

**OWENSBORO BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**Regular Called Meeting**

**March 5, 2024 - 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 Pam Smith-Wright

4. BUSINESS

4.A. Minutes dated February 20, 2024 and February 21, 2024 were unanimously approved by motion of Mayor Watson and a second by Commissioner Glenn.

4.B. The following board appointment was unanimously approved by motion of Mayor Pro Tem Castlen and a second from Commissioner NeSmith:

- **Owensboro Housing Authority Board** – Reappoint Rita Moorman to a four-year term effective March 20, 2024.

5. ORDINANCES - 2nd READING

5.A. Ordinance 6-2024 entitled AN ORDINANCE ANNEXING TO THE CITY OF OWENSBORO CERTAIN UNINCORPORATED TERRITORY IN THE COUNTY OF DAVIESS ADJOINING THE PRESENT BOUNDARY LINE OF THE CITY, BEING PROPERTY LOCATED ADJACENT TO 2710 WEST PARRISH AVENUE (TRACT I) CONTAINING 0.089 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, AND PROPERTY LOCATED ADJACENT TO 2808 WEST PARRISH AVENUE (TRACT II) CONTAINING 0.913 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, AT THE REQUEST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY, DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS, was read for approval on second reading and unanimously approved by roll call vote upon motion of Mayor Watson and a second by Commissioner Glenn.

An ordinance annexing the property located adjacent to 2710 West Parrish Avenue (Tract I) containing 0.089 acres, and property located adjacent to 2808 West Parrish Avenue

(Tract II) containing 0.913 acres, at the request of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, Department of Highways. City Manager Pagan explained the annexation is for two (2) small areas of state right-of-way for Carter Road. Last year, the City annexed the area behind Lee's Chicken, a portion of which is the site for the York drainage basin that is under construction. When that property was annexed, the City realized that there were two (2) small areas where the State added right-of-way for Carter Road that had not been annexed. This is a cleanup so all properties in the area are in the City instead of leaving two (2) small areas unannexed.

## **6. ORDINANCES - 1st READING - None**

## **7. MUNICIPAL ORDERS**

**7.A.** Consider Municipal Order 4-2024 entitled A MUNICIPAL ORDER AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AN APPLICATION FOR THE ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT PROGRAM THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY IN THE APPROXIMATE AMOUNT OF \$58,460.00, THE PROCEEDS OF WHICH WILL BE UTILIZED BY THE CITY OF OWENSBORO TO PURCHASE TWO (2) GEAR EXTRACTORS AND THREE (3) GEAR DRYERS FOR USE BY THE OWENSBORO FIRE DEPARTMENT; A TEN PERCENT (10%) MATCH IS REQUIRED BY THE CITY, was unanimously approved on one reading by motion of Commissioner NeSmith and a second by Commissioner Smith-Wright.

The Owensboro Fire Department (OFD) regularly responds to fire emergencies where firefighters' personal protective equipment comes in contact with known carcinogens that are byproducts of combustion. OFD is committed to improving the health and safety initiatives of the department's firefighters and is working to promote a better cleaning regime for the fire gear after fires. The Owensboro Fire Department seeks to file an application for an Assistance to Firefighters Grant in an approximate amount of \$58,460.00, the proceeds of which will be utilized by the City of Owensboro to purchase two (2) Gear Extractors and three (3) Gear Dryers. A ten percent (10%) match is required for this grant. City Manager Pagan stated the gear extractors are basically industrial laundry units that can effectively clean contaminants and bodily fluids out of firefighting personal protective equipment. The dryers are specifically designed for firefighting gear and can achieve a more thorough drying of the gear compared to air drying. Currently, there is one extractor at Station 1 and a second one is being included in the new training center. The City is working toward personnel being able to clean gear at their own stations as part of the cancer prevention efforts.

## **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:**

- **Donald P. Warren** – Probationary, full-time, non-civil service appointment to Laborer/Maintenance Helper with the Police Department, effective March 11, 2024
- **Kathleen L. Jarnagin** – Probationary, full-time, non-civil service appointment to Telecommunicator with the Police Department, effective March 25, 2024
- **Jennifer A. Hamilton** – Probationary, full-time, non-civil service appointment to Clerk/Typist with the Police Department, effective March 25, 2024
- **Hunter R. McDaniel** – Probationary, full-time, non-civil service appointment to Clerk/Typist with the Police Department, effective March 25, 2024

## **REGULAR STATUS:**

- **Jacob L. Rickard** – Regular, full-time, non-civil service appointment to Police Officer with the Police Department, effective March 12, 2024

**8.B. City Manager Comments – None**

## **9. COMMUNICATIONS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS**

Members of the Commission discussed the events they recently attended.

Commissioner Smith-Wright clarified that the Owensboro-Daviess County Senior Center has not been looking for a new site for years, as it was publicly mentioned recently. Rather, it began with the possible collaboration with the YMCA two (2) years ago and the current committee has been working on it for five (5) months. The Committee is further in progress than the previous committee. Mayor Watson stated the County Commissioner's public remarks related to the Senior Center should be disregarded since that individual has nothing to do with the decision making of the Senior Center. Mayor Pro Tem Castlen also mentioned the progressive steps the current Board of Commissioners has been taking to assist the Senior Center.

## **10. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM**

Jennifer Young (712 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Apt. 102) spoke in detail about the unfair treatment she has been receiving from the Green River Intra-county Transit System (GRITS). City Attorney Mark Pfeifer added that he recently had a lengthy phone conversation with Ms. Young and her request is that the City provide individual transportation for her.

## **11. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 5:24 p.m. by motion of Commissioner Smith-Wright and a second by Mayor Pro Tem Castlen.

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Thomas H. Watson, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Beth Davis, City Clerk