

**OWENBORO BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**March 3, 2026 | 5:00 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

Commissioner Sharon NeSmith

3. INVOCATION & PLEDGE – Mayor Pro Tem Bob Glenn

4. PRESENTATION

4.A. Deputy Chief J.D. Winkler presented the 2025 Owensboro Police Department Annual Report (attached).

5. BUSINESS

5.A. Minutes dated February 17, 2026, were unanimously approved by motion of Mayor Watson and a second from Commissioner Sanford.

6. ORDINANCES – 2nd READING

6.A. Ordinance 4-2026 entitled AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE V, OF THE OWENSBORO MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO THE OWENSBORO HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION was unanimously approved on second reading by roll call vote with motion by Mayor Watson and second from Commissioner NeSmith.

The Owensboro Human Relations Commission (OHRC) was created by ordinance in 1972 and last updated in 2001. The proposed amendments will ensure the OHRC remains compliant with state law, updates membership qualifications and terms, and defines current operating procedures. City Manager Pagan explained that the Owensboro Human Relations Commission (HRC) was created in 1972 in accordance with authorizing state statutes and the ordinance has not been updated since 2001. The proposed changes are not substantial and are largely clarifications and clean-up. Changes include the following:

- Changing references of appointed members from commission members to board members to match language used with other organizations.
- Reducing the maximum number of board members from 15 down to 12. The HRC board is larger than almost every other board for the various organizations we've created.
- Staggering the new terms of board appointments.
- Requiring that board members must be a resident of the community for 1-year prior to appointment and remain a community resident for the duration of their term.
- Clarify that the HRC is authorized to refer complaints to appropriate agencies, which is their long-standing practice.
- And finally, clarifying that the HRC may, but is not required to, conduct investigations into complaints they receive. That is what the ordinance says now, so the responsibilities of the HRC are not changing, only adding clarifying language.

The changes were made in consultation with the chair and vice chair of the board and the executive director of the organization.

Dava Kelly (4631 Sydney Lane) HRC board chair spoke on behalf of the Board stating that they were in support of the changes and thanked the Board of Commissioners for their support.

Glenda Wright (711 Jed Place) HRC board member spoke against the current board members and against the changes to the ordinance.

## 7. ORDINANCES – 1st READING

**7.A.** Ordinance 5-2026 entitled AN ORDINANCE ANNEXING TO THE CITY OF OWENSBORO CERTAIN UNINCORPORATED TERRITORY IN THE COUNTY OF DAVIESS ADJOINING THE PRESENT BOUNDARY LINE OF THE CITY, BEING PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1205 EWING ROAD CONTAINING A TOTAL OF 10.393 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, AT THE REQUEST OF REGIONAL WATER RESOURCE AGENCY was introduced and publicly read on first reading.

Regional Water Resource Agency has requested the annexation of 1205 Ewing Road (10.393 acres) for future property consolidation and development. City Manager Pagan stated that the property is the site of the Max Rhoads Sewer Treatment Plant. Most of the RWRA property there has been annexed with the exception of this portion (map attached).

**7.B.** Ordinance 6-2026 entitled AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2025 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2026, AND AMENDING ORDINANCE 6-2025 TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR ELEVATOR REPAIR AT THE ALLEN STREET PARKING GARAGE; TO RECEIVE AND APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THE BEN HAWES PICKLEBALL COURTS, POLICE

OFFICER TRAINING AND TRAFFIC SAFETY was introduced and publicly read on first reading.

Budget amendment to appropriate funds for elevator repair at the Allen Street parking garage; to receive and appropriate funds for the Ben Hawes pickleball courts, police officer training and traffic safety. City Manager Pagan further stated the amendment includes:

- Provide funding to repair an elevator in the RiverPark parking garage
- To account for the receipt and expenditure of additional funding from the RiverCity Pickleball Club
- Appropriate existing, restricted funds for police officer training
- To account for the revenue and expense of grant funds
- And corrections and transfers for tracking purposes.

Other than the funding for elevator repair, the items are typical of budget amendments.

## **8. MUNICIPAL ORDERS**

**8.A.** Municipal Order 6-2026 entitled A MUNICIPAL ORDER DECLARING PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3140 FAIRVIEW DRIVE AS SURPLUS PROPERTY AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A DEED CONVEYING TRACTS CONTAINING A TOTAL OF 0.067 ACRES, AND PERMANENT AND TEMPORARY EASEMENTS OVER ADDITIONAL TRACTS, TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY, FOR THE USE AND BENEFIT OF THE TRANSPORTATION CABINET, FOR THE PURPOSE OF IMPROVING FAIRVIEW DRIVE was unanimously approved on one reading with a motion by Mayor Pro Tem Glenn and second by Commissioner Sanford.

The City of Owensboro owns real property located at 3140 Fairview Drive and desires to declare a portion of this property consisting of tracts containing a total of 0.067 acres to be surplus property, so they can be sold to the Commonwealth for the improvement of Fairview Drive. The City also desires to grant permanent and temporary easements to the Commonwealth over and across portions of its property to allow for the improvement project. City Manager Pagan explained the State has a much-needed project to widen Fairview Drive between Hwy 54 and Settles Road. To do so, the State needs to acquire a small piece of property from the City. The property being transferred to the State is essentially a ditch of nominal value. However, the State is paying the City \$1,000 (map attached).

**8.B.** Municipal Order 7-2026 entitled A MUNICIPAL ORDER AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH 700 FREDERICA STREET LLC PROVIDING THAT THE CITY SHALL PAY 700 FREDERICA STREET LLC AN INCENTIVE PER RESIDENTIAL UNIT BUILT ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 700 FREDERICA STREET was unanimously approved on one reading with a motion by Mayor Watson and second by Commissioner NeSmith.

700 Frederica Street LLC is the owner of real property located at 700 Frederica Street (hereafter “the Property”). The Property owners intend to develop the Property by building sixteen (16) residential units, which will have substantial benefit to the citizens of Owensboro, and the City desires to provide an incentive for 700 Frederica Street LLC to develop the Property. City Manager Pagan stated the incentive agreement is for a project at 700 Frederica Street, which is formerly the U.S. Bank (and Cardinal Federal) building. The developers are renovating the building and adding an additional floor. The project will feature 16 residential units on the second and third floors. The incentive provided is the same that was given for the residential units at the Brio project, which is approximately \$6,100 per unit.

**8.C.** Municipal Order 8-2026 entitled A MUNICIPAL ORDER ADOPTING THE COMMUNITY RISK ASSESSMENT AND STANDARDS OF COVER OF THE OWENSBORO FIRE DEPARTMENT was unanimously approved on one reading with a motion by Mayor Watson and second by Commissioner Maglinger.

The Owensboro Fire Department (OFD) is pursuing accreditation through the Commission on Fire Accreditation International. As part of its accreditation efforts, OFD has prepared a Community Risk Assessment and Standards of Cover, which identifies and prioritizes risks addressed by OFD in the services it provides to residents of Owensboro. City Manager Pagan explained that the order facilitates the adoption of OFD’s Community Risk Assessment and Standards of Cover document that was previously presented. The document describes risks from fire, hazardous materials, health emergencies, and more based on incident data and research by OFD. Importantly, the document also describes the resources that OFD deploys to mitigate the risks identified. A key feature is a multi-point plan developed by the Fire Chief to guide continuous improvement of the agency based on the findings included throughout. Formal adoption of this document by the municipality is a recommendation of Center for Public Safety Excellence, the governing body for the International Fire Accreditation process, which OFD is going through now.

**8.D.** Municipal Order 9-2026 entitled A MUNICIPAL ORDER AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AN AMENDED PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH RIVER CITY PICKELBALL, INC. was unanimously approved on one reading with a motion by Mayor Watson and second by Commissioner NeSmith.

In 2023, the City of Owensboro authorized the execution of a Partnership Agreement with River City Pickleball, Inc. (RCP) for the purpose of locating and constructing a pickleball facility within Ben Hawes Park. The City and RCP desire to amend their Partnership Agreement to make various changes including extending its term and modifying the parties’ funding obligations. City Manager Pagan further stated this order approves an amendment to the existing agreement with the River City Pickleball Club for their participation in the facility under construction at Ben Hawes Park. The amendment increases the RCP’s contribution from \$500,000 to \$700,000. The City is giving RCP an extra year to fully fund this higher contribution, however, as the revised agreement allows them five years to satisfy their commitment, up from four years. This allows RCP to offer

five-year sponsorship terms as they continue raising funds. Their fundraising efforts are going very well, and the City appreciates the partnership with RCP.

**8.E.** Municipal Order 10-2026 entitled A MUNICIPAL ORDER AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDS FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT FOR HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT FOR VARIOUS PUBLIC WORKS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS, INCLUDING FUNDS FOR OHIO RIVER RIVERBANK STABILIZATION, DEVELOPMENT OF THE MASSIE SITE AND THE LANDING was unanimously approved on one reading with a motion by Mayor Watson and second by Commissioner Sanford.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has FY 2027 grant funds available to communities for public works, economic development and infrastructure improvements under the Economic Development Initiatives program of the Community Development Fund. The City needs funding for various public works, economic development and infrastructure improvement projects, including but not limited to the stabilization of approximately 500 linear feet of the Ohio River riverbank from McConnell Plaza to the Kentucky Legend Pier in downtown Owensboro, development of the Massie site and The Landing. City Manager Pagan further explained this item came up in the last few days when we were contacted by Congressman Brett Guthrie's office to submit projects for possible funding. They suggested the City provide various projects for the Congressman to consider, with a deadline of tomorrow. The City plans to submit development of the Massie site, The Landing, and riverbank stabilization project near the Kentucky Legend Pier behind the Convention Center.

## 9. BOARD APPOINTMENTS

**9.A.** The following board appointments were unanimously approved by motion of Mayor Watson and a second from Mayor Pro Tem Glenn:

- **Property Maintenance Code Enforcement Board** – Appoint Brian Hedges to a three-year term expiring January 7, 2029.
- **City Employees' Pension Board (closed)** – Appoint Sue Napper to a four-year term expiring December 31, 2029.
- **Apollo Area Neighborhood Alliance** – Appoint Karleigh Roby to a two-year term effective March 3, 2026.
- **Dogwood Azalea Neighborhood Alliance** – Reappoint Mary Anne Steele to a two-year term effective March 20, 2026.
- **Housing Authority of Owensboro Board** – Reappoint Rick Searcy to a four-year term effective March 22, 2026.

- **Owensboro Human Relations Commission** - Appoint Rafe Buckner, Courtney Carter, Veena Sallan and Chris Stuchell to three-year terms effective March 15, 2026. Appoint Anita Jackson, Dava Kelly, Eunice Taylor and Jen Vogel to two-year terms effective March 15, 2026. Appoint Chris Johnson, Lee Nuckols, Khaibar Shafaq and Mary Ann Steele to one-year terms effective March 15, 2026.
- **Dugan Best Neighborhood Alliance** – Appoint Anita Jackson to a two-year term effective March 3, 2026.
- **Wesleyan Shawnee Neighborhood Alliance** – Appoint Tom Pope and Misty Voitke to a two-year term effective March 3, 2026.

## 10. CITY MANAGER ITEMS

**10.A.** The following personnel appointments were unanimously approved by motion of Mayor Watson and a second by Commissioner Sanford:

### **REGULAR, FULL-TIME, NON-CIVIL SERVICE APPOINTMENTS:**

- **Joshua D. Sexton** - Fire Lieutenant with the Fire Department, effective February 28, 2026
- **Dakota Hunter Cavender** - Firefighter with the Fire Department, effective March 9, 2026
- **Joshua C. Hayden** - Firefighter with the Fire Department, effective March 9, 2026
- **Caleb R. Nieman** - Firefighter with the Fire Department, effective March 9, 2026
- **Samantha K. Stevens** - Firefighter with the Fire Department, effective March 9, 2026
- **Ian C. Wilson** – Firefighter with the Fire Department, effective March 9, 2026
- **Dartez G. Ashley** – Refuse Truck Driver with the Public Works Sanitation Department, effective March 10, 2026

**10.B.** City Manager Comments – Mr. Pagan announced that there is a national Facebook outage occurring, therefore, the meeting is not currently streaming. However, the meeting can be viewed on the city’s website. He also recognized National Procurement Day and acknowledged the Purchasing Department team members of Kayln Fox and Whitney McFarland.

## 11. COMMUNICATIONS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS

Members of the Commission discussed the events they recently attended and extended prayers for U.S. troops and our community.

Commissioner Maglinger stated after the article in the newspaper ran regarding the English Park Master Plan, he received concerns from the public and would like for the Commission to receive details about the project to ensure current projects are a priority.

Commissioner NeSmith and Mayor Watson recognized Steve Innes and the Green River Food Warehouse project. Commissioner NeSmith said they still need to raise \$1 Million. She mentioned the Lowe's Grant and encouraged others to nominate the project. City Manager Pagan added that the group is buying property that was an existing storage space with plans to renovate it.

Mayor Watson announced the next Board of Commissioners meeting will be a trolley tour of city projects on March 17.

## **12. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM**

Chris Stuchell, HRC board member (900 E. 3rd Street) shared his appreciation for all volunteers on city boards and called out for compassion and unity to work toward a better Owensboro. He mentioned seeing mission work through the many non-profits and he is committed to upholding inclusion and accessibility in the community despite behaviors that come his way.

Jamie Sowders (2411 Hayden Bridge Road) said he conducts market analysis in the local construction industry which includes checking jobs and speaking with workers. After speaking with a group of workers at the new Board of Education building under construction he learned they are from Bowling Green and Nashville and being paid cash for their work. This is a misclassification of workers and is drain of our community (and other communities). He said after checking more job sites, there are many contractors working in this area with no business license, not paying any taxes, and many are from out of town. The out-of-town contractors are not abiding like local contractors and taking money out of the community. He found that only two of seventeen contractors he checked had a business license. He is suggesting a responsible bidder ordinance be established in the City. He has found some examples and sent them to the Board of Commissioners. Additionally, he would like to include a requirement to maintain a set percentage of local workers.

Billy McCarthy (9154 Hwy 405 Maceo) complained about the large size of the police department firing range (former landfill) versus the fire department training facility.

Glenda Wright (711 Jed Place) spoke about her family, herself and against the elected officials.

**13.** There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Mayor Watson to adjourn the meeting at 6:01 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