

**OWOSSO CITY COUNCIL
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

NOVEMBER 14, 2011

7:30 PM

City Clerk Amy K. Kirkland administered the Oath of Office to Loreen F. Bailey (four year term); Christopher T. Eveleth (four year term); Benjamin R. Frederick (four year term); and Burton D. Fox (two year term).

City Manager Donald D. Crawford addressed the City Council regarding the custom of having the City Clerk chair the meeting until a Mayor is elected.

City Clerk Kirkland called the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

PRESENT: Councilpersons Bailey, Erfourth, Eveleth, Fox, Frederick and Popovitch.

ABSENT: Councilperson Cook.

APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Councilperson Eveleth to approve the Agenda as presented with the addition of an item to consider the date and time of meetings.

Motion supported by Councilperson Erfourth and concurred in by unanimous vote.

ADOPTION OF RULES OF ORDER

City Attorney William C. Brown addressed the City Council regarding the staff recommendation for the adoption of Robert's Rules of Order, 1990 Edition – 9th Edition, as the rules of procedure.

Motion by Councilperson Popovitch to adopt Robert's Rules of Order, 1990 Edition – 9th Edition as the rules of procedure.

Motion supported by Councilperson Fox and concurred in by unanimous vote.

ELECTION OF MAYOR

City Clerk Kirkland explained the method of voting for Mayor and Mayor Pro-Tem.

Councilperson Popovitch nominated Councilperson Frederick for Mayor.
Councilperson Fox nominated Councilperson Erfourth for Mayor.

Nominations were closed with 2 nominees.

Roll Call Vote.

Bailey:	Frederick
Erfourth:	Erfourth
Eveleth:	Frederick
Fox:	Erfourth
Frederick:	Frederick
Popovitch:	Frederick

Cook: Absent

City Clerk Kirkland administered the Oath of Office and turned over the chair of the meeting to Mayor Frederick.

ELECTION OF MAYOR PRO-TEM

Councilperson Eveleth nominated Councilperson Popovitch for Mayor Pro-Tem.

Nominations were closed with one nominee.

Roll Call Vote.

AYES: Councilpersons Bailey, Erfourth, Eveleth, Fox, Popovitch and Mayor Frederick.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilperson Cook.

City Clerk Kirkland administered the Oath of Office to Mayor Pro-Tem Popovitch.

CONSIDERATION OF CITY COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE

There was discussion regarding adjusting the time limits for citizen comment during public hearings and citizen comments and questions sessions.

Motion by Councilperson Eveleth to adopt the following Rules of Procedure as amended.

CITY COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE

Rules for Roll Call Votes

1. *These rules are adopted pursuant to Section 5.4(j) of the Charter of the City of Owosso.*
2. *The purpose of these rules is to establish the procedure to be followed when conducting a roll call vote of City Council members.*
3. *When requested by the Mayor or, in his or her absence, the presiding officer, to conduct a roll call vote, the City Clerk shall call the names of all Council members except the Mayor in a random order followed by the name of the Mayor.*
4. *The City Clerk shall implement these rules in such a manner as to insure that the order in which names of Council members is called shall vary from one roll call vote to the next.*
5. *The City Clerk shall use a computer randomization program or other similar method to insure that each Council member's name has a statistically equal probability of appearing in any given position in the order of the roll call.*
6. *If a member of the Council is absent from a meeting, the City Clerk may strike his or her name from the roll call and such striking shall not constitute a violation of the procedure for random roll call voting. If the Mayor is absent from a meeting, the name of the presiding officer shall be included in the random roll call vote.*

Rules for Addressing A Meeting of the City Council

1. *These rules are adopted pursuant to Section 3(5) of P.A. 267 of 1976, commonly known as the Open Meetings Act.*
2. *The purpose of these rules is to establish procedures to be followed when persons desire to address a meeting of the City Council so as to insure that all persons who wish to do so are afforded an adequate opportunity to exercise the right to address their city government while conducting the public business in an orderly, professional manner.*
3. *Persons wishing to address a meeting of the City Council shall do so during times set aside on the agenda for that purpose and at other times when recognized by the Mayor for the purpose of addressing the meeting.*
4. *Persons wishing to address the City Council and attending officials shall stand, raise a hand, or otherwise signal a desire to speak, and wait to be recognized by the Mayor. When so recognized, persons shall give their names and addresses, and address their comments and/or questions to any City official attending the council meeting.*
5. *Each person wishing to address the City Council shall be afforded one opportunity of up to four (4) minutes duration during the first occasion provided for citizen comments and questions, one opportunity of up to three (3) minutes duration during the last occasion provide for citizen comments and questions and one opportunity of up to three (3) minutes duration during each public hearing; provided, however, that comments made during public hearings shall be relevant to the subject for which the public hearings are held.*
6. *In addition to the opportunities to address the City Council described above, a citizen may respond to questions posed to him or her by the Mayor or members of the Council provided that members of the Council have been given the floor by the Mayor to pose such questions.*
7. *Each citizen comment and question period described in paragraph 6 excluding public hearings shall last up to thirty minutes. If time expires for the comment and question period and additional time appears necessary to accommodate citizens wishing to address city officials, the council may vote to extend the period for a specific length of time. Only one such extension of each comment and question period shall be permitted during a Council meeting.*

Rule of Civility

- 1. *Council members, City staff, and members of the public will communicate respectfully with each other in their conversations, reports, debates, and testimony. All present will listen attentively to others when they are speaking, not interrupt others or carry on side conversations; and when given the floor will speak to the issues at hand, not engage in personal attacks or use derogatory language, and will honor the right of all to contribute to public policy deliberation.*

Motion supported by Councilperson Bailey.

Roll Call Vote.

AYES: Councilpersons Erfourth, Bailey, Mayor Pro-Tem Popovitch, Councilpersons Eveleth, Fox and Mayor Frederick.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilperson Cook.

MEETING SCHEDULE

Motion by Councilperson Fox to continue to hold City Council meetings on the first and third Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

Motion supported by Mayor Pro-Tem Popovitch.

Roll Call Vote.

AYES: Councilpersons Fox, Eveleth, Mayor Pro-Tem Popovitch, Councilpersons Erfourth, Bailey and Mayor Frederick.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilperson Cook.

Councilpersons Erfourth noted his desire to see more work sessions for Council to discuss complex topics.

CITIZEN COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Reverend Ray Strawser, formerly of 416 West Williams Street, indicated he had moved north of St. Charles recently and would no longer be at First Baptist Church after December 31st. He said Owosso is a wonderful city, a great place to raise children and he will miss being a resident here.

Mayor Frederick thanked his fellow Council members for their vote of confidence in electing him mayor. He said he was optimistic about working together.

Councilperson Erfourth thanked former Councilperson Martenis for his years of service (he was present as an audience member this evening).

Councilperson Fox said he was honored to be a part of Council. He said he had attended many meetings over the years and was hopeful the Council would realize it could be more responsive to citizens.

Councilperson Bailey said it was an honor to be elected and she looked forward to serving.

Mayor Pro-Tem Popovitch said she was looking forward to working with everyone.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilperson Eveleth, supported by Councilperson Erfourth for adjournment at 8:01 p.m. and concurred in by unanimous vote.

Benjamin R. Frederick, Mayor

Amy K. Kirkland, City Clerk