

OWENSBORO BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting
November 18, 2025 | 4:00 PM
Owensboro City Hall
101 E. 4th Street
Owensboro, Kentucky

1. CALL TO ORDER - Mayor Tom Watson

2. ROLL CALL – City Clerk Beth Davis

Present:

Mayor Tom Watson
Mayor Pro Tem Bob Glenn
Commissioner Jeff Sanford
Commissioner Curtis Maglinger

Unavailable:

Commissioner Sharon NeSmith

3. INVOCATION & PLEDGE – Commissioner Sanford

4. PRESENTATIONS

4.A. The 2025 Owensboro Christmas card, designed by Aaron Kizer, was unveiled (attached). The inspiration was drawn from his Illuminate mural on Second Street.

4.B. Chief James Howard presented information on the Fire Department (OFD) 2025 Community Risk Assessment and Standards of Cover (presentation attached). OFD is in the process of becoming accredited and the material covered was part of the process.

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

5. BUSINESS

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

5.B. The following board appointments were unanimously approved by motion of Mayor Watson and a second by Mayor Pro Tem Glenn:

- **Owensboro Parks and Recreation Advisory Board** – Reappoint Paula Hayden to a two-year term effective November 23, 2025.
- **Owensboro Human Relations Commission** – Reappoint Dava Kelly to a three-year term effective December 4, 2025.

6. ORDINANCES – 2nd READING

6.A. Ordinance 19-2025 entitled AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES GOVERNING SUSPENSIONS OR REVOCATIONS OF THE PRIVILEGE TO RIDE OWENSBORO TRANSIT SYSTEM BUSES, was unanimously approved by roll call vote on second reading by motion of Mayor Watson and second by Commissioner Sanford.

The Owensboro Municipal Code of Ordinances (OMC) presently lacks a procedure to ensure that passengers who have received a suspension or revocation of their bus privileges receive a fair hearing or have the right to appeal a determination adverse to them. The Board of Commissioners wishes to establish a new section of the OMC creating a procedure to govern suspensions and revocations of bus privileges. City Manager Pagan explained the ordinance creates a process for suspending unruly riders from the Owensboro Transit System. An approved method to suspend riding privileges that provides due process to the impacted rider was needed for the occasional incident. The department can issue a short-term suspension, while the city manager can issue a suspension for a longer period dictated by the nature of the offense; and the suspended rider can appeal to the Board of Commissioners. The process is modeled after an existing procedure for the Parks Department that has worked well.

7. MUNICIPAL ORDERS

7.A. Municipal Order 26-2025 entitled A MUNICIPAL ORDER AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AN APPLICATION FOR BODY ARMOR GRANT FUNDING THROUGH THE OFFICE OF THE KENTUCKY ATTORNEY GENERAL DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$254,882.09, THE PROCEEDS OF WHICH WILL BE UTILIZED BY THE CITY OF OWENSBORO POLICE DEPARTMENT TO PURCHASE BODY ARMOR; NO MATCH REQUIRED FROM THE CITY, was unanimously approved on one reading with motion by Mayor Watson and a second by Commissioner Maglinger.

The Kentucky General Assembly created a grant program in the Office of the Attorney General's Department of Criminal Investigations to help law enforcement and first responders purchase body armor, duty weapons, ammunition, electronic-control devices and body-worn cameras. The Owensboro Police Department seeks to apply for grant funding in the total amount of \$254,882.09 to purchase ninety-five (95) helmets and eleven (11) shields for officers.

7.B. Municipal Order 27-2025 entitled A MUNICIPAL ORDER AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AN APPLICATION FOR THE PATRICK LEAHY BULLETPROOF VEST PARTNERSHIP (BVP) INITIATIVE GRANT ADMINISTERED BY THE BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE DESIGNED TO PROVIDE CRITICAL RESOURCES TO LAW ENFORCEMENT JURISDICTIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF REIMBURSING THE OWENSBORO POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR FIFTY PERCENT (50%) OF THE TOTAL COST OF \$29,746.00, EXPENDED TO PURCHASE THIRTY-FIVE (35) NEW BULLETPROOF VESTS, THAT AMOUNT BEING \$14,873.00, was approved 4-0 on one reading with motion by Mayor Watson and a second by Commissioner Sanford.

The City of Owensboro Police Department requests to apply for funding through the Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) initiative grant to purchase thirty-five (35) bulletproof vests which are set to expire during the next fiscal year for a cost totaling \$29,746.00, with a grant reimbursement of \$14,873.00.

8. CITY MANAGER ITEMS

8.A. The following personnel appointments were unanimously approved by motion of Mayor Watson and a second by Mayor Pro Tem Glenn:

PROMOTIONAL/PROBATIONARY STATUS:

- **Ted S. Johnston** – Probationary, full-time, non-civil service, promotional appointment to Fire Captain with the Fire Department, effective November 30, 2025
- **Tyler H. Grant** – Probationary, full-time, non-civil service, promotional appointment to Fire Lieutenant with the Fire Department, effective December 28, 2025

8.B. City Manager Comments – City Manager Pagan reminded everyone of the city offices that are closed for Thanksgiving, upcoming Christmas tree lighting in Smothers Park on November 21 and the Christmas Parade on November 22.

9. COMMUNICATIONS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS

Members of the Commission discussed the events they recently attended and wished everyone Happy Thanksgiving.

10. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM

Georgia Bryant (3434 Professional Drive) stated the riders of the transit system are being told to fold up their carts on the buses although the rules state the carts can remain open following certain guidelines. The patrons have been forced to either not ride or remove their groceries/laundry and hold them in their lap to fold up the cart. Both City Attorney Mark Pfeifer and City Manager Pagan said they would look into the issue.

11. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 4:58 pm by motion of Mayor Watson and a second by Commissioner Maglinger.

Thomas H. Watson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Beth Davis, City Clerk