

OWENSBORO BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Called Meeting

October 15, 2024 - 4:00 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 Sharon NeSmith

4. PRESENTATIONS

4.A. Mayor Watson presented the “Daviness County Special Olympics Day” proclamation to Kim Johnson, Coordinator for Daviness County Special Olympics. Jack C. Fisher Park recently hosted over 500 athletes at the State Championships. The Owensboro Terminators won the 1A Division and the Owensboro Stingers won the B Division Skill Competition. Both teams were in attendance and recognized. Mayor Pro Tem Castlen recognized athlete and former neighbor, Sam Winstead.

4.B. Mayor Watson proclaimed October as “Breast Cancer Awareness Month”. Bill Jordan, Director of the Owensboro Health Mitchell Memorial Cancer Center, accepted the proclamation.

4.C. The following retirements were recognized:

- Lieutenant Chris Burns (in attendance)
- Mark Kurz, Fire Driver/Engineer

4.D. Deputy Fire Marshal Brian Roberts presented information on Fire Prevention (presentation attached). October is recognized as Fire Prevention Month.

4.E. Shaelie Velez, Communications & Marketing Manager, gave a sneak peek of the new website for the city (presentation attached). The new website is set to roll out in December 2024. The upgrades include: user-friendly for both visitors and administrators, mobile friendly, fillable PDFs, notification services, etc.

4.F. The City Project List was presented (attached) and City Manager Pagan pointed out that construction has started on the indoor sports facility. There was brief conversation on restrooms at the Ben Hawes Pickleball Courts and a request from Commissioner Glenn to add Trinity Drive to the fall paving list.

5. BUSINESS

5.A. Minutes dated October 1, 2024 were unanimously approved by motion of Mayor Watson and seconded by Commissioner Smith-Wright.

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

- **Owensboro Human Relations Commission** – Reappoint Jennifer Vogel to a three-year term effective October 19, 2024
- **Dogwood Azalea Neighborhood Alliance** – Appoint Mona Hamilton to a two-year term effective October 15, 2024

6. ORDINANCES – 1st READING

6.A. Ordinance 16-2024 entitled AN ORDINANCE CLOSING PORTIONS OF THE ALLEY RIGHTS-OF-WAY BETWEEN 512 WEST 9TH STREET, 915 CEDAR STREET, 917 CEDAR STREET, 919 CEDAR STREET AND 924 LOCUST STREET IN THE CITY OF OWENSBORO, KENTUCKY, was introduced and publicly read on first reading.

The City of Owensboro desires to close portions of the alley rights-of-way located between 512 West 9th Street, 915 Cedar Street, 917 Cedar Street, 919 Cedar Street and 924 Locust Street. The Petitioner and adjoining and/or abutting property owners agree to retain the public utility easements. City Manager Pagan explained that Operation Firehouse is a city plan to spend an estimated \$33 Million on new and expanded fire department facilities. One project in Operation Firehouse is the replacement of Station 1. The City has purchased four (4) properties south of Station 1 to reorient and enlarge the new building, which is currently in design.

7. CITY MANAGER ITEMS

7.A. The financial report for the period ending September 30, 2024 was presented by Angela Waninger, Director of Finance & Support Services (attached). Motion was made by Mayor Watson to file the report for audit, Commissioner Smith-Wright made the second and it carried unanimously.

7.B. The following personnel appointments were unanimously approved by motion of Mayor Watson and second by Commissioner Smith-Wright:

NEW HIRE/ PROBATIONARY STATUS:

- **Aaron M. Brown** – Probationary, full-time, non-civil service appointment to Road Worker with the Public Works Street Department, effective October 28, 2024, contingent upon successful completion of all post-offer, pre-employment requirements
- **Stetson P. Brown** – Probationary, full-time, non-civil service appointment to Maintenance Equipment Operator with the Public Works Street Department, effective October 28, 2024, contingent upon successful completion of all post-offer, pre-employment requirements
- **Nicholas E. Wellman** – Probationary, full time, non-civil service appointment to the position of Police Officer with the Police Department, effective November 4, 2024, contingent upon successful completion of all post offer requirements.

REGULAR STATUS:

- **Tyler D. Rhoades** – Regular, full-time, non-civil service appointment to Construction Inspector with the Public Works Engineering Department, effective August 14, 2024
- **David J. Mooneyhan** – Regular, full-time, non-civil service appointment to Maintenance Equipment Operator with the Public Works Street Department, effective October 22, 2024
- **Victoria L. Pennington** – Regular, full-time, non-civil service appointment to Transit Manager with the Public Works Transit Department, effective October 30, 2024

7.C. City Manager Comments – None

8. COMMUNICATIONS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS

Members of the Commission discussed the events they recently attended.

9. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM – None

10. CLOSED SESSION

10.A. Motion was made by Mayor Watson to enter into closed session under KRS 61.810(1)(b) to discuss future property acquisition or sale of real property; motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Castlen and carried unanimously.

11. Motion to return to open session was made by Mayor Watson and seconded by Commissioner NeSmith; carried unanimously.

12. There being no further business to discuss, motion was made by Mayor Watson to adjourn the meeting at 5:46 p.m., Commissioner Smith-Wright seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Thomas H. Watson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Beth Davis, City Clerk