

**OWENSBORO BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING**

**April 29, 2025 | 12:00 PM**

Owensboro City Hall  
101 E. 4th Street  
Owensboro, KY 42303

**1. CALL TO ORDER - Mayor Tom Watson**

**2. ROLL CALL- Adrienne Carrico**

**Present:**

Mayor Tom Watson

Mayor Pro Tem Bob Glenn

Commissioner Jeff Sanford

Commissioner Curtis Maglinger

Commissioner Sharon NeSmith

**3. 2025-2026 BUDGET PRESENTATION** – City Manager Nate Pagan, along with members of staff, presented a budget presentation (copy attached). The \$163,560,522 budget is divided into five categories: General Fund, Special Revenue Funds, Capital Projects Funds, Enterprise Funds, and the Internal Service Funds. City Manager Pagan noted a few key projects that are either in progress or have been recently completed: construction of new Senior Center, Indoor Sports Facility, Fire Training Classroom/Burn Tower, Fire Station 3, York Ditch Stormwater Project, First Street Improvements, and new Pickleball Courts. These are not new items in the 2025-2026 budget but have already been approved and funded.

City Manager Pagan stated that the budget prioritizes growth, economic development, community needs, infrastructure and public safety. The largest variables between the 2024-25 adopted budget and the 2025-26 proposed budget include increases in salaries and benefits (\$1,918,319), outside services (\$510,740), and maintenance (\$673,862) for a total increase of approximately \$3.1M. No changes to the current tax rates are proposed, and a 3.5% cost-of-living increase has been included in the budget proposal.

Illuminate, a new event scheduled for October 3-5 in the downtown area, will feature more than 12 art installations and nightly drone shows. The Owensboro Air Show will return in 2026.

Beginning in July, Community Development will transition its revitalization efforts from the Riverview NRSA to the newly designated Monarch NRSA. Habitat for Humanity of Owensboro-Daviess County has been designated as the City's certified Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO), serving as the primary developer and builder for the City's affordable housing initiative.

The proposed budget includes increasing the number of Fire Drivers/Engineers from nine (9) to fifteen (15), adding significant potential for promotion within the Owensboro Fire Department.

The proposed budget for the Owensboro Police Department (OPD) includes the addition of two (2) officers to provide support at the Owensboro Police Academy. OPD is currently operating with eight (8) officer vacancies. There was discussion regarding whether Chief Ealum believed additional officers were needed, and he confirmed that he did. City Manager Pagan stated that staff could review the feasibility of adding additional officers later in the year.

#### **4. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Mayor Watson to adjourn the meeting at 2:12 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