non-civil service appointment to Road Worker with the Public Works Street Department, effective January 2, 2024

PROMOTIONAL/PROBATIONARY STATUS:

- **William Izaiah McLaughlin** – Probationary, full-time, non-civil service, promotional appointment to Maintenance Equipment Operator with the Public Works Street Department, effective December 17, 2023
- **Rodney J. Roberts** – Probationary, full-time, non-civil service, promotional appointment to Property Maintenance Inspector with the Public Works Property Maintenance Department, effective December 17, 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 stated that on behalf of the Owensboro-Daviess County Veteran's Organization, she is working with Tri-State Food Bank to provide food boxes for veterans. All veterans are eligible to receive a box and they can be collected on December 14 at the local VFW. Call her to sign-up for a food box.

Commissioner NeSmith made it known that York Park will be available for pickleball games [this was in response to the River City Pickleball group signing a contract to construct courts at Ben Hawes Park].

10. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM

Steve Innes (3657 Briarcliff Trace) spoke as a representative of the local non-profit group, Green River Community Food Warehouse. The group, partnering with Tri-State Food Bank, is trying to raise \$3 Million Dollars to construct a temperature controlled facility to

aide with the issue of storage for all food banks, soup kitchens and non-profits in the community. They have identified a property and formed a budget. (Rendering attached)

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 5:19 p.m. by motion of Mayor Watson and a second by Commissioner Smith-Wright.

Thomas H. Watson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Beth Davis, City Clerk