

**CITY OF OWOSSO
REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES SYNOPSIS
MONDAY, OCTOBER 05, 2026**

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.

PROCLAMATIONS/SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

None.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Ordinance Amendment – Camping in Parks. Conducted a public hearing to receive citizen comment on the proposed addition of Sec. 21-10, *Prohibition of Unauthorized Camping and Overnight Occupation of City Property*, Chapter 21, *Parks and Recreation*, of the Code of Ordinances to prohibit camping on City-owned and/or City-controlled properties. The following people commented in regard to the proposed amendment: Alicia Forkel, Justin McNamara, Terry Beach, Sean Harrington, Susan Kofta, Olivia Ponder, Nicholas Powell, Marlene Webster, Sidney Voss, Galen Ponder, Dani Lindroth, Patti Bixby, Gary Beal, Ashley Shortz, Alyse Bleisner, Tom Manke, Angie Fasbender, Bill Moull, Elizabeth Byrne, Greg Brodeur, Jail Harrington, and Curtis Dowds. The Council moved to table the ordinance until spring.

Ordinance Amendment – Single Hauler Garbage Collection. Conducted a public hearing to receive citizen comment on the proposed ordinance amendment to Chapter 34, "Garbage and Rubbish," to Authorize an Exclusive Contract for Residential Refuse, Garbage, and Recycling Collection to comply with the 2022 revision to Section 115 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, requiring every Michigan county to adopt a Materials Management Plan (MMP) by 2028. The following people commented in regard to the proposed amendment: Kelly Cushman, Gil Humphreys, Pat Whitlock, Mike Cline, Dennis Mahoney, Chris Sponsor, Sean Harrington, Holly Jo Edwards, Kari Krantz, Lori Bailey, Jordan Hankowitz, Tom Manke, Bob Craig, Lynese Lewis, Jael Harrington, Elizabeth Byrne, Roger Hart, and Curtis Dowds. The Council moved to approve the ordinance amendment as proposed.

A recess was held from 8:35 p.m. until 8:45 p.m.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Kari Krantz said the ordinance that just passed does not preclude local haulers from providing recycling. She encouraged everyone to find a creative solution to the issue.

Linda Robertson thanked Council for their efforts. She said she may not agree with Council all of the time, but she appreciates that they stepped up and made the commitment.

Kori Shook was on hand to ask if any Councilmember could explain her water bill to her. She asked why capitalization and demand charges were larger for those with larger lines. She also asked for the City's rate study.

Sean Harrington said he thought water bills were far too high. He suggested that people voluntarily round up their bill and create a fund for those in need. He also said he would like to see a one-page document detailing the revenues and expenditures for the Water Department.

Don Frolka said he felt the recent increase in water rates was higher than the stated 25%. He also objected to the payments made to Caledonia and Owosso Townships for capital expenses.

Pastor Gary Beal said the pastor's association tries to thank all those that serve the community. He went on to thank Council for their time and energy and for making hard decisions.

Ashley Shortz asked if there was a financial status report detailing all of the recent water projects and whether they are over or under budget.

Mike Cline told Councilmember Olson that she was disrespected at the last Council meeting when the Mayor answered a question that she posed to the City Manager.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Osmer announced that there is a service that will deliver food straight to your door if you're unable to get to local food distributions. The service is available from the Greater Lansing Food Bank.

Utilities Director Suchanek noted that the water rate study is online and that he recently put together a spreadsheet showing the status of all of the water projects.

Mayor Teich asked for an update on the \$3 million state appropriation for the new towers. City Manager Henne noted that he hasn't heard anything yet but said it has made it through the budgeting process. He went on to note that any adjustments in rates would have to be made at the time the funding is paid, whether that is before or after the project takes place.

Councilmember Osmer said \$3 million is a drop in the bucket when it comes to water and wastewater projects. She warned people that they shouldn't expect rates to decrease automatically, the Council promised to review the rates, not necessarily reduce them.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda was approved as follows:

Special Assessment District No. 2026-102 - Hazards & Nuisances. Authorized Resolution No. 1 setting a public hearing for Monday, October 19, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. to receive citizen comment regarding proposed Special Assessment District No. 2026-102, Hazards & Nuisances, as it relates to unpaid costs incurred in the altering, repairing, tearing down, abating or removing of hazards and nuisances.

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

Name	Board/Commission	Term Expires
Garret Behar	Parks and Recreation Commission (effective October 5, 2026)	6-30-2028

Designation of Street Administrator. Authorized resolution designating DPW Superintendent Benjamin "Chase" Peiffer as Street Administrator to represent the City in transactions with the State Transportation Department pursuant to Act 51.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

None.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mike Cline asked if the City was putting on a meet-the-candidates event. No one was aware of anything.

Don Frolka asked why the Council is insisting on going with a single trash hauler.

Jael Harrington pointed out that Kalamazoo has an ordinance the City could copy that could possibly allow the shelter to open this winter.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Teich asked if staff could look into the Kalamazoo idea. City Manager Henne indicated he would look into the possibility of fast-tracking a homeless shelter.

City Manager Henne reported that he has been working with Hope Works Mid-Michigan and has been very pleased with their advice in creating a shelter. He went on to describe the process for changing the zoning of the Safe Center to accommodate a shelter, saying that Council would have to vote to approve spot zoning against the advice of staff. He concluded by saying the City has not been ignoring the homeless issue but is restricted from a funding standpoint.

Councilmember Fear asked if the church that was a warming center last year was going to do the same thing this year. It was suggested she ask the church.

Councilmember Olson announced that there would be another little free sled library this year and she's looking for sled sponsors.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

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

COMMUNICATIONS

Owasso Historical Commission. Minutes of September 14, 2026.

Parks and Recreation Commission. Minutes of September 23, 2026.

Downtown Historic District Commission. Minutes of September 16, 2026
Temporary Carnegie Library Committee. Minutes of September 24, 2026

NEXT MEETING

Monday, October 19, 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
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 9:31 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.