

OWENSBORO BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting
February 4, 2025 - 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 Bob Glenn

Commissioner Jeff Sanford

Commissioner Curtis Maglinger

Commissioner Sharon NeSmith

3. INVOCATION & PLEDGE – Commissioner Jeff Sanford

4. PRESENTATION

4.A. Mayor Watson presented a Black History Month proclamation to Reverend Larry Lewis.

5. BUSINESS

5.A. Minutes dated January 21, 2025, were unanimously approved by motion of Commissioner Sanford and a second from Commissioner Maglinger.

5.B. The following board appointments were unanimously approved by motion of Commissioner Sanford and a second from Commissioner NeSmith:

- **Seven Hills Neighborhood Alliance** – Reappoint Melinda Schoenwald to a two-year term effective February 17, 2025
- **Owensboro Sister Cities and Regions Board** – Appoint Steven May to a three-year term effective February 4, 2025

6. ORDINANCES – 2nd 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 unanimously approved by a roll call vote; motion by Mayor Watson and a second by Commissioner Sanford.

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 which now require the revenue and expenditure of grant funds be added, and funds to purchase the Veterans Boulevard property previously approved.

7. MUNICIPAL ORDERS

7.A. Municipal Order 1-2025 entitled A MUNICIPAL ORDER OF THE CITY OF OWENSBORO, KENTUCKY, OPPOSING ANY BILLS BROUGHT FORTH DURING THE 2025 KENTUCKY GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION BY ANY MEMBER OF THE KENTUCKY LEGISLATURE, IN FULL OR IN PART, THAT PROVIDES FOR THE MANDATED CENTRALIZED COLLECTION OF LOCAL OCCUPATIONAL FEES/TAXES BY THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY OR OTHER THIRD PARTIES was read and unanimously approved on one reading with a motion by Mayor Watson and second by Mayor Pro Tem Glenn.

The City of Owensboro strongly opposes the adoption of any bills into law, in whole or in part, by the Kentucky General Assembly that provide for the mandated centralized collection of local occupational license fees/taxes and urges all members of the General Assembly to vote against proposals of this nature. City Manager Pagan explained that the occupational fee/tax is one-third of the City's general fund and our largest revenue source. A bill was filed today in the Kentucky General Assembly to centralize statewide collection of occupational taxes by the Kentucky Department of Treasury. Currently, the City of Owensboro collects the tax from the local taxpayers, allowing us to work with the taxpayers on an individual basis and help them as needed. Furthermore, it is integrated into a much broader structure with other local agencies. The mandate is very concerning to the City as we are more efficient and effective at collecting revenues from our taxpayers. Finance Director Angela Waninger pointed out three levels of concern: 1) historically the State has a bad track record of administering and sharing data, i.e., issues with collection of telecommunications tax, omitted tangible tax payments and TIF activity; 2) not all taxpayers pay or submit forms online, our full-time staff of five help prepare some returns with our taxpayers; and 3) there is concern for our audit ability if the forms are not filed locally. Fiscal year-to-date, our tax department has billed nearly \$1 Million Dollars of taxes that were not paid. This was accomplished by performing audits on the net profits against the occupational. There is concern that the State will not be able to monitor local activity. Mayor Watson asked if the State would tell us when we will receive the tax revenue. City Manager Pagan stated a lot of the documentation used as support of the bill is incorrect. Accurate information will be provided to the Board of Commissioners so they can communicate with the Legislators and to the Kentucky League of Cities. The bill stated the cities would have payments within 24-48 hours after the State received them. However, everything is electronic and there is no structure in

place for those that do not use online forms and payments. The sponsor of the bill believes the State can administer this program with two people to collect taxes statewide for all the jurisdictions. Mayor Watson encouraged the Board of Commissioners/staff to call D.J. Johnson, Suzanne Miles and Gary Boswell to let them know our concern.

8. CITY MANAGER ITEMS

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

NEW HIRE/PROBATIONARY STATUS:

- **Tiffany R. Kruse** – Probationary, full-time, non-civil service appointment to Telecommunicator with the Police Department, effective February 10, 2025
- **Jarrold L. Gray** – Probationary, full-time, non-civil service appointment to Road Worker with the Public Works Street Department, effective February 17, 2025
- **Mariano R. McKenzie** – Probationary, full-time, non-civil service appointment to Laborer/Maintenance Helper with the Public Works Grounds Department, effective February 17, 2025
- **Timothy L. Shock** – Probationary, full-time, non-civil service appointment to Maintenance Equipment Operator with the Public Works Street Department, effective February 17, 2025

PROMOTIONAL/PROBATIONARY STATUS:

- **Kristopher H. Collins** – Probationary, full-time, non-civil service, promotional appointment to Police Lieutenant with the Police Department, effective February 9, 2025
- **Lucas M. Hardy** - Probationary, full-time, non-civil service, promotional appointment to Police Lieutenant with the Police Department, effective February 9, 2025
- **Anthony R. Williams** - Probationary, full-time, non-civil service, promotional appointment to Police Lieutenant with the Police Department, effective February 9, 2025
- **Kaalab S. Bratcher** – Probationary, full-time, non-civil service, promotional appointment to Police Sergeant with the Police Department, effective February 9, 2025
- **Benjamin E. Fleury** - Probationary, full-time, non-civil service, promotional appointment to Police Sergeant with the Police Department, effective February 9, 2025

- **Derek W. Griffith** - Probationary, full-time, non-civil service, promotional appointment to Police Sergeant with the Police Department, effective February 9, 2025
- **Joseph R. Jones** - Probationary, full-time, non-civil service, promotional appointment to Police Sergeant with the Police Department, effective February 9, 2025
- **Joshua M. Bennett** - Probationary, full-time, non-civil service, promotional appointment to Police Sergeant with the Police Department, effective February 23, 2025
- **John W. Preston II** - Probationary, full-time, non-civil service, promotional appointment to Police Sergeant with the Police Department, effective February 23, 2025

REGULAR STATUS:

- **Brian K. Kendall** - Regular, full-time, non-civil service appointment to Firefighter with the Fire Department, effective February 14, 2025
- **Kendall H. Lashbrook** - Regular, full-time, non-civil service appointment to Firefighter with the Fire Department, effective February 14, 2025
- **Jordan R. McMurdie** - Regular, full-time, non-civil service appointment to Firefighter with the Fire Department, effective February 14, 2025
- **Justin M. Millay** – Regular, full-time, non-civil service appointment to Police Officer with the Police Department, effective February 14, 2025

8.B. City Manager Comments – Josh Bachmeier, HR Manager, gave a brief explanation on the large number of personnel appointments (presentation attached). We have about 120 of our 437 employees on Tier 1 of the Kentucky Retirement System.

9. COMMUNICATIONS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS

Members of the Commission discussed the events they recently attended.

Commissioner Sanford mentioned he had been contacted about AMR ambulance unavailability. City Manager Pagan stated he had heard of the incident where an ambulance was not available and that particular 8-minute response was in the county. The City receives a daily staffing report from AMR and it is typically pretty good. Chief Howard further explained that he had looked into the specific case and had been in touch with AMR. He has regular communication and updates with AMR.

Commissioner NeSmith encouraged everyone to participate in public transportation meetings and surveys when they are held. GRITS is holding a meeting on February 12.

10. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM

Gary Railey (Audubon Acres) discussed an incident that occurred in a local store where he was assaulted and knocked unconscious. He stated he does not feel safe since the assaulter is no longer in jail.

Harold Wilson (2362 Georgia Lane) announced the upcoming 50th anniversary of t-ball. He invited everyone to attend the celebration.

11. There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Mayor Watson to adjourn the meeting at 5:45 p.m., Commissioner Sanford seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Thomas H. Watson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Beth Davis, City Clerk