OWENSBORO BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting
October 20, 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 Tom Watson

4. PRESENTATIONS

4.A. Mayor Watson presented the "National Manufacturing Month" proclamation to Skyler Stewart with Economic Development Corporation.

4.B. Mayor Watson presented a "Firefighter Appreciation Month" proclamation to Firefighter Andrew Johnson.

4.C. Battalion Chief Brian Roberts, Fire Marshal, gave a presentation on Fire Prevention Month highlighting activities hosted by the Owensboro Fire Department during the month of October (attached).

4.D. Jeff Esposito, General Manager OVG, gave the annual update for the Convention Center and SportsCenter (attached). He added that the Bluegrass Fieldhouse currently has four (4) tenant teams and thirty (30) of thirty-four (34) weekends booked for 2027 tournaments. Commissioner Maglinger requested the projected economic impact for the booked weekends; Esposito will get back with details.

4.E. Kerry Bodenheimer, Parks & Recreation Director, gave a brief overview of the partnerships between the City and various youth sports leagues (attached).

4.F. Abby Shelton, Community Development Director, gave a summary of the developments to-date within the Monarch NRSA (attached).

4.G. The city project list was distributed (attached). Assistant City Manager Lelan Hancock (sitting in for City Manager) explained the new opening date for the Senior Center is October 26th and is due to operational issues, not construction. It was the Center's decision to postpone. Commissioner Maglinger asked when the fencing would be constructed around the pickleball courts at Moreland Park. Ms. Bodenheimer explained there are currently no plans, however, it can be considered next budget cycle.

5. BUSINESS

5.A. Minutes dated October 6, 2026 were approved by motion of Mayor Watson and a second by Commissioner Maglinger; motion carried.

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

- **Dogwood Azalea Neighborhood Alliance** – Appoint Robert Morris to a two-year term effective October 20, 2026

- **Owensboro Parks and Recreation Advisory Board** – Reappoint Reggie Helm to a two-year term effective November 2, 2026

6. ORDINANCES – 2nd READING

6.A. Ordinance 19-2026 entitled AN ORDINANCE REVISING THE CITY OF OWENSBORO EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK CHAPTER 1000, SUBCHAPTER 1004, PAY CHART ENTITLED "FULL-TIME PAY GRADE RANGES", THEREBY CHANGING THE TITLE OF THE POSITION OF "RECREATION SUPERINTENDENT" TO "DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PARKS & RECREATION" was unanimously approved by roll call vote upon motion of Commissioner NeSmith and a second by Commissioner Sanford.

The City desires to change the title of the position of "Recreation Superintendent" to "Deputy Director of Parks & Recreation," with no change to the position's duties, pay classification, or reporting structure. Therefore, it is necessary to amend Chapter 1000, Subchapter 1004, Pay Chart "Full-Time Pay Grade Ranges," and the associated Parks and Recreation Department organizational chart.

6.B. Ordinance 20-2026 entitled AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 26, ARTICLE VI, DIVISION 2 OF THE OWENSBORO MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO THE COLLECTION OF LOOSE LEAVES AND USE OF CONTAINERS AT APARTMENT COMPLEXES WITH TEN (10) OR MORE UNITS was unanimously approved by roll call vote upon motion of Commissioner NeSmith and a second by Mayor Pro Tem Glenn.

The Sanitation Department has requested the municipal code be amended to provide flexibility in establishing the beginning date of the loose-leaf collection season and the use of containers at apartment complexes with ten (10) or more units. The leaf season change will allow the Sanitation Department to better align leaf collection efforts with the peak period of fallen leaves. The change related to sanitation collection at apartment complexes of ten (10) or more units will allow more flexibility with container use upon the approval of the sanitation manager.

6.C. Ordinance 21-2026 entitled AN ORDINANCE CLOSING AN ALLEY RIGHT-OF-WAY BETWEEN WEST 18TH STREET AND WEST 19TH STREET BEHIND 1801-1819 FREDERICA STREET IN THE CITY OF OWENSBORO, KENTUCKY was unanimously

approved by roll call vote upon motion of Commissioner Sanford and a second by Commissioner Maglinger.

Ryan McDaniel has petitioned the City of Owensboro to close an alley right-of-way located between West 18th Street and West 19th Street behind 1801-1819 Frederica Street. All adjoining and abutting property owners have given written and notarized consent to the closing of said alley right-of-way. Petitioners understand and agree to retain public utility easements over the alley.

6.D. Ordinance 22-2026 entitled AN ORDINANCE IMPOSING A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON CERTAIN CATEGORIES OF GROUP HOUSING AND FACILITIES IN OWENSBORO was read for approval on second reading. Motion was made by Mayor Watson and seconded by Commissioner NeSmith.

Anita Jackson, Operation: Housing Veterans, spoke against imposing a temporary moratorium. She stated their housing project would not be viable with a moratorium in place and requested transitional housing be exempted from the moratorium. Ms. Jackson further explained, upon questioning by the Board of Commissioners, that the buildings are not ready, and the overall project is estimated to cost $2-$4 million. She said she had a $50,000 grant from Owensboro Health that would be lost with a moratorium. There was significant discussion on the homeless issue and recovery centers in the city.

Mayor Watson made a motion to table the second reading of Ordinance 22-2026 to allow further discussion on the issue; motion was seconded by Commissioner NeSmith. A roll call vote was taken and it failed 1-4; with Mayor Watson being the only “Yes”.

Following the failure of the subsidiary motion; the original motion to approve Ordinance 22-2026 on second reading was continued (motion was made by Mayor Watson and seconded by Commissioner NeSmith) and passed with a roll vote of 4-1; with Mayor Watson being the only “No”.

The City of Owensboro Board of Commissioners has received public input expressing concern over the location of certain categories of group housing and other facilities within the city limits and desires to obtain data related to these types of group housing and facilities to determine the accuracy of public input. The Board of Commissioners desires the Owensboro Metropolitan Planning Commission to review the zoning ordinance to determine whether changes are needed to address the concerns raised by citizens. The Board of Commissioners believes it is appropriate to pause applications with regard to these categories of group housing and facilities while the Planning Commission conducts its review.

7. MUNICIPAL ORDERS

7.A. Municipal Order 34-2026 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 $29,898.99, EXPENDED TO PURCHASE THIRTY-THREE (33) NEW BULLETPROOF VESTS, THAT AMOUNT BEING $14,949.49 was approved on one reading with motion from Mayor Watson and a second by Commissioner Sanford; motion carried.

The City of Owensboro Police Department requests to purchase thirty-three (33) bulletproof vests which are set to expire during the next fiscal year for a cost totaling $29,898.99, with a grant reimbursement of $14,949.49.

8. CITY MANAGER ITEMS

8.A. The Financial Report for the period ending September 30, 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.

8.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 PROMOTIONAL APPOINTMENTS:

- **Kevin C. Cambron-** GIS Manager with Information Technology, effective December 27, 2026.

- **James M. Forker-** Police Sergeant with the Police Department, effective November 1, 2026.

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

- **Brian M. Roberts-** Battalion Chief/Fire Marshal with the Fire Department, effective November 2, 2026.

8.C. City Manager Comments – None.

9. COMMUNICATIONS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS

The Board of Commissioners mentioned the events they recently attended.

10. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM

Jamie Sowders (Owensboro) shared his dismay with the passing of the moratorium.

Cliff Carlock (Owensboro) spoke against the moratorium, about political corruption and homelessness.

Shea McWherter (571 Snap Hook Court) discussed the health benefits of riding e-bikes on the Greenbelt. He requested additional options be considered that will allow class 2 e-bikes on the trail.

Rene Kuegel (Owensboro) extended condolences to City Manager Pagan in the loss of his great uncle, Shirley Pagan. Mrs. Kuegel asked if a conflict of interest exists with the City Manager being Power of Attorney for his great uncle who owns the land which is being recommended by the Kentucky Resource Council for a data center. She stated that City Manager Pagan wanted to keep the City out of the County moratorium and having Pagan look into data center regulations could be a conflict of interest. Mrs. Kuegel suggested a team of individuals be assigned instead of the City Manager.

Anita Jackson (Operation: Housing Veterans) stated the moratorium will not stop her work, she will go outside Owensboro-Daviess County for resources and take her business there.

Tatum Quick (Booth Avenue) asked for the purpose of another moratorium and what would be done during the 6-month time that was not previously conducted during the first 12-month moratorium.

Deb Ryan (1705 Lock Avenue) an employee of St. Benedict's Women's Shelter spoke on the homeless issue and the moratorium.

11. There being no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned unanimously at 5:41 p.m. with motion of Mayor Watson and a second from Commissioner Sanford.

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Thomas H. Watson, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Beth Davis, City Clerk