

OWENSBORO BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting
May 20, 2025 | 4:00 PM
Owensboro City Hall
101 E. 4th Street
Owensboro, Kentucky

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. INVOCATION & PLEDGE - Mayor Tom Watson

4. PRESENTATIONS

4.A. The retirement of Shellene Davis, Bus Driver, was recognized (not in attendance).

4.B. Mayor Watson presented the “Older Americans Month” proclamation to Dr. David Tucker, Executive Director of the Senior Community Center of Owensboro-Daviess County, accompanied by staff and board members of the Center.

4.C. Mayor Watson presented the “Emergency Medical Services Week” proclamation, which was accepted by Leigh Riddle, EMS Program Coordinator at Owensboro Health, along with other emergency medical service personnel.

4.D. Occupational Tax Administrator Dana Coomes provided a brief overview of Occupational License Fee Taxes (attached). Commissioner Sanford requested clarification on how property taxes are determined. Angela Waninger, Finance and Support Services Director, explained that the Property Valuation Administrator (PVA) assesses property values, and that the City’s tax rate is approved by the Board of Commissioners. City Manager Nate Pagan added that approximately twenty-three percent (23%) of property taxes collected goes to the City of Owensboro, with the remaining seventy-seven percent (77%) allocated to Owensboro Public Schools. Mrs. Coomes acknowledged the tax staff for their patience and dedication.

4.E. Battalion Chief Jason Pickrell & Lieutenant Ted Johnston presented an update on Owensboro Fire Department’s (OFD) water rescue response capabilities and training (attached). Lieutenant Johnston reported that twelve (12) members are currently certified

as swift water rescue technicians. With the Board of Commissioners' approval of the proposed budget, the department hopes to train an additional twelve (12) technicians to ensure sufficient personnel are available to conduct effective rescues.

4.F. The project list was distributed (attached) and City Manager Nate Pagan reported that the York Ditch Stormwater Project and the Fire Training Center have been completed and will be removed from the list next month. There was brief discussion regarding the improvements to the driving range at Ben Hawes and the status of the Outdoor Pickleball Complex, which will be discussed in greater detail at a future meeting.

5. BUSINESS

5.A. Minutes dated April 29, 2025 and May 6, 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 Sanford:

- **Dugan Best Neighborhood Alliance** – Reappoint Deborah Street to a two-year term effective May 23, 2025
- **Old Owensboro Neighborhood Alliance** – Appoint Brooke Matheny to a two-year term effective May 20, 2025

The following board appointment was approved 4-0 by motion of Mayor Watson and a second by Mayor Pro Tem Glenn; Commissioner Maglinger recused himself.

- **Bluegrass Music Hall of Fame and Museum Board** - Appoint Curtis Maglinger to fill the remainder of an unexpired term ending November 24, 2026 (replacing Tom Watson)

6. ORDINANCES - 2nd READING

6.A. Ordinance 4-2025 entitled AN ORDINANCE CHANGING THE NAME OF TAYLOR AVENUE TO KAMUF WAY was unanimously approved by a roll call vote; motion by Mayor Watson and a second by Commissioner NeSmith.

Owensboro Catholic High School has requested that the name of Taylor Avenue be changed to Kamuf Way to honor Charles and Linda Kamuf, who have made significant contributions to the school. No residences have addresses on Taylor Avenue.

6.B. Ordinance 5-2025 entitled AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE 2-2019 AND ADOPTING THE DAVIESS COUNTY FISCAL COURT COUNTY-WIDE ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE, KOC 1010.9 (2025) was unanimously approved by a roll call vote; motion by Commissioner NeSmith and a second by Commissioner Sanford.

The City wishes to adopt by reference the new Daviess County Animal Control Ordinance, KOC 1010.9 (2025), as it may be amended from time to time. The City specifically retains the provisions in Article I of Chapter 4, Section 4-18 of Chapter 4, and Section 19-6 of the Owensboro Municipal Code related to animals. City Manager Pagan explained that the County provides animal control services county-wide, including within the City. The City historically adopts the County's animal control ordinance, which was recently amended. This ordinance adopts the County's revised version by reference. He noted that the City retains its own laws concerning animals in parks, owner responsibility to pick up after their animals, and livestock within city limits.

7. ORDINANCES - 1st READING

7.A. Ordinance 6-2025 entitled AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING AND APPROVING THE ANNUAL BUDGET OF THE CITY OF OWENSBORO, KENTUCKY, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2025, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2026, AND APPROPRIATING THE REVENUES TO THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS OF THE CITY AS SET FORTH HEREIN was introduced and publicly read on first reading.

The estimated revenues and fund balances set forth in the 2025-2026 Budget of the City of Owensboro are hereby appropriated to the various departments of the City of Owensboro for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026, in the amount of \$163,560,522, inclusive of Internal Service Funds, for the various purposes designated in the 2025-2026 Annual Budget. City Manager Pagan noted that there are no changes to the draft budget that was presented in April or discussed in the videos previously shared with the Board of Commissioners. The proposed budget includes no changes to the City's tax rates and reflects continued investment in priorities identified by the Board of Commissioners, including public safety, infrastructure, and economic development. The General Fund, the City's primary operating fund, is balanced. The budget includes investments in the priorities emphasized by the Board of Commissioners, including public safety, infrastructure, and economic development. The budget provides the resources needed for City departments to continue delivering high-level, professional services and facilities to the community for the upcoming fiscal year. City Manager Pagan acknowledged the Finance staff and department heads for their integral role in preparing the budget.

7.B. Ordinance 7-2025 entitled AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE COMPENSATION OF CITY EMPLOYEES AND NON-ELECTED CITY OFFICERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH A PERSONNEL AND PAY CLASSIFICATION PLAN, AS REQUIRED BY KRS 83A.070 was introduced and publicly read on first reading.

KRS 83A.070(2) directs the legislative body of each city to fix the compensation of city employees and non-elected city officers in accordance with a personnel and pay classification which shall be adopted by ordinance. City Manager Pagan explained that state law requires the adoption of the pay plan by ordinance; therefore, these charts represent the pay structure for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. The pay plan serves as a

companion to the budget, and the only change is a 3.5% cost-of-living adjustment, as included in the proposed budget.

7.C. Ordinance 8-2025 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 FOR PURCHASE OF PROPERTY, DEVELOPER INCENTIVE PAYMENTS, CONSTRUCTION OF BUS SHELTERS, AND CONTRIBUTION TO THE COLD FOOD STORAGE PROJECT; TO PROVIDE FOR RECEIPT OF GRANT REVENUE AND APPROPRIATE THOSE FUNDS; AND TO TRUE UP YEAR-END ACTIVITY was introduced and publicly read on first reading.

Budget amendment to provide for purchase of property, developer incentive payments, construction of bus shelters, and contribution to the cold food storage project; to provide for receipt of grant revenue and appropriate those funds; and to true up year-end activity. City Manager Pagan highlighted one significant change; an additional \$400,000 appropriation for the refrigerated food warehouse project, bringing the City's total contribution to \$500,000. The remainder of the amendment primarily reflects previously approved items, including the receipt and expenditure of grant funds, incentives for the family entertainment center at the mall, and various appropriations.

8. MUNICIPAL ORDERS

8.A. Municipal Order 11-2025 entitled A MUNICIPAL ORDER APPROVING THE 2025-2029 CONSOLIDATED PLAN AND THE 2025-2026 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT AND HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP FUNDS, PREPARED BY THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT AND AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE SAME was read and unanimously approved on one reading with a motion by Mayor Watson and second by Commissioner Sanford.

The Citizens Advisory Committee on Community Development conducted three public hearings and now recommends that the Owensboro Board of Commissioners accept the 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan and the 2025-2026 Annual Action Plan for Community Development Block Grant and HOME Funds in order to continue to address the need for housing and community development in the community. City Manager Pagan explained that the 2025-2029 HUD Consolidated Plan charts a five-year course focused on affordable-housing production and preservation. The plan includes a shift to the Monarch Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area (NRSA), which emphasizes economic-opportunity partnerships and resilient public-infrastructure upgrades, targeting approximately 200 projects. Year one of the Monarch NRSA is captured in the 2025-2026 Annual Action Plan, which allocates \$542,893 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds and \$273,553 in HOME funds. These funds will support single-family rehabilitation and emergency repairs, facade and demolition grants, and first-time homebuyer assistance, while reserving the allowable share for administration and compliance. These investments are expected to leverage about \$4 million in additional

private capital over the next five years. Community Development Director Abby Shelton will present more details about the Monarch NRSA next month.

9. CITY MANAGER ITEMS

9.A. Financial Report for the period ending April 30, 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 Mayor Pro Tem Glenn.

9.B. The following Personnel Appointments were unanimously approved by motion of Mayor Watson and a second by Commissioner Sanford:

NEW HIRE/PROBATIONARY STATUS:

Thomas Chadd Clark – Probationary, full-time, non-civil service appointment to Construction Inspector with the Public Works Engineering Department, effective June 2, 2025

James M. Kingsley – Probationary, full-time, non-civil service appointment to Laborer/Maintenance Helper with the Public Works Street/Stormwater Department, effective June 2, 2025

Shawn L. Mattingly – Probationary, full-time, non-civil service appointment to Maintenance Specialist with the Public Works Buildings Department, effective June 2, 2025

Thomas R. Miller – Probationary, full-time, non-civil service appointment to Road Worker with the Public Works Street Department, effective June 2, 2025

Jacob P. Trogden – Probationary, full-time, non-civil service appointment to Maintenance Equipment Operator with the Public Works Street Department, effective June 2, 2025

Loren T. Yonts – Probationary, full-time, non-civil service appointment to Police Officer with the Police Department, effective June 2, 2025, ***contingent upon successful completion of all post-offer, pre-employment requirements***

REGULAR STATUS:

Andrew J. Wilson – Regular, full-time, non-civil service appointment to Firefighter with the Fire Department, effective May 28, 2025

9.C. City Manager Comments – City Manager Pagan shared that City Night at Friday After 5 has been rescheduled to Friday, May 30.

10. COMMUNICATIONS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS

Members of the Commission discussed the events they recently attended and commended everyone involved for a successful BBQ and Barrels event.

Commissioner Sanford reported receiving concerns from business owners and residents in the Industrial Drive area regarding issues related to the homeless population at “Tent City.” After visiting the area, he noted the presence of trash, drug paraphernalia, and other sanitation concerns. Commissioner Sanford acknowledged the need for supportive services but emphasized that property damage and unsafe conditions will not be tolerated.

Mayor Pro Tem Glenn praised the Owensboro Fire Department for assisting with tornado recovery efforts in London, KY. He also urged residents to contact federal legislators to protect funding for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Weather Service, declaring them vital to severe weather alerts during storm season.

Commissioner NeSmith noted that out-of-town contractors have approached the hotel she manages about roof repairs after the hailstorm. She always ensures they have an Owensboro business license or educates them on how to obtain one. She also praised hotel guests, including members of the Southeastern Folk Alliance, for calmly following safety procedures during a recent tornado warning.

11. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM

Steve Innes (3657 Briarcliff Trace), leader of Green River Community Food Warehouse, thanked the City Commission and City Manager for their support in helping reduce food insecurity in Owensboro and Daviess County. Mayor Watson commended Mr. Innes for his leadership and efforts on this project.

Pam Bivens (4127 Liberty Point) shared a quilt she made from nearly 800 ties donated by elected officials, city staff, and the “gentlemen of Owensboro.” The quilt will be auctioned to raise funds for a special project at the Owensboro Museum of Science and History, which will be connected to the upcoming 250th anniversary of the United States.

Jason Sexton (3534 Burns Road) requested that the rules for public comment be repeated. Mayor Watson re-read the rules in response.

12. CLOSED SESSION

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

13. Motion was made by Mayor Watson to return to open session; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Glenn; motion carried unanimously.

14. There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Mayor Watson to adjourn the meeting at 5:38 pm, Commissioner Sanford seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Thomas H. Watson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Beth Davis, City Clerk