

## **OWENSBORO BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

### **Regular Meeting**

**January 21, 2025 - 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 Bob Glenn

Commissioner Jeff Sanford

Commissioner Curtis Maglinger

Commissioner Sharon NeSmith

**3. INVOCATION & PLEDGE – Mayor Pro Tem Bob Glenn**

**4. PRESENTATIONS**

**4.A.** City Manager Pagan explained that the City was contacted by Owensboro Times (OT) and proposed a snowplow naming contest. Ultimately, the public would have an opportunity to submit names for the City's snowplow fleet. John Kirkpatrick, Assistant Editor at OT, said that the winners were chosen based on submissions that were unique to Owensboro related to local landmarks, beloved local businesses and iconic community names. A video was played that depicted snowplow drivers announcing the winning names: Snowowensboro Times, Old Slickory, Brr-goo, The Big Drifter, Winter Whip and Edward Blizzard Hands.

**4.B.** Jason Hayden, Director of Owensboro Museum of Fine Art (OMFA), introduced himself and gave a brief update on the OMFA. The museum has 4,000 pieces in their permanent collection and they are expanding their education outreach. He introduced two new staff members, Colin Davis (Development Team) and Rebecca Stoen (Director of Education). Mr. Hayden thanked the City for their continued support.

**4.C.** Owensboro Sister Cities and Regions (OSCAR) Board Member, Chief James Howard, gave a brief history of the organization (presentation attached). The City currently has two sister cities, Nisshin, Japan and Olomouc, Czech Republic. In 2024, Olomouc hosted two Owensboro-Daviess County firefighter exchanges that consisted of a planning delegation and a training delegation. Board President, Michael Vanover, discussed their new Ambassador Program and future school and choir exchanges, to include a reciprocal firefighter exchange. There was brief discussion on WKU having their own exchange program and the possibility of revitalizing the Nisshin relationship.

**4.D.** Mayor Watson recognized the retirement of Sandy Payne, Telecommunicator, as she retires after 25 years.

**4.E.** The City Project List was distributed and City Manager Pagan noted that repurposing the tennis courts at Dugan Best was added to the list (attached). Amanda Rogers, Parks Director, stated that the courts were at the end of their life cycle, and since they are underutilized, city staff wanted to seek input for alternate uses. Using the master plan as a guide, staff sought input at a public meeting and they asked the Dugan Best Recreation Center users for suggested uses. These efforts resulted in five proposed purposes: street soccer, youth basketball (9' height rim – instead of 10'), GaGa Ball pit, obstacle course, general play space to include hopscotch, 4 square, and small open asphalt space. The plan is to add a batting cage near the ball field next year when the fencing is due to be replaced. Mrs. Rogers added that they are also planning to renovate the basketball courts at Moreland Park into two pickleball courts.

## **5. BUSINESS**

**5.A.** Minutes dated January 7, 2025, were unanimously approved by motion of Mayor Pro Tem Glenn and a second from Commissioner Sanford.

**5.B.** The following board appointment was unanimously approved by motion of Commissioner Sanford and a second from Commissioner NeSmith:

- **Owensboro Human Relations Commission** – Appoint Rafe Buckner to a three-year term effective January 21, 2025

## **6. ORDINANCES - 1<sup>st</sup> READING**

**6.A.** Ordinance 1-2025 entitled AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2024 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2025, AND AMENDING ORDINANCE 7-2024 TO PROVIDE APPROPRIATIONS FOR LAND PURCHASE, TRANSFER FUNDS FOR ARPA AND CAPITAL PROJECTS, AND TO RECEIVE AND APPROPRIATE GRANT FUNDS was introduced and publicly read on first reading.

Budget amendment to provide appropriations for land purchase, transfer funds for ARPA and capital projects, and to receive and appropriate grant funds. City Manager Pagan explained that the second budget amendment for the current fiscal year contains: various grant applications that were approved in previous meetings, now require the revenue and expenditure of grant funds be added to the budget; funds to purchase the Veterans Boulevard property previously approved; and the transfer of funds for the indoor sports facility, so all funding is in the same place. There is nothing new in the amendment, it's primarily to account for the expense/revenue associated with various projects or initiatives already approved.

## 7. CITY MANAGER ITEMS

**7.A.** The financial report for the period ending December 31, 2024, was presented by Angela Waninger, Finance & Support Services Director (attached). Motion was made by Mayor Watson and seconded by Commissioner Sanford to file the report for audit; motion carried unanimously.

**7.B.** The following Personnel Appointments were unanimously approved by motion of Mayor Pro Tem Glenn and a second by Commissioner NeSmith:

### **PROMOTIONAL/PROBATIONARY STATUS:**

- **Zachary L. Brown** – Probationary, full-time, non-civil service, promotional appointment to Crew Leader with the Public Works Street Department, effective January 26, 2025
- **Sherry L. Hazelwood** – Probationary, full-time, non-civil service, promotional appointment to Bus Driver/Dispatcher with the Public Works Transit Department, effective January 26, 2025

### **REGULAR STATUS:**

- **Beth A. Ebelhar** – Regular, full-time, non-civil service appointment to Clerk/Typist with the Public Works Sanitation Department, effective January 29, 2025
- **Emily J. Anderson** – Regular, full-time, non-civil service appointment to Recreation Specialist with the Parks and Recreation Department, effective February 11, 2025

**7.C.** City Manager Comments – None

## 8. COMMUNICATIONS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS

Members of the Commission discussed the events they recently attended.

Mayor Pro Tem Glenn requested the City look at the possibility of utilizing contractors to remove snow on the streets when the depth is over 5".

## 9. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM

Pam Smith-Wright (3520 Christie Place) OMFA board member briefly said hello.

Matt Freeman (736 Frederica Street) Representative of Friends of Legion Field (affiliated with the Legion American Bombers baseball) requested the City partner with them to develop and build a baseball stadium in a city owned park. They requested a donation of

6-8 acres of land, i.e., Ben Hawes Park and to match half of the estimated \$3 Million construction costs.

**10.** There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Mayor Watson to adjourn the meeting at 4:57 p.m., Commissioner Sanford seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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Thomas H. Watson, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Beth Davis, City Clerk