

OWENSBORO BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
May 14, 2024 | 12:00 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
Commissioner Sharon NeSmith
Commissioner Bob Glenn
Commissioner Pam Smith-Wright

Unavailable:

Mayor Pro Tem Mark Castlen

3. 2024-2024 BUDGET PRESENTATION – City Manager Pagan, along with members of the staff, presented a budget presentation (copy attached). The \$157,880,489 budget is divided into five categories: General Fund, Special Revenue Funds, Capital Projects Funds, Enterprise Funds, and the Internal Service Funds. City Manager Pagan noted a few key projects that are either in progress or will begin soon: Senior Center, Indoor Sports Facility, Fire Training Classroom/Burn Tower, Station 3, York Ditch Stormwater Project, Wayfinding Signs, Big Rivers Electric Corporation Transmission Operation Center (\$57M private investment with 70 jobs), First Street Improvements, Cravens Pool, and new Pickleball Courts.

City Manager Pagan stated the budget reflects growth, economic development, community needs, infrastructure and public safety. From a service provision perspective, five (5) new positions have been added to the 2024-25 budget: Police Lieutenant to oversee the new academy, Citation Officer*, Fire Captain*, Communications and Digital Media Coordinator* and a Human Resources Records Clerk*. Four (4) of the positions* are mitigated through combining two (2) part-time positions into one (1) full-time position. City Manager Pagan added that the 2024-25 proposed budget reflects \$2.8M or 2.7% less than the 2023-24 amended budget in the general fund. No proposed tax rate changes are requested, and a four percent (4%) cost of living increase has been proposed.

The new police academy opens June 3 with a class of twelve (12) candidates. Only candidates for the Owensboro Police Department will be utilizing the academy. Telecommunicators will still be required to attend training in Richmond, KY.

A new partnership with the YMCA for childcare is being proposed for the 2024-25 fiscal year. One of the challenges to a healthy workforce is childcare. The YMCA is renovating and adding childcare capacity and creating a training area for childcare workers. The Your Community Vision fund contains budgeted funds of \$600,000 for a downtown archway sign leading into the downtown area.

There was discussion on the insurance premium license fee (IPLF) and the prospect of it being lowered. City Manager Pagan explained that the IPLF was raised to ten percent (10%) about 10-12 years ago to pay for all of the downtown improvements, and it is dedicated revenue for the debt. However, those debt bonds were issued for 30 years instead of the typical 20 years. The City is entering year eleven (11) of paying them off. Finance & Support Services Director Angela Waninger added that Daviess County Fiscal Court financed a lesser amount for a twenty (20) year period, and they were able to pay their bonds off early. The general fund balance looks larger in part due to the ARPA funds being allocated and not paid out yet.

4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 2:18 p.m. by acclamation.

Thomas H. Watson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Beth Davis, City Clerk