

**CITY OF OWOSSO  
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF APRIL 23, 2025  
6:30 P.M.**

**OPS PERFORMING ARTS CENTER  
765 E. NORTH STREET**

**PRESIDING OFFICER:** MAYOR ROBERT J. TEICH, JR.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** MARCY MACGREGOR

**PRESENT:** Mayor Robert J. Teich, Jr., Mayor Pro-Tem Jerome C. Haber, Councilmembers Janae L. Fear, Carl C. Ludington, Emily S. Olson, Rachel M. Osmer, and Christopher D. Owens.

**ABSENT:** None.

**ITEMS OF DISCUSSION**

**Utility Rates Presentation**

City Manager Nathan R. Henne gave a presentation detailing the history of the utilities systems, the projects that have already been completed, future needs of the systems, and potential compromises to keep the rates low enough for residents to afford while accomplishing the necessary repairs. He also explained the difference between governmental funds and enterprise funds.

**AMEND RULES FOR ADDRESSING CITY COUNCIL**

After the conclusion of the presentation, Mayor Teich announced that the rules for addressing Council will be amended to better accommodate everyone that wishes to speak. He said everyone that wishes to speak will be heard, and he went on to explain that comments will be paused after every five speakers to allow an opportunity for Council and/or staff to answer questions. He read aloud the rules of decorum and the criteria for removal from the meeting.

Motion by Councilmember Olson to amend the Rules for Addressing a Meeting of the City Council as follows, with said rules effective for the April 23, 2025 meeting only:

**Rules for Addressing a Meeting of the City Council, Board, or Commission Meeting, effective for the April 23, 2025 special meeting only.**

- 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 ensure 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 time 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 submit a Request to Speak card prior to the start of the meeting or during the scheduled meeting break. When indicated, speakers will proceed to queue at the appropriate microphone and wait to be recognized by the Mayor. When so recognized, persons shall give their name and address, and address their comments to the Mayor.
- 5) Each person wishing to address the City Council at this in-person meeting shall be afforded one opportunity of up to three (3) minutes duration during the occasions provided for citizen comment.
  - a) When citizen complaints, suggestions, or questions are presented to Council during public comment periods, other than items already on the agenda, the Mayor or presiding officer shall first determine whether the issue is legislative or administrative in nature and then:
    - l) If Legislative: A complaint, suggestion or question about the letter or intent of legislative acts or suggestions for changes to such acts, and if the Council finds such complaint suggests a change to an ordinance or resolution of the City, the Council may refer the matter to the Administration for study and recommendation.

- II) If Administrative: A complaint, suggestion, or question regarding administrative staff performance, administrative execution or interpretation of legislative policy, or administrative policy within the authority of the City Manager, the Chair should then refer the complaint directly to the City Manager for his or her review if said complaint has not been so reviewed. The City Council may direct that the City Manager brief or report to the Council when his or her response is made.

b) Speakers are not allowed to give their time to another speaker.

Motion supported by Councilmember Osmer.

Roll Call Vote.

AYES: Councilmembers Owens, Olson, Mayor Pro-Tem Haber, Councilmembers Osmer, Fear, Ludington, and Mayor Teich.

NAYS: None.

### **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

The following people commented regarding the City's utilities systems and the proposed increases in utility rates:

Brianna Marrah, 620 Gregory Street  
Charlotte Hinks, 1004 E. Oliver Street  
Mark Pendergraff, 817 N. Gould Street  
Karen Mead-Elford, 1330 W. King Street  
Odell Rogers, 1427 Young Street  
Karen Horn, 802 S. Chestnut Street  
Linda Koch, 625 Pine Street  
Chris Reliuga, 1423 Mallard Circle  
Greg Milbrath, 307 Venice Avenue  
John Schaar, 501 Velma Drive  
Max Walker, 330 N. Chestnut Street  
Ashley Shortz, 1607 Young Street  
Rick Morrice, 1218 S. Pearce Street  
Kaleigh Wiseley, 1019 Meadow Drive  
Craig Brand, 1308 Walnut Street

A brief break was held from 8:18pm – 8:40pm

The Citizen Comments period continued with the following people commenting:

Cristen Bodtker, 416 Prindle Street  
Jane Ferraro, 302 W. Oliver Street  
Jerry Jones, 640 N. Ball Street  
Larry Alpert, 1208 N. Dewey Street  
Charles Sumrack, 736 N. Dewey Street  
Craig Weaver, 1435 W. North Street  
Jim Frederick, 1413 Cherrylawn Street  
Mark Semans, 1439 Pintail Court  
Marcy MacGregor, 610 Frazer Avenue  
Colleen Drolett, 1486 Mallard Circle  
Tom Dragos, 1486 Mallard Circle  
Dave Ramirez, 1209 Krust Drive  
Steve Willis, 905 S. Washington Street

### **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilmember Owens said he doesn't want to see people leave the City due to high utility bills, but the water and sewer systems have to be fixed. He said the ultimate goal was to invest in the systems, so they are able to safely provide service to our grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

### **NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday, May 07, 2025 at 6:30 p.m., at the Performing Arts Center

### **BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS OPENINGS**

Building Board of Appeals – Alternate - term expires June 30, 2026  
Building Board of Appeals – Alternate - term expires June 30, 2025  
DDA/OMS Board x 2 – terms expire June 30, 2028

Zoning Board of Appeals – Alternate – term expires June 30, 2027  
Zoning Board of Appeals – Alternate – term expires June 30, 2025

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Councilmember Owens for adjournment at 10:15 p.m.  
Motion supported by Councilmember Osmer and concurred in by unanimous vote.

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Robert J. Teich, Jr., Mayor

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Amy K. Kirkland, City Clerk