

OWENSBORO BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting
March 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

Commissioner Jeff Sanford

Commissioner Curtis Maglinger

Commissioner Sharon NeSmith

Unavailable:

Mayor Pro Tem Bob Glenn

3. INVOCATION & PLEDGE – Commissioner Jeff Sanford

4. PRESENTATIONS

4.A. Mayor Watson presented the “Social Work Month” proclamation to Dr. Elaine Wright, Brescia University.

4.B. The retirement of Shenna Adamic, Telecommunicator, was recognized (not in attendance).

4.C. Chief James Howard presented the annual report for the Owensboro Fire Department (attached).

4.D. Communications & Marketing Manager Shaelie Velez gave a brief update on the upcoming rollout of the new website for the City (attached). The website is scheduled to launch the following week.

4.E. The project list was distributed (attached).

5. BUSINESS

5.A. Minutes dated March 4, 2025, were unanimously approved by motion of Mayor Watson and a second from Commissioner Sanford.

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

- **Housing Authority Board of Owensboro** – Reappoint Tonya Barr to a four-year term effective March 21, 2025
- **Owensboro Human Relations Commission** – Appoint Ramon Muniz Sarmiento to a three-year term effective March 18, 2025

6. ORDINANCES – 2nd READING

6.A. Ordinance 3-2025 entitled AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AND ADOPTING TEXT AMENDMENTS TO THE OWENSBORO METROPOLITAN ZONING ORDINANCE FOR THE CITIES OF OWENSBORO AND WHITESVILLE, AND DAVIESS COUNTY, REGARDING REVISIONS TO ARTICLE 18 -FLOOD PLAIN REGULATIONS, SPECIFICALLY REGARDING THE DEFINITIONS OF SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT TO EXISTING STRUCTURES AND STANDARDS FOR MANUFACTURED HOMES AND RECREATIONAL VEHICLES was unanimously approved by roll call vote upon motion of Commissioner NeSmith and seconded by Commissioner Sanford.

The Owensboro Metropolitan Planning Commission met in regular session on February 13, 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 18 – Flood Plain Regulations, specifically regarding the definitions of substantial improvement to existing structures and standards for manufactured homes and recreational vehicles.

7. MUNICIPAL ORDERS

7.A. Municipal Order 5-2025 entitled A MUNICIPAL ORDER AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION FOR FUNDS FROM THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$11,465,438.00; AND AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE FUNDS TO BE DISBURSED TO OWENSBORO GRAIN HOLDING COMPANY, INC., TO FACILITATE CONSTRUCTION OF A WALL ON THE BANK OF THE OHIO RIVER TO ENSURE THE CONTINUED STABILITY OF OWENSBORO GRAIN'S FACILITIES; AND AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH OWENSBORO GRAIN HOLDING COMPANY, INC., CONCERNING THE FUNDS was read and unanimously approved on one reading with a motion by Mayor Watson and second by Commissioner Sanford.

Owensboro Grain Holding Company, Inc. ("Owensboro Grain") desires to apply for funds in the amount of \$11,465,438.00 from FEMA so that it can construct a 1400' sheet pile wall on the south bank of the Ohio River to ensure the continued stability of its facilities. Owensboro Grain agrees to be solely responsible for the local share of twenty-five percent (25%) of the project cost in the amount of \$2,866,359.00. The City of Owensboro will act as a conduit for obtaining the funds from FEMA and disbursing them to Owensboro Grain for its use in accordance with an Agreement concerning said matter.

City Manager Pagan explained the grant application is on behalf of Cargill, formerly Owensboro Grain. The company's site along East Second Street is experiencing instability along a portion of the riverbank, called slope creep. As a result, the grant request would provide funding for sheet pilings to stabilize the bank. The required 25% match for the grant will be the responsibility of Cargill, so the City has no financial obligation or cost for the project. The Green River Area Development District is writing the application and will administer the grant if awarded. We applied for the grant in prior years on Cargill's behalf, but it has not yet been funded.

7.B. Municipal Order 6-2025 entitled A MUNICIPAL ORDER AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AN APPLICATION FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT PROTECTION PROGRAM GRANT FUNDING THROUGH THE KENTUCKY OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$64,985.60, THE PROCEEDS OF WHICH WILL BE UTILIZED BY THE CITY OF OWENSBORO POLICE DEPARTMENT TO PURCHASE PISTOLS WITH OPTICAL SIGHTS; NO MATCH REQUIRED FROM THE CITY was read and unanimously approved on one reading with a motion by Mayor Watson and second by Commissioner NeSmith.

The Owensboro Police Department seeks to purchase eighty (80) Glock 45 Generation 5 pistols with optical sights through the Law Enforcement Protection Program grant awarded by the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security with grants funds in the amount of \$64,985.60.

7.C. Municipal Order 7-2025 entitled A MUNICIPAL ORDER AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AN APPLICATION FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT PROTECTION PROGRAM GRANT FUNDING THROUGH THE KENTUCKY OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$51,227.69, THE PROCEEDS OF WHICH WILL BE UTILIZED BY THE CITY OF OWENSBORO POLICE DEPARTMENT TO PURCHASE ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION FOR PATROL RIFLES AND PISTOLS; NO MATCH REQUIRED FROM THE CITY was read and unanimously approved on one reading with a motion by Mayor Watson and second by Commissioner Sanford.

The Owensboro Police Department seeks to purchase ammunition to be used in patrol rifles and pistols through the Law Enforcement Protection Program grant awarded by the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security with grant funds in the amount of \$51,227.69.

8. CITY MANAGER ITEMS

8.A. The financial report for the period ending February 28, 2025 was presented by Angela Waninger, Director of Finance and Support Services (attached). Motion was made by Mayor Watson and seconded by Commissioner Sanford to file the financial report for audit; motion carried unanimously.

8.B. The following personnel appointments were approved upon motion of Mayor Watson and a second by Commissioner NeSmith; motion carried unanimously:

NEW HIRE/PROBATIONARY STATUS:

- **Allyson N. Clark** – Probationary, full-time, non-civil service appointment to Telecommunicator with the Police Department, effective March 24, 2025
- **Megan G. Hunter** – Probationary, full-time, non-civil service appointment to Telecommunicator with the Police Department, effective March 24, 2025
- **Eric M. Lee** – Probationary, full-time, non-civil service appointment to Police Officer with the Police Department, effective March 24, 2025
- **Paris R. Cameron** – Probationary, full-time, non-civil service appointment to Telecommunicator with the Police Department, effective April 7, 2025

REGULAR STATUS:

- **Jennifer A. Hamilton** – Regular, full-time, non-civil service appointment to Clerk/Typist with the Police Department, effective March 25, 2025
- **Hunter R. McDaniel** – Regular, full-time, non-civil service appointment to Clerk/Typist with the Police Department, effective March 25, 2025
- **Nathaniel T. Cunningham** – Regular, full-time, non-civil service appointment to Firefighter with the Fire Department, effective March 27, 2025

8.C. City Manager Comments – City Manager Pagan recognized the Owensboro Transit bus drivers for “Transit Driver Appreciation Day” (pic attached). There was also discussion on the hailstorm that had just occurred and the amount of property damage. Residents were encouraged to hire reputable, insured contractors that have business licenses. Stephen Franklin, Public Works Director, stated that limb collection will take place on regular trash day, however, with a current OMU or Kenenergy bill, residents can take debris to the transfer station for no cost. Contractors are required to haul their own debris.

9. COMMUNICATIONS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS

Members of the Commission discussed the events they recently attended.

10. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM

Diana Friend (316 Hale Avenue) thanked the City for being so welcoming to her.

11. CLOSED SESSION

11.A. Motion was made by Mayor Watson and seconded by Commissioner Sanford to enter into Closed Session under KRS 61.810(1)(b) for discussion on the future acquisition or sale of property; motion carried unanimously.

12. Motion was made by Mayor Watson and seconded by Commissioner Sanford to return to open session.

13. There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Mayor Watson to adjourn the meeting at 5:33 p.m., Commissioner Sanford seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Thomas H. Watson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Beth Davis, City Clerk