

OWENSBORO BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Special Meeting
July 14, 2026 | 5:00 PM (CT) 6:00 PM (ET)
Owensboro City Hall
101 E. 4th Street
Owensboro, Kentucky

1. CALL TO ORDER - Mayor Tom Watson

Mayor Watson explained that per protocol of a special meeting, there would be no city manager or elected officials' comments, nor an open public forum.

2. ROLL CALL - City Clerk Beth Davis

3. INVOCATION & PLEDGE – Commissioner Sharon NeSmith

4. RETIREMENT RECOGNITIONS

Effective July 31, 2026

- Andrew Boggess, Police Officer
- J.D. Faith, Police Officer
- Josh O'Bryan, Fire Driver/Engineer
- Bryan Poole, Refuse Truck Driver
- Amber Schrecker, Assistant Greens Superintendent
- Jacob Seaton, Fire Lieutenant
- Mike Staples, Police Major
- Elaine Timmel, Human Resources Administrative Aide

All were present with the exception of Major Mike Staples. The managers/directors read a statement about each retiree.

5. PRESENTATIONS

5.A. Mayor Watson presented a "Parks and Recreation Month" Proclamation to Parks and Recreation Director Amanda Rogers.

5.B. The city project list was distributed (attached).

6. BUSINESS

6.A. Minutes dated June 16, 2026 were approved by motion of Mayor Watson and a second by Commissioner Sanford; motion carried.

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

- **Regional Water Resource Agency Board**– Appoint Terri Myles to a four-year term expiring June 30, 2030
- **Northwest Neighborhood Alliance** – Appoint Alfreda Williams to a two-year term effective July 14, 2026
- **Dogwood Azalea Neighborhood Alliance** – Appoint Jayson Fallin to a two-year term effective July 14, 2026
- **Dugan Best Neighborhood Alliance** – Reappoint Andrea Johnson to a two-year term effective August 2, 2026
- **Owensboro Historic Preservation Board** – Reappoint Louise Young to a three-year term effective August 2, 2026

7. ORDINANCES – 2nd READING

7.A. Ordinance 14-2026 entitled AN ORDINANCE REVISING EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK POLICY 112, THEREBY CHANGING PROMOTIONAL PROCEDURES FOR THE OWENSBORO FIRE AND POLICE DEPARTMENTS was unanimously approved by roll call vote with motion of Mayor Watson and second by Commissioner NeSmith.

To assist employees and management in accessing the information provided in various policies and procedures manuals, the City has created a comprehensive Employee Handbook. Revising Policy 112 of the handbook will establish a clear and structured promotional process for both the Fire Department and Police Department. City Manager Pagan explained the proposed revision allows laterally hired firefighters to receive credit for prior qualifying service with comparable agencies for promotional eligibility, provided they have completed at least two (2) years of service with OFD. The change is intended to enhance recruitment and development of experienced personnel while maintaining a minimum period of service within OFD before promotion eligibility. This change does not affect the police department.

7.B. Ordinance 15-2026 entitled AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE OWENSBORO ZONING ORDINANCE ADOPTED MARCH 14, 1980, SO AS TO INCLUDE WITHIN THE I-1 LIGHT INDUSTRIAL ZONE PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE 3501-4301 BLOCKS OF WEST PARRISH AVENUE CONTAINING 121.605 ACRES, MORE OR LESS was unanimously approved by roll call vote with motion of Mayor Watson and second by Commissioner NeSmith.

The Owensboro Metropolitan Planning Commission (OMPC) met in regular session on May 14, 2026, and considered a proposal from the City of Owensboro to change the zoning classification of the property located in the 3501-4301 blocks W. Parrish Avenue

from its present classification of A-R Rural Agriculture and I-1 Light Industrial to I-2 Heavy Industrial. The OMPC recommended that the proposal to change the zoning classification be denied. The City filed a written request pursuant to KRS 100.2111(4) that the Owensboro Board of Commissioners, the appropriate legislative body, shall decide the proposed amendment. Based on findings of fact, the Board of Commissioners proposes to overturn the OMPC decision and amend the zoning ordinance and maps so that the property will be zoned I-1 Light Industrial subject to certain conditions.

City Manager Pagan stated that several years ago the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) began a process to identify potential sites for industrial development. Additional land to accommodate investment and jobs was needed because the Airpark is getting closer to being fully built out; there are only approximately 35 acres of publicly controlled land remaining.

As part of that process, the Massie property was identified as being well-located and suitable for economic development. After some initial due diligence and negotiations with the owners, the City reached an agreement to acquire approximately 122 acres, and the Board of Commissioners approved purchasing the site in August of 2025.

Since the purchase, the City and EDC have collaborated to prepare the site for development and jobs. This involves various elements, such as engineering and utility considerations and traffic studies. In addition, the property needed to be rezoned since it is currently split zoned, with approximately 56% zoned agricultural and the remaining 44% zoned as I-1 light industrial.

Manufacturing facilities, similar to those in the Airpark, cannot be located in an agriculturally zoned property. Therefore, rezoning is necessary for the site to be used for its intended purpose. The City initially sought to rezone the entire property to I-2 heavy industrial, the most accommodating zone, allowing limited uses not available in the I-1 light industrial zone. I-2 property is somewhat rare in the community, and the City thought an I-2 zoning would make the property more marketable.

However, at the Owensboro Metropolitan Planning Commission (OMPC) meeting in May, the OMPC Board voted against rezoning the site to I-2; the rezoning failed by one vote. The City must rezone the property to use it for its intended purpose since an industrial park cannot be utilized that has a majority of its land zoned as agricultural.

State law allows a city or county to hear any rezoning after its consideration by the planning commission. The City has chosen to have the Massie rezoning on the agenda for a Board of Commissioners meeting.

8. MUNICIPAL ORDERS

8.A. Municipal Order 22-2026 entitled A MUNICIPAL ORDER AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY, TRANSPORTATION CABINET, DEPARTMENT

OF HIGHWAYS CONCERNING LOCAL ASSISTANCE ROAD PROGRAM (LARP) FUNDING was unanimously approved on one reading by motion of Mayor Watson and a second from Commissioner Maglinger.

The City of Owensboro desires to resurface various streets in the City of Owensboro to enhance the safety of motorists. The Commonwealth of Kentucky, Transportation Cabinet, Department of Highways ("Department") has \$1,119,000.00 in Local Assistance Road Program ("LARP") funding available to the City to complete its resurfacing project. The Department and the City of Owensboro desire to enter into an Agreement setting forth the terms of reimbursement of LARP funding to the City. City Manager Pagan added that various projects were submitted during the grant process and the State approved sections of the following to be resurfaced with the funds: Allen, Daviess, E. 2nd, W. 2nd, E. 19th Streets and Churchill Drive, totaling just under three (3) miles. The program has a twenty percent (20%) match and the City can use existing resurfacing funds.

8.B. Municipal Order 23-2026 entitled A MUNICIPAL ORDER AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION FOR A PORT SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM THROUGH FEMA IN THE AMOUNT OF \$60,694.00, THE PROCEEDS OF WHICH WILL BE UTILIZED BY THE CITY OF OWENSBORO TO PURCHASE A REMOTELY OPERATED UNDERWATER VEHICLE (ROV) SYSTEM FOR USE BY THE OWENSBORO FIRE DEPARTMENT; A MATCH OF TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT (25%), OR \$15,173.50, IS REQUIRED BY THE CITY was unanimously approved on one reading by motion of Mayor Watson and a second from Commissioner Sanford.

The City of Owensboro seeks to file an application for a Port Security Grant Program through FEMA in the amount of \$60,694.00, to purchase a remotely operated underwater vehicle (ROV) system with accessory components for use by the Owensboro Fire Department (OFD). A twenty-five percent (25%) match of \$15,173.50 is required for this grant. City Manager further stated that OFD seeks to expand their Ohio River response and rescue by adding subsurface capability in the form of an underwater remotely operated vehicle, essentially an underwater drone with sonar and stabilizing capacity that is equipped with a grabber. OFD sometimes rely on mutual aid and partners to provide divers when necessary. This project allows OFD to deploy the ROV ahead of the divers or in lieu of divers when responding to submerged vehicles, missing persons in the water, vessel emergencies or any other incident that calls for an infrastructure assessment underwater. This allows an assessment to the underwater hazards before putting a person in the water in an uncertain environment. There are budgeted funds to satisfy the match.

8.C. Municipal Order 24-2026 entitled A MUNICIPAL ORDER AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION FOR FUNDS FROM THE DEPARTMENT FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT (DLG) FOR KENTUCKY HOUSE BILL 900 PROJECT GRANT APPLICATIONS IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$260,000.00; AND AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE FUNDS TO BE DISBURSED TO OWENSBORO SYMPHONY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$100,000.00, TO WESTERN KENTUCKY BOTANICAL GARDEN EVENTS CENTER IN

THE AMOUNT OF \$100,000.00, AND TO MENTOR KIDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$60,000.00; AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE ANY DOCUMENTS DEEMED NECESSARY BY DLG TO CARRY OUT THE PROJECTS; AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ACT AS THE AUTHORIZED CORRESPONDENT FOR THE PROJECTS was unanimously approved on one reading by motion of Mayor Watson and a second from Commissioner Sanford.

The Department for Local Government (“DLG”) has Kentucky House Bill 900 Project Grant program funds available for the purpose of supporting various agencies across the state providing services in local communities. The Owensboro Symphony, Western Kentucky Botanical Garden Events Center and Mentor Kids (“the Subrecipients”) seek Kentucky House Bill 900 Project Grant program funds and the City of Owensboro desires to apply for funds in the total amount of \$260,000.00 from DLG on behalf of the Subrecipients. Mayor Watson thanked Suzanne Miles and D.J. Johnson for their help. City Manager Pagan added that the City is a pass-through with no financial obligation. The State requires the funding to flow through the City or the County. Six (6) organizations were funded locally, three (3) went through the City and the remaining went through the County.

9. CITY MANAGER ITEMS

9.A. The financial report for the period ending May 31, 2026 was presented by Finance Director Angela Waninger (attached). Motion was made by Mayor Watson and seconded by Mayor Pro Glenn to file the report for audit; motion carried.

9.B. The following personnel appointments were approved with motion by Mayor Watson and second by Commissioner Sanford; motion carried.

PROBATIONARY, FULL-TIME, NON-CIVIL SERVICE APPOINTMENTS:

- **Phil M. Bozarth** – Refuse Truck Driver with the Sanitation Department, effective July 27, 2026, ***contingent on successful completion of all post-offer, pre-employment requirements***
- **Paul D. Trogden** – Bus Driver with the Transit Department, effective July 27, 2026, ***contingent on successful completion of all post-offer, pre-employment requirements***
- **Kobe T. Fitzgerald** – Firefighter with the Fire Department, effective August 10, 2026, ***contingent on successful completion of all post-offer, pre-employment requirements***
- **Marc T. Holt** – Firefighter with the Fire Department, effective August 10, 2026, ***contingent on successful completion of all post-offer, pre-employment requirements***

- **Matthew A. Marks** – Firefighter with the Fire Department, effective August 10, 2026, ***contingent on successful completion of all post-offer, pre-employment requirements***
- **Jude M. Pickrell** – Firefighter with the Fire Department, effective August 10, 2026, ***contingent on successful completion of all post-offer, pre-employment requirements***
- **Michael D. Poff** – Firefighter with the Fire Department, effective August 10, 2026, ***contingent on successful completion of all post-offer, pre-employment requirements***
- **Wyatt M. Schultz** – Firefighter with the Fire Department, effective August 10, 2026, ***contingent on successful completion of all post-offer, pre-employment requirements***
- **Danyon W. Snell** – Firefighter with the Fire Department, effective August 10, 2026, ***contingent on successful completion of all post-offer, pre-employment requirements***
- **Samuel B. Sook** – Firefighter with the Fire Department, effective August 10, 2026, ***contingent on successful completion of all post-offer, pre-employment requirements***
- **Braden C. Boling** – Police Officer with the Police Department, effective September 13, 2026.
- **Isabella F. Perkins** – Police Officer with the Police Department, effective September 13, 2026.

PROBATIONARY, FULL-TIME, NON-CIVIL SERVICE, PROMOTIONAL APPOINTMENT:

- **Hunter R. McDaniel** – Secretary with the Police Department, effective July 27, 2026

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

- **Trystan A. Blue** – Police Officer with the Police Department, effective July 12, 2026
- **Eestan O. Costello** - Police Officer with the Police Department, effective July 12, 2026
- **Adrian V. Terrazas** - Police Officer with the Police Department, effective July 12, 2026

- **Brittni B. Klotzback** – Recreation Facilities Manager with the Parks and Recreation Department, effective July 13, 2026
- **Kevin D. Lang** - Police Officer with the Police Department, effective July 13, 2026
- **Megan M. Knox** – Recreation Specialist with the Parks and Recreation Department, effective July 14, 2026
- **Ron W. Roberts** – Mechanic with the Garage, effective July 28, 2026

10. CLOSED SESSION

10.A. Motion was made by Mayor Watson and seconded by Commissioner NeSmith to enter into Closed Session under KRS 61.810(1)(g) for discussions between a public agency and a representative of a business entity and discussions concerning a specific proposal; motion carried.

Mayor Watson announced that there would be no business following the closed session.

11. Motion was made by Mayor Watson and seconded by Commissioner Sanford to return to open session; motion carried.

12. There being no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned unanimously at 6:25 p.m. with motion of Mayor Watson and a second from Commissioner Sanford.

Thomas H. Watson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Beth Davis, City Clerk