

**OWENSBORO BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**February 18, 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 – Commissioner Curtis Maglinger**

**4. PRESENTATIONS**

**4.A.** Owensboro Health Annual Report – Gavin Roberts, Board Chair gave a brief opening and Mark Marsh, President and CEO covered the presentation (attached). Of note: each physician hired by Owensboro Health (OH) makes a \$3.2 Million impact on the local economy, OH has an 88% retention rate for physicians, 50% of OH workforce resides in Daviess County, they had \$500 Million in salaries/wages in 2024, their average length of stay is 3.5 days, with most patients originating through their Emergency Room Department, and their reliance on traveling nurses has decreased. Several board and staff members with OH were in attendance.

**4.B.** Becky Brandle, Executive Director of Owensboro Human Relations Commission (HRC), gave an update (attached). Owensboro has taken in 923 refugees since 2018, HRC wants to meet with each commissioner to discuss the future of URLTA (Uniform Residential Landlord Tenant Act), and they would like to see their ordinance amended. The following board members introduced themselves: Lee Nuckols (Vice President); Dr. Eunice Taylor (Past President); Dava Kelly (President); Anita Jackson (Treasurer) and Rafe Buckner (Board Member). Daviess County Fiscal Court contributes \$10,000 to their annual budget. That amount has been the same for several years and they intend to request more.

**4.C.** Owensboro Police Department Annual Report – Deputy Chief J.D. Winkler provided the update (attached).

**4.D.** Corey Gant, Battalion Chief, presented a training update for Owensboro Fire Department (OFD) – attached. Each firefighter had 220 hours of training; completed their first in-house recruit academy since 2021; five (5) of the eight (8) new firefighters are in the EMT program at Owensboro Community and Technical College and the remaining three (3) already had their certification. A new recruit class will begin after Labor Day.

**5.** The project list was distributed (attached) and City Manager Nate Pagan gave a brief update on the new Senior Center. An update on the TIFs will be given at an upcoming meeting.

## **6. BUSINESS**

**6.A.** Minutes dated February 4, 2025, were unanimously approved by motion of Mayor Watson and a second from Mayor Pro Tem Glenn.

**6.B.** The following board appointments were unanimously approved by motion of Mayor Pro Tem Glenn and a second from Commissioner Sanford:

- **Police and Firefighters' Retirement Fund Board (Closed)** – Ratify the election of Charles Hayden to a one-year term expiring December 31, 2025. Appoint Chief Art Ealum to a one-year term expiring December 31, 2025.
- **Midtown East Neighborhood Alliance** – Appoint Heath Stone to a two-year term effective February 18, 2025.
- **Citizen's Advisory Committee on Community Development** – Appoint Rafe Buckner effective February 18, 2025.

## **7. ORDINANCES – 1st READING**

**7.A.** Ordinance 2-2025 entitled AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AND ADOPTING TEXT AMENDMENTS TO APPENDIX F, ARTICLE 8 OF THE OWENSBORO METROPOLITAN ZONING ORDINANCE FOR THE CITIES OF OWENSBORO AND WHITESVILLE, AND DAVIESS COUNTY was introduced and publicly read on first reading.

The Owensboro Metropolitan Planning Commission (OMPC) met in regular session on January 9, 2025, and proposed amendments to the text of the Zoning Ordinance for the Cities of Owensboro and Whitesville, and Daviess County regarding revisions to Article 8 related to Level 3 Solar Energy Systems. Melissa Evans, OMPC Associate Director, explained that the revisions are related to large scale, solar, industrial complexes. The amendments were requested by Daviess County Fiscal Court and include: an increase in setback for all equipment to perimeter property lines, residential structures and county parks; updated screening requirements; updated decommissioning requirements; and to limit total acreage of prime agricultural farmland permitted to allow a Level 3 Solar Energy System as determined and tracked by Daviess County Fiscal Court. These energy

systems will require quite a bit of land so it's unlikely that any will be placed within the city limits.

## **8. MUNICIPAL ORDERS**

**8.A.** Municipal Order 2-2025 entitled A MUNICIPAL ORDER AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AN APPLICATION FOR A KENTUCKY TRANSPORTATION CABINET OFFICE OF HIGHWAY SAFETY GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$44,000.00, THE PROCEEDS OF WHICH WILL ENABLE THE OWENSBORO POLICE DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE OVERTIME TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT DURING SPECIFIC MOBILIZATIONS WITHIN THE CITY OF OWENSBORO TO ENHANCE PUBLIC SAFETY; NO CASH MATCH BEING REQUIRED BY THE CITY was read and unanimously approved on one reading with a motion by Mayor Watson and second by Mayor Pro Tem Glenn.

Order authorizes the Owensboro Police Department (OPD) to apply for \$44,000 from Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Office of Highway Safety Grant to fund overtime hours of officers of the OPD to enforce traffic laws during specific mobilizations.

**8.B.** Municipal Order 3-2025 entitled A MUNICIPAL ORDER AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AN APPLICATION FOR A PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS FUNDING GRANT THROUGH THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$30,000.00, THE PROCEEDS OF WHICH WILL BE UTILIZED BY THE OWENSBORO POLICE DEPARTMENT TO PURCHASE A NEW X-RAY MACHINE WITH HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE FOR THE HAZARDOUS DEVICE UNIT, FOR WHICH NO MATCH IS REQUIRED was read and unanimously approved on one reading with a motion by Commissioner Maglinger and second by Mayor Pro Tem Glenn.

The Owensboro Police Department contains a Hazardous Device Unit (Bomb Squad). The use of x-ray technology for the rapid prosecution of potential threats during events is paramount to the success of the readiness mission of bomb squads and is integral to ensuring fast resolution of potential explosive threats to prevent loss of life and community disruption. The order authorizes application with the Project Safe Neighborhoods Funding grant through the U.S. Department of Justice, in the amount of \$30,000.00, to purchase a new x-ray machine with hardware and software for the Hazardous Device Unit, for which no match is required from the City.

## **9. CITY MANAGER ITEMS**

**9.A.** Financial report for the period ending January 31, 2025 was presented by Angela Waninger, Finance and Support Services Director (attached). The report was unanimously approved by motion of Mayor Watson and seconded by Commissioner NeSmith.

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

**NEW HIRE/PROBATIONARY STATUS:**

- **Edgardo J. Nieves** – Probationary, full-time, non-civil service appointment to Refuse Truck Driver with the Public Works Sanitation Department, effective March 3, 2025

**REGULAR STATUS:**

- **Tyler A. Ballard** – Regular, full-time, non-civil service appointment to Police Officer with the Police Department, effective February 14, 2025
- **Paul G. Warren** – Regular, full-time, non-civil service appointment to Police Officer with the Police Department, effective February 14, 2025
- **Timothy Chad Johnson** - Regular, full-time, non-civil service appointment to Fire Lieutenant with the Fire Department, effective February 25, 2025
- **Steven J. Mueller** – Regular, full-time, non-civil service appointment to Firefighter with the Fire Department, effective February 26, 2025
- **David M. Spalding** - Regular, full-time, non-civil service appointment to Firefighter with the Fire Department, effective February 26, 2025
- **Steven B. Mattingly** – Regular, full-time, non-civil service appointment to Laborer/Maintenance Helper with the Public Works Street Department, effective February 26, 2025

**9.C.** City Manager Comments – None

**10. COMMUNICATIONS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS**

Members of the Commission discussed the events they recently attended.

**11. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM**

Robert Morris (727 Maple Avenue) discussed the need for a speed limit sign on Maple Avenue. Also stated he is interested in the special projects, including their change orders, budget, etc.

## **12. CLOSED SESSION**

**12.A.** Motion was made by Mayor Watson and seconded by Commissioner Sanford to enter into closed session under KRS 61.810(1)(c) for discussions of proposed or pending litigation; motion carried unanimously.

**13.** Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Glenn to return to open session; seconded by Commissioner Sanford; carried unanimously.

**14.** There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Mayor Watson to adjourn the meeting at 6:38 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