

OWENSBORO BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting
August 18, 2026 | 4:00 PM (CT) 5:00 PM (ET)
Owensboro City Hall
101 E. 4th Street
Owensboro, Kentucky

1. CALL TO ORDER - Mayor Tom Watson
2. ROLL CALL - City Clerk Beth Davis
3. INVOCATION & PLEDGE – Mayor Pro Tem Bob Glenn

4. PRESENTATIONS

4.A. Mayor Watson presented the Daviess County Little League 12-U Softball All-Stars with the *Mayor's Award of Distinction*. The team won the Kentucky State Championship, the Central Region Championship and advanced to the Little League Softball World Series where they were runners-up. They are the first team in Kentucky history to reach the Little League Softball World Series finals.

4.B. Amanda Rogers, Director of Parks and Recreation, gave an update on the construction of the pickleball facility at Ben Hawes Park (attached). Following her presentation, John Shown, President of RiverCity Pickleball Club stated the club has raised \$480,000 to-date in five (5)-year pledges, secured three (3) premier sponsors of \$50,000 each along with nineteen (19) additional sponsors. He then announced the name of the new facility will be "The Pickle Plex at Ben Hawes". Mr. Shown added that KHSAA has now sanctioned the sport.

4.C. Shaelie Velez, Communications and Marketing Manager, presented details about the upcoming Air Show (attached).

4.D. The project list was distributed (attached). City Manager Pagan said the Senior Center is set for an early October opening and the Massie Site project has been added to the project list.

5. BUSINESS

5.A. Minutes dated August 4, 2026 were approved by motion of Mayor Watson and a second by Commissioner Sanford; motion carried.

5.B. The following board appointments were unanimously approved by motion of Mayor Watson and a second from Commissioner NeSmith:

- **Property Maintenance Code Enforcement Board** – Reappoint Lisa Fulkerson to a three-year term effective August 16, 2026
- **Dogwood Azalea Neighborhood Alliance** – Reappoint Zach Heil to a two-year term effective August 20, 2026
- **Senior Community Center of Owensboro-Daviess County Board** – Reappoint Patti Taylor to a three-year term effective September 5, 2026
- **Owensboro Riverport Authority Board of Directors** – Reappoint Lelan Hancock and Jacob Reid to a four-year term effective September 10, 2026
- **Owensboro Health Board of Directors** – Appoint Charles Backstrom to a three-year term effective November 1, 2026

6. ORDINANCES – 2nd READING

6.A. Ordinance 16-2026 entitled AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AND ADOPTING TEXT AMENDMENTS TO THE OWENSBORO METROPOLITAN ZONING ORDINANCE FOR THE CITIES OF OWENSBORO AND WHITESVILLE, AND DAVIESS COUNTY, REGARDING REVISIONS TO ARTICLE 8 - SCHEDULE OF ZONES SPECIFICALLY REGARDING ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS was unanimously approved by roll call vote upon motion of Mayor Watson and second from Mayor Pro Tem Glenn.

The Owensboro Metropolitan Planning Commission met in regular session on July 9, 2026, and proposed amendments to the text of the Zoning Ordinance for the cities of Owensboro and Whitesville, and Daviess County regarding revisions to Article 8 as it relates to accessory dwelling units. The findings of fact supporting the revisions: provide a wide variety of types of housing suitable to a wide range of people; may increase the inner-city housing unity density; identify the housing needs of the community; continue development strategies for the orderly distribution of housing activities; and maintain high-quality infrastructure and site development standards. City Manager Pagan explained that the ordinance adopts regulations for accessory dwelling units (ADU), which are small, secondary housing units on the same property or lot as a single-family house. Based on the Board of Commissioners' feedback several months ago, the OMPC staff created regulations under which ADUs can be built.

7. ORDINANCES – 1st READING

7.A. Ordinance 17-2026 entitled AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2026 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2027, AND AMENDING ORDINANCE 10-2026 TO REVISE BEGINNING FUND BALANCES, CARRY OVER APPROPRIATIONS FOR ALL OUTSTANDING ENCUMBRANCES, CAPITAL PROJECTS AND RE-BUDGET FUNDS was introduced and publicly read on first reading.

Budget amendment #1 for fiscal year 2026-2027 to revise beginning fund balances, carry over appropriations for all outstanding encumbrances, capital projects and re-budget funds. City Manager Pagan explained the amendments are typical early in the fiscal year to update actual ending fund balances, and to update estimates compiled when the budget was drafted. Additionally, the amendments reapprove various appropriations that expired on June 30, but the purchase or project wasn't completed by that date. Some are larger items like approving remaining funds for Bluegrass Fieldhouse. Others are typical items like uniforms for fire department that have been ordered but not yet arrived. These items were already approved but that approval expired when the previous budget ended on June 30.

8. CITY MANAGER ITEMS

8.A. The Financial Report for the period ending June 30, 2026 was presented by Finance Director Angela Waninger (attached). A motion was made by Mayor Watson to file the report for audit, Commissioner Sanford seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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

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

- **William A. Glenn-** Bus Driver with the Transit Department, effective August 24, 2026, *contingent on successful completion of all post-offer, pre-employment requirements.*
- **Daniel R. Long-** Police Officer with the Police Department, effective September 13, 2026, *contingent on successful completion of all post-offer, pre-employment requirements.*

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

- **Joshua M. Bennett-** Lieutenant with the Police Department, effective August 23, 2026.
- **Alexander L. Simmons-** Sergeant with the Police Department, effective August 23, 2026.
- **Jarrod L. Gray-** Maintenance Equipment Operator with the Street Department, effective August 24, 2026.

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

- **Miranda L. Zunun-** Lead Telecommunicator with Owensboro-Daviess County Central Dispatch, effective August 10, 2026.

8.C. City Manager Comments – City Manager Pagan asked Mrs. Waninger to present the OBKY budget report (attached). It's a user-friendly summary of the annual budget with an easy-to-understand snapshot of the City's overall budget. The document can be found on the City's website and at the front desk at City Hall.

City Attorney Mark Pfeifer stated that the moratorium passed by Daviess County Fiscal Court applies to the city as well, as the city lies in the county. Unless the City passes an ordinance allowing or regulating data centers, city properties are subject to the moratorium.

9. COMMUNICATIONS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS

The Board of Commissioners mentioned the events they recently attended and expressed their sympathy for the loss of Judge Joe Castlen.

Mayor Watson read a list of City owned properties: riverfront properties of Jagoe, J.D. Meyer, Tim Allen, Audubon, Shirley Bell, as well as Elizabeth Munday Center, Roberts Brothers lots, Anderson building, Massie 121-acre farm, Pantle farm remnant, and 76 acres of vacant Airpark land. He said the properties total roughly \$24 Million and asked if RFPs had been sent out to get the properties back on the tax rolls. City Manager Pagan responded that the Economic Development Corporation are working on the properties, and a lot of them are in development. The Massie site is in progress and over the next couple of years there will be slight work, and the road to the airpark is being developed to serve the remaining acreage. Soon, there should be an announcement on one of the downtown projects.

10. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM

Rene Kuegel (Tamarack Road) spoke against a data center and invited the Board of Commissioners and the public to a Q&A about proposed power plants.

Jamie Sowders (Hayden Bridge Rd.) asked why the City has a company from Louisville inspecting the pickleball courts and why the general contractor building the courts has no business license. He again asked the City to pass an ordinance to protect the community and tax dollars (responsible bidder).

Tatum Helm (1122 Booth Avenue) mentioned supporting local businesses, competition with franchises and passing an ordinance to protect local businesses.

11. CLOSED SESSION

11.A. Motion was made by Mayor Watson and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Glenn to enter into closed session under KRS 61.810(1)(k) in which federal or state law specifically requires to be conducted in privacy; motioned carried.

12. Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Glenn and seconded by Commissioner Sanford to return to open session; motion carried.

13. There being no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned unanimously at 5:47 p.m. with motion of Mayor Watson and a second from Mayor Pro Tem Glenn.

Thomas H. Watson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Beth Davis, City Clerk