

OWENSBORO BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting

September 15, 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 – Commissioner Curtis Maglinger

4. RETIREMENT RECOGNITION – Jim Mattingly, Garage Manager, was recognized as he will retire September 30, 2026. Jim was in attendance and accepted the *Certificate of Outstanding Service* following an informational presentation highlighting his contributions and accomplishments.

5. PRESENTATIONS

5.A. Captain Brannon Pendergraft led the discussion and unveiling of the new shoulder patch for the Fire Department (presentation attached). He acknowledged John Paul Hartman and Samantha Payne who were in the audience. They both submitted designs during the patch design contest and both of their submissions were incorporated into the new patch. The current patch had been used since 1971. The fire department logo will not change.

5.B. Paul Nave, 9-1-1 Director, presented information on the reaccreditation of Owensboro-Daviess County Central Dispatch (attached). The dispatch center has had nine (9) continuous years of Communications Accreditation by the Kentucky Association of Chiefs of Police. There was brief conversation about the fiscal charges to the County for their portion of calls. Mr. Nave also advised that the dispatch center is fully staffed and will be fully trained by the end of the year.

5.C. Sgt. Derek Griffith, Police Department, presented options and stats for the enforcement of electric bikes and scooters. As the use of electric vehicles has rapidly grown, the need for safety regulations has become evident. The Police Department will draft their recommendations for new regulations to be incorporated in an ordinance.

5.D. Hunter Ragan, Sanitation Manager, presented information on the upcoming leaf collection season (attached). To better align leaf collection with the timing of seasonal leaf fall, an ordinance change will soon be presented for consideration to adjust the start date of the collection season.

5.E. The city project list was distributed (attached). There was brief conversation on the anticipated completion date of the Bluegrass Fieldhouse.

6. BUSINESS

6.A. Minutes dated September 1, 2026 were approved by motion of Mayor Watson and a second by Commissioner Sanford; motion carried.

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

- **Owensboro-Daviess County Regional Airport Board** – Appoint Tim Ross to a four-year term effective October 3, 2026.

7. ORDINANCES – 2nd READING

7.A. Ordinance 18-2026 entitled AN ORDINANCE LEVYING AD VALOREM TAXES FOR MUNICIPAL PURPOSES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING JULY 1, 2026, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2027, AT THE RATE OF 25.60 CENTS PER \$100 OF ASSESSED VALUATION OF REAL PROPERTY, 28.44 CENTS PER \$100 OF ASSESSED VALUATION OF PERSONAL PROPERTY, AND 30.30 CENTS PER \$100 OF ASSESSED VALUATION OF VEHICLES, AND PROVIDING FOR THE COLLECTION AND APPORTIONMENT OF SAME was unanimously approved by roll call vote upon motion of Mayor Watson and second from Commissioner Maglinger.

The Board of Commissioners has heretofore determined that a tax rate of 25.60 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation of real property and a tax rate of 28.44 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation of personal property, and a tax rate of 30.30 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation of vehicles will be necessary to help meet the anticipated expenditures of the City for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027. City Manager Pagan explained the ordinance is setting three (3) different property tax rates for the year. The largest by revenue and most well-known is the tax on real property or real estate. There is no change proposed to the real estate rate from last year, with the rate remaining at 25.6 cents per \$100 of valuation. With this rate, a property assessed at \$100,000 would pay \$256 in property tax to the City. No change is proposed to the vehicle rate, remaining at 30.3 cents per \$100, the same rate it's been for many years. Personal property has a proposed rate of 28.44 cents, down from 30.91 cents per \$100 last year; the personal property rate is calculated from a formula based on the real property rate.

8. MUNICIPAL ORDERS

8.A. Municipal Order 30-2026 entitled A MUNICIPAL ORDER AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AN APPLICATION FOR A LOCAL ASSISTANCE ROAD PROGRAM GRANT THROUGH THE KENTUCKY TRANSPORTATION CABINET, DEPARTMENT OF RURAL & MUNICIPAL AID, IN THE

APPROXIMATE AMOUNT OF \$1,480,000.00, THE PROCEEDS OF WHICH WILL BE UTILIZED BY THE CITY OF OWENSBORO TO RESURFACE CITY STREETS; A TWENTY PERCENT (20%) MATCH OF \$296,000 IS REQUIRED BY THE CITY was approved on one reading with motion from Mayor Watson and a second by Commissioner NeSmith; motion carried.

The City of Owensboro seeks to file an application for a Local Assistance Road Program Grant through the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, Department of Rural & Municipal Aid, in the approximate amount of \$1,480,000.00, the proceeds of which will be utilized by the City to perform the necessary street resurfacing. A twenty percent (20%) match of \$296,000.00 is required for this grant.

8.B. Municipal Order 31-2026 entitled A MUNICIPAL ORDER AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AN APPLICATION FOR A LOCAL RECORDS PROGRAM GRANT THROUGH THE KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT FOR LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$19,682.00, THE PROCEEDS OF WHICH WILL BE UTILIZED BY THE CITY OF OWENSBORO POLICE DEPARTMENT TO SECURE ADDITIONAL SOFTWARE STORAGE FOR POLICE RECORDS; NO MATCH REQUIRED FROM THE CITY was approved on one reading with motion from Mayor Watson and a second by Mayor Pro Tem Glenn; motion carried.

The Owensboro Police Department (OPD) seeks to file an application for the Local Records Program Grant through the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives in the amount of \$19,682.00, the proceeds of which will be utilized by the OPD to purchase additional software storage in order to maintain the integrity of their records, no match is required.

9. CITY MANAGER ITEMS

9.A. The Financial Report for the period ending July 31, 2026 was presented by Finance Director Angela Waninger (attached). Motion was made by Mayor Watson to file the report for audit; Commissioner Sanford seconded and it passed unanimously.

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

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

- **Steven Mattingly-** Road Worker with the Street Department, effective September 20, 2026.
- **Ron Roberts-** Garage Manager with the Garage, effective September 20, 2026.

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

- **Michael Ruth-** Maintenance Equipment Operator with the Street Department, effective October 20, 2026.

9.C. City Manager Comments – City Manager Pagan advised that Tim Ross, Public Events Director, will provide an after-action report on the 2026 Air Show at the next meeting.

10. COMMUNICATIONS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS

The Board of Commissioners mentioned the events they recently attended and commended the city staff for their success and hard work on the 2026 Air Show.

Commissioner Sanford asked if vehicles are allowed to be parked on an uphill curve in a neighborhood. Chief Ealum stated it is legal.

11. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM

Jamie Sowders (Hayden Bridge Road) asked when the liquidated damages will start as they relate to the construction of the Bluegrass Fieldhouse.

Mara Brown (1424 W. 11th Street) requested a speed bump be installed on her street due to the consistent speeding and the children in the area.

Tori Page (Owensboro) stated she was at the meeting on behalf of Rene Kuegel. She passed out information on buffer zones needed for the power plant station [data center] (attached). She also spoke against beginning the meeting with a Christian prayer and against the happenings in Gaza.

Grace Dean Gray (no address given) spoke about safe spaces for queers and transgenders and against a data center.

12. There being no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned unanimously at 5:13 p.m. with motion of Mayor Watson and a second from Commissioner NeSmith.

Thomas H. Watson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Beth Davis, City Clerk