

**CITY OF OWOSSO
REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES SYNOPSIS
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 08, 2026**

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

ABSENT: Councilmember Christopher D. Owens.

PROCLAMATIONS/SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

None.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public Hearing - Special Assessment District No. 2027-101. Conducted a public hearing to receive citizen comment regarding proposed Special Assessment District No. 2027-101, Hazards and Nuisances, as it relates to unpaid costs incurred in the altering, repairing, tearing down, abating or removing of hazards and nuisances for 117 W. Exchange Street. The following person commented in regard to the proposed special assessment: Dave Acton. The Council moved to approve the special assessment as proposed.

Public Hearing - Special Assessment District No. 2027-102. Conducted a public hearing to receive citizen comment regarding proposed Special Assessment District No. 2027-102, Hazards and Nuisances, as it relates to unpaid costs incurred in the altering, repairing, tearing down, abating or removing of hazards and nuisances for 321 E. Williams Street. There were no comments received prior to or during the hearing. The Council moved to approve the special assessment as proposed.

Public Hearing - Special Assessment District No. 2027-103. Conducted a public hearing to receive citizen comment regarding proposed Special Assessment District No. 2027-103, Hazards and Nuisances, as it relates to unpaid costs incurred in the altering, repairing, tearing down, abating or removing of hazards and nuisances for 326 S Dewey Street. There were no comments received prior to or during the hearing. The Council moved to approve the special assessment as proposed.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Kelly Cushman, owner of Kelly's Refuse, said he has been a business owner in Owosso for close to 40 years. He said he felt that the local haulers could offer curbside recycling so the City wouldn't have to move to a single hauler. He said he felt that there weren't enough people involved in the study conducted by Dr. Krantz to make an educated decision.

Holly Jo Edwards said it would be sad to have the City Council put a local business out of business and asked the Council to reconsider. She said there are people in the community that can't afford trash service each month and asked what they are going to do.

Mike Cline asked if the City was going to make any money off of switching to a single trash hauler, the status of the Fifth Third Building, and the status of the tree in the river behind the future home of the library. He went on to warn the City about towing vehicles saying they should wait until the next Council is seated.

Joseph Moore asked what could be done about weeds growing between storm drain grates and the pavement. A drain near his property has this occurring and he needs to frequently go out and clean up debris around the drain.

Jeff Turner asked that the City not provide people with the opportunity to park on the street over night and step up enforcement so that people don't think they can get away with it.

Gil Humphries introduced himself as a candidate for City Council and said there needs to be consequences for repeated parking violations.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda was approved as follows:

First Reading & Set Public Hearing – Unpaid Parking Violations. Conducted first reading and set a public hearing for September 21, 2026 to receive citizen comment regarding the proposed addition of Sec. 33-54, *Removal of Vehicle for Unpaid Parking Violations*, to Chapter 33, Traffic and Motor Vehicles, Article III, *Parking, stopping and standing*, Division 2, Parking violations bureau, of the Code of Ordinances to allow the City to tow the vehicle of repeat offenders with unpaid tickets.

Traffic Control Order Request – Art Walk. Approved request from Owosso Farmers Market for the closure of Main Street Plaza, for the Art Walk event on Friday, September 18, 2026 from 12:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. and further approved Traffic Control Order No. 1566 formalizing the action.

Traffic Control Order Request – Art Walk Market & Movie. Approved request from Owosso Farmers Market LLC for the closure of N. Ball Street from South side of Fountain Park to W. Mason Street, Exchange Street from N. Ball Street to N. Washington Street, and Main Street Plaza, for the Art Walk Market & Fountain Park Movie event on Friday, September 18, 2026 from 2:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m., and further approved Traffic Control Order No. 1567 formalizing the action.

Bank Account Signatories. Approved resolution designating authorized signers on City accounts at Huntington Bank.

Bid Award – Tree Removal Services. Approved bid award to Ronald's Tree Service for the 2026 - 2027 fiscal year City Tree Removal Services contract in the amount of \$46,280.00 and further approved payment to the contractor upon satisfactory completion of the service up to the amount of the contract, plus a contingency of \$18,000 to be utilized upon written authorization.

Purchase Authorization – Road Salt. Waived competitive bidding requirements, authorized purchase order with The Detroit Salt Company, L.C., via State of Michigan Contract No. 260000000712 and Contract No. 260000000713, in the amount of \$ \$26,832.00 for early delivery of 400 tons of road salt at \$67.08/ton, plus an additional quantity of 1,400 tons in the amount of \$89,180.00 at \$63.70/ton, to be delivered as needed during the 2026-27 contract period, further authorized a contingency amount of \$26,754.00, and approved payment up to \$142,766.00 according to unit prices received.

Purchase Authorization – Roofing Materials for DPW City Garage. Waived competitive bidding requirements, authorized purchase order with Home Depot for materials for DPW City Garage via State of Michigan MiDeal Contract #H2772-178004 in the amount of \$22,491.64 for materials, further authorized a contingency amount of \$2,500.00, and approved payment up to \$24,991.64 for materials received.

Sole Source Purchase - Bulk CO₂. Waived competitive bidding requirements, approved the sole source purchase of bulk CO₂ from Nippon Sanso Matheson, Inc. in the amount of \$.1148 per pound with an estimated annual usage of 92 tons in the estimated amount of \$21,395.52 and authorized payment based on actual quantities required for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

Policy Adoption - Whistleblower and Non-Retaliation Policy. Approved adoption of the Whistleblower and Non-Retaliation Policy intended to supplement federal and/or Michigan law including the Michigan Whistleblowers' Protection Act.

Notice of Pecuniary Interest. Entered notice of pecuniary interest on the record for Councilmember Carl Ludington as it relates to proposed contracts with Ludington Electric, Inc. for the month of August 2026.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Holly Jo Edwards asked if there was any way that citizens could vote on recycling.

Joseph Moore said he doesn't appreciate that Council has not addressed the comments received this evening.

Mike Cline agreed with Mr. Moore saying it was the least they could do.

Tom Manke said the current mayor is the first to refuse to answer any questions people bring to Council.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Teich addressed the topics brought about by citizens during the meeting, including the fact that Council had discussed the possibility of towing about a year ago, listened to the people

commenting at the time and agreed not to institute towing, but would revisit the topic in the future. This is that reexamination.

Utilities Director Ryan Suchanek said the City doesn't have a good answer to the weeds around storm drains as the state frowns on using Round-up around storm drains because the water goes directly into the river.

Councilmember Osmer explained her feelings on the parking issue, saying the Council had approached the towing topic before and was persuaded by the citizens present to use the honor system as opposed to towing. The honor system has not worked as the City had to write off \$15,000 in unpaid tickets, so the subject is being reexamined. She went on to comment about recycling saying that state mandates are hard and put Councilmembers in a tough spot. The fact remains that curbside recycling is not a choice.

Jeff Turner said that if you don't make people pay their tickets then they will get away with flouting the law.

City Manager Henne explained the status of the Fifth Third building, saying he has heard the project should be set to go by January. That being said the HDC will be taking the matter up later this month as to whether their timeline should be extended.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Nathan R. Henne, City Manager. City Manager Report – August 2026.

COMMUNICATIONS

Nathan R. Henne, City Manager. Revenues & Expenditures Report – July 2026.

Parks and Recreation Commission. Minutes of August 26, 2026.

Downtown Historic District Commission. Minutes of August 19, 2026.

NEXT MEETING

Monday, September 21, 2026

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS OPENINGS

Building Board of Appeals – Alternate - term expires June 30, 2028

Building Board of Appeals – Alternate - term expires June 30, 2027

Downtown Historic District Commission – term expires June 30, 2027

Parks and Recreation Commission – term expires June 30, 2028

Planning Commission – 2 terms expire June 30, 2027

Planning Commission – term expires June 30, 2029

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

Zoning Board of Appeals – Alternate – term expires June 30, 2028

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Robert J. Teich, Jr., Mayor
Amy K. Kohagen, 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.