

**CITY OF OWOSSO  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES SYNOPSIS  
MONDAY, MAY 20, 2024**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Robert J. Teich, Jr., Mayor Pro-Tem Susan J. Osika, Councilmembers Janae L. Fear, Jerome C. Haber, Emily S. Olson and Nicholas L. Pidek.

**ABSENT:** Councilmember Daniel A. Law.

**PROCLAMATIONS/SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

None.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Ordinance Amendment - Washington Park PILOT. Conducted a public hearing to receive citizen comment regarding the proposed addition of Division 3, Washington Park, to Article III, Service Charge in Lieu of Taxes for Certain Housing Developments, of Chapter 32, Taxation, establishing a PILOT for the proposed Washington Park project. There were no citizen comments received prior to, or during the hearing. The Council moved to approve the ordinance amendment as presented.

DWSRF 5-year Project Plan. Following a PowerPoint presentation a public hearing was conducted to receive citizen comment regarding the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Drinking Water State Revolving Fund 5-year Project Plan to replace water mains and lead service lines throughout the City and improvements to the Water Treatment Plant. The following people commented regarding the proposed plan: Tom Johnson and Wyman Brown. The Council moved to formally adopt the DWSRF 5-year Project Plan as proposed.

2024-2025 City Budget. Conducted a public hearing pursuant to Chapter 8 of the City Charter to receive citizen comment regarding the 2024-2025 Proposed City Budget. There were no citizen comments received for this item prior to, or during the hearing. The Council will consider adoption of the proposed budget at its next meeting.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS**

Tim Atkinson expressed his concerns with the Washington Park development and said communication with property owners in the area could have been a lot better.

Terry Clark said she and her neighbors have been having issues with a neighbor's cats marking and destroying their property and attacking their pets. She wanted to know what could be done because she is at her wit's end with the situation.

Guy Stuart expressed his interest in purchasing the Amos Gould House, saying he's a long-time Owosso resident that would like to rehab the home and use it for public and private events as well as an Air B&B.

Marlene Webster said she is concerned about the proposed increase in the reconnection fee for water accounts that have been shut off. She said a large portion of the community have lower incomes and this would penalize those struggling with poverty. She asked that the Council find another source for the approximately \$48,000 the fee would bring in each year.

Mike Nolph said he enjoys walking downtown but has now had several close encounters with bicyclists riding on the sidewalk despite the signs prohibiting the activity. Public Safety Director Lenkart volunteered to speak with him after the meeting.

Tom Johnson noted that a couple living solely on Social Security would be at the poverty line, and how he had spent the last two weeks protecting a neighbor's tree from being cut down. He also detailed several propositions for petitions and said he was looking for Council support on the issues.

Councilmember Olson thanked Assistant City Manager Fuller for her efforts in finding a grant that will create an ADA accessible pathway within the soccer field complex.

Councilmember Pidek asked Ms. Clark who she spoke with that told her the City would not enforce its pet ordinance. Ms. Clark indicated she called the non-emergency number. Public Safety Director Lenkart offered to help her with her situation after the meeting.

Utilities Director Suchanek explained that the tree Mr. Johnson spoke about is a large maple tree that the City's tree specialist has diagnosed with an incurable condition known as slime flux. Slime flux inevitably leads to the death of the wood inside the tree and eventual structural collapse. The tree in question was scheduled to be taken down before the condition causes further deterioration of the tree's structure and it becomes a danger to people and property. In response to Mr. Atkinson's comments, Utilities Director Suchanek noted that construction of a storm sewer and retention pond are included in the plans for the Washington Park development. He suggested Mr. Atkinson contact the Drain Commissioner for further assistance.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

The Consent Agenda was approved as follows:

Boards and Commissions Appointments. Approved the following Mayoral Boards and Commissions appointments:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Board/Commission</b>	<b>Term Expires</b>
Lona Oliver*	Shiawassee District Library Board	06-30-2028
Matthew Grubb*	Zoning Board of Appeals	06-30-2027

\* Indicates reappointment

Grant Application Authorization – MDOT Shared Streets and Spaces Grant. Approved application for the Michigan Department of Transportation Shared Streets and Spaces Grant in the amount of \$200,000.00 for sidewalk improvements to the Hugh Parker Soccer Complex sidewalks to expand the current ADA accessibility upgrades and connect the park to the City's existing sidewalk system.

Contract Renewal - General Engineering Services. Approved the required annual renewal of the General Engineering Services contracts with Eng., Inc., Fleis & Vandenbrink, Inc., Orchard, Hiltz & McCliment, Inc., and Spicer Group, Inc. to provide engineering services through June 30, 2025.

Change Order No. 1 – Public Safety Building Door Replacement. Approved Change Order No. 1 to the contract with HI-Quality Glass, Inc. for additional parts and labor for the replacement of six (6) doors at the Public Safety Building in the amount of \$950.00 and authorized payment to the vendor increasing the total to \$27,440.00.

Change Order No. 1 – Public Safety Vehicle Equipment Changeovers. Approved Change Order No. 1 to the contract with Mid Michigan Emergency Equipment Sales and Service L.L.C. for additional equipment required during the removal, supply, and installation of public safety equipment in two new police utility vehicles in the amount of \$545.77 and authorized payment to the vendor increasing the total to \$26,878.51.

Contract Authorization – Logicalis Virtual IT. Waived competitive bidding requirements, approved a contract with Logicalis, Inc. to provide Virtual IT services not to exceed \$10,000.00 for calendar year 2024, and authorized payment to contractor according to unit prices.

**ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

BRA #23 Reimbursement Agreement – Woodland Trails/Washington Park. Approved the Woodland Trails/Washington Park Reimbursement Agreement as required by PA 381.

Property Transfer – Osburn Lakes Common Areas. Authorized deeding the common areas of the Osburn Lakes subdivision to the homeowner's association per the terms of the Second Purchase Agreement dated July 7, 2004.

Gould House Purchase Agreement Modification No. 2 – 21 Day Posting. Accepted Revision No. 2 to the purchase offer for the Amos Gould House, 515 N. Washington Street, in the amount of \$250,000 from Sean Harrington and authorized 21-day posting period for the proposed sale per the City Charter. Last and final offers for the home will be accepted until June 11<sup>th</sup>, at which time the Historical Commission will make its final recommendation to Council.

Policy Changes – Water and Sewer Connection Charge Policies. Approved changes to the Water and Sewer Connection Charge Policies to update fees and procedures.

Policy Changes – Miscellaneous Water Policy and Service Charges. Approved changes to the Miscellaneous Water Policy and Service Charges policy to update fees and procedures on a 5-1 vote.

Policy Changes – Water & Sewer Rate Schedule. Approved changes to the Water & Sewer Rate Schedule to add rates for 8", 10", and 12" water meters, update fees for wastewater surcharges, and remove pool filling.

Policy Changes – WWTP Water Quality Monitoring Fee Schedule. Approved changes to the Owosso Mid-Shiawassee County WWTP Water Quality Monitoring Fee Schedule to update fees and procedures.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

- Brad Barrett, Finance Director. Special Assessment Chargeback.
- Tanya S. Buckelew, Planning & Building Director. April 2024 Building Department Report.
- Tanya S. Buckelew, Planning & Building Director. April 2024 Code Violations Report.
- Tanya S. Buckelew, Planning & Building Director. April 2024 Inspections Report.
- Tanya S. Buckelew, Planning & Building Director. April 2024 Certificates Issued Report.
- Kevin D. Lenkart, Public Safety Director. April 2024 Police Report.
- Kevin D. Lenkart, Public Safety Director. April 2024 Fire Report.
- Owosso Historical Commission. Minutes of May 13, 2024.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS**

Mayor Teich congratulated DPW Superintendent Tom Wheeler on obtaining industrial storm water certified operator status from EGLE.

Marlene Webster thanked Council for their careful consideration of the water and sewer fees, saying she appreciated their discussion, and she knows the decisions were not easy. She said she hoped that the increase in fees didn't lead to an increase in desperation and that it may be worth it for a portion of water users to support those that cannot afford water service.

Lance Omer expressed his disappointment with the increase in water connection fees, noting he has an elderly client whose home needs to put in a new well or connect to City water, neither of which they can afford.

Robert Hinojosa introduced himself as a candidate for Shiawassee County Prosecutor.

Councilmember Olson asked if it would be possible to switch people on the shut-off list to a monthly billing cycle as opposed to quarterly to stop their bills from getting so big. Assistant City Manager Fuller will look into the matter. It was also noted that people can submit payment on a monthly basis if they so wish. Marlene Webster indicated that the City should inform churches and aid agencies of the help and options available so they can relay that information to the people that need it.

Councilmember Fear encouraged everyone to attend the next Poverty 101 training which will be held June 1<sup>st</sup>, from 10:00am until noon at the City Church.

**NEXT MEETING**

Monday, June 03, 2024

**BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS OPENINGS**

- Building Board of Appeals – Alternate - term expires June 30, 2024
- Building Board of Appeals – Alternate - term expires June 30, 2025
- Zoning Board of Appeals – Alternate – term expires June 30, 2024
- Zoning Board of Appeals – Alternate – term expires June 30, 2025

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:48 p.m.

Robert J. Teich, Jr., Mayor  
Amy K. Kirkland, City Clerk

Note: Complete printed copies of the minutes and any ordinances contained therein are available to the public at the Office of the City Clerk and the Shiawassee District Library – Owosso Branch during regular business hours or on the Internet at [www.ci.owosso.mi.us](http://www.ci.owosso.mi.us).