CITY OF OWOSSO
REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF OCTOBER 19, 2026
6:30 P.M.
VIRGINIA TEICH CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

PRESIDING OFFICER:	MAYOR ROBERT J. TEICH, JR.
OPENING PRAYER:	PASTOR BILL MOULL OWOSSO FREE METHODIST CHURCH
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:	MAYOR ROBERT J. TEICH, JR.
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.

APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Councilmember Osmer to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion supported by Councilmember Ludington and concurred in by unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 5, 2026

Motion by Councilmember Osmer to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 5, 2026 as presented.

Motion supported by Councilmember Ludington and concurred in by unanimous vote.

PROCLAMATIONS / SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Curwood Festival Donation

Curwood Festival Royalty presented the City with a $1,000.00 donation from the Curwood Festival for the maintenance of Curwood Castle.

Promotional Ceremony – Police Department Employee

A ceremony was conducted recognizing the promotion of Amber Curry to Owosso Police Department Sergeant.

Proclamation – National Friends of Library Week

Mayor Teich read aloud the following proclamation of the Mayor's Office declaring October 17-23, 2026 as National Friends of Libraries Week in the City of Owosso:

National Friends of Libraries Week
Proclamation – Friends of Libraries Week

Whereas, the Friends of the Owosso Library raises money that enables our library to move from good to great -- providing the resources for additional programming, much needed equipment, support for children's summer reading, and special events throughout the year; and

Whereas, the work of the Friends highlights, on an on-going basis, the fact that our library is the cornerstone of the community, providing opportunities for all to engage in the joy of life-long learning and connect with the thoughts and ideas of others from ages past to present; and

Whereas, the Friends understand the critical importance of well-funded libraries and advocate to ensure that our library gets the resources it needs to provide a wide variety of services to all ages including access to print and electronic materials, along with expert assistance in research, readers' advisory, and children's services; and

Whereas, the Friends' gift of their time and commitment to the library sets an example for all in how volunteerism leads to positive civic engagement and the betterment of our community.

Now, therefore, I, Robert J. Teich, Jr., Mayor of the City of Owosso, do hereby proclaim October 18-24, 2026, as Friends of the Library week in Owosso and urge everyone to join the Friends of the Owosso Library and thank them for all they do to make our library and community so much better.

Proclaimed this 19th day of October, 2026.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Special Assessment District No. 2026-102 - Hazards & Nuisances

A public hearing was conducted 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.

There were no citizen comments received prior to or during the hearing.

Whereas, the Council, after due and legal notice, has met and there being no one to be heard, motion by Councilmember Olson that the following resolution be adopted:

RESOLUTION NO. 157-2026

AUTHORIZING THE ROLL FOR
SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT NO. 2026-102, HAZARDS & NUISANCES

WHEREAS, the Council, after due and legal notice, has met and there being no one to be heard, motion by Councilmember Olson to adopt Special Assessment Resolution No. 2 for the annual hazards & nuisances roll, as follows:

Customer #	Address	Amount Due
050-010-015-002-00	663 Glenwood Ave	$ 287.00
050-010-015-005-00	651 Glenwood Ave	$ 132.50
050-010-017-040-00	646 Alger Ave	$ 258.00
050-010-034-015-00	620 Wright	$ 129.00
050-050-000-038-00	114 S Cedar St	$ 135.00
050-090-002-016-00	1419 Cleveland Ave	$ 158.00
050-111-009-003-00	412 Dimmick St	$ 165.00
050-111-009-005-00	404 Dimmick St	$ 158.00
050-113-001-024-00	816 W Stewart St	$ 132.50
050-114-004-004-00	State St	$ 399.00
050-114-004-005-00	1115 State St	$ 528.00
050-115-002-019-00	1149 S Shiawassee St	$ 265.00
050-180-004-020-00	326 S Dewey St	$ 507.22
050-210-000-005-00	519 Moore St	$ 165.00
050-250-000-040-00	624 Pine St	$ 570.11
050-380-001-012-00	320 Dimmick St	$ 165.00
050-390-004-012-00	1260 Adams St	$ 135.00
050-490-000-006-00	314 N Chestnut St	$ 270.96
050-542-000-005-00	412 E Main St	$ 657.00
050-548-000-002-00	1299 S Shiawassee St	$ 132.50
050-553-000-008-00	1500 McMillan Ave	$ 284.00
050-602-007-005-00	1803 W Stewart St	$ 1707.72
050-621-000-002-00	403 State St	$ 169.00
050-651-000-022-00	501 S Shiawassee St	$ 134.50
050-652-008-004-00	808 Division St	$ 258.00
050-652-008-011-00	303 E Ridge St	$ 203.29
050-660-006-005-00	718 River St	$ 403.50
050-660-011-001-00	219 N Cedar St	$ 135.00
050-660-014-012-00	104 N Lansing St	$ 129.00
050-660-017-001-00	108 N Chipman St	$ 184.00
		$ 8,957.80

and

WHEREAS, the Council deems said Special Assessment Roll- Hazards and Nuisances to be fair, just and equitable and that each of the assessments contained thereon results in the special assessment being in accordance with the unpaid costs incurred in the altering, repairing, tearing down, abating or removing of hazards and nuisances of said properties.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Said Special Assessment Roll-Hazards and Nuisances as prepared by the City Assessor in the amount of $8,957.80 is hereby confirmed and shall be known as Special Assessment Roll-Hazards and Nuisances No. 2026-102.

2. Said Special Assessment Roll-Hazards and Nuisances No. 2026-102 shall be placed on file in the office of the City Clerk who shall attach his warrant to a certified copy thereof within ten (10) days commanding the Assessor to spread the various sums shown thereon as directed by the City Council.

Motion supported by Councilmember Osmer.

Roll Call Vote.

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

NAYS: None.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Diana Hayes, 1235 N. Water Street, said the City is doing nothing to help seniors, and she would like to view the City's financial documentation.

Mike Cline, 204 Stratford Drive, said he felt that Councilmember Osmer had a conflict of interest in voting to approve the firm hired to assist the City in obtaining community reaction to the new recycling requirement. He asked how this could happen.

Galen Ponder, 602 N. Ball Street, said the recent candidate forum went really well and was a good thing for Owosso.

Julie Pickell, 120 W. King Street, said she is concerned with the feral cat problem and would like the City to partner with Community Cats of Owosso by providing funding for medical supplies and infrastructure.

Tom Manke, 2910 W. M-21, asked that an investigation into Councilmember Osmer's actions be conducted to determine if she violated the City Charter. He said he felt that the whole issue was pushed by the Cook family.

Kerry Tyler, 1425 W. Main Street, said she has two cat colonies located near her house and Community Cats of Owosso had been able to assist them in the past but no longer has the funds. She asked that the City partner with Community Cats to try and improve the situation.

Lori Bailey, co-founder of Community Cats of Owosso, said her organization fixes approximately 1,000 cats per year, but they are strained financially. She said she is hoping the City can help to reach even more cat owners.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Osmer said it is true she works for the Cook Family Foundation and that the Cook Family Foundation gave the City a grant to assist in obtaining citizen comment on the new recycling requirement. She said that at no time did she financially benefit from the Cook's donation to the City.

Mayor Teich announced that interested parties can now register for the Glow Parade, go to downtownowosso.org for more information.

He went on to indicate that Council will meet in January to develop goals for the coming year and that may be the best time to consider partnering with Community Cats.

Councilmember Olson offered that the City will make payment arrangements for your water bill as long as you contact them before the bill is due.

Mayor Teich said there is no quick answer to giving seniors a break, there are many infrastructure needs throughout the City. He commended the Council for taking action on the water rates when

other Councils had not. He said it is the responsibility of Council to work for the betterment of the community, and they are doing the best they can.

Councilmember Fear pointed out that all budgets and audits are available on the City website at www.ci.owosso.mi.us.

Councilmember Osmer gave a shout out to Community Cats of Owosso for all of the good work that they do for the community.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Councilmember Osmer to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

Traffic Control Order Request - Glow Owosso Parade, 5K and Tree Lighting. Approve request from Lizzie Fredrick, Owosso Main Street Director, for the street and lot closures for the annual Glow Owosso Parade, 5K, and Tree Lighting on Friday, November 27, 2026 beginning at 12:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. and further approve Traffic Control Order No. 1569 formalizing the action.

Master Plan Implementation Goals: 4.5, 4.6, 4.16, 5.9, 5.12, 5.17

Traffic Control Order– Michigan Ave at the Railroad Tracks. Approve Traffic Control Order No. 1570 for the permanent closure of Michigan Avenue at the railroad tracks south of Cass Street.

Sole Source Purchase – Legal Printing Services. Waive competitive bidding requirements, approve the sole source purchase of legal printing services from Owosso Newsmedia LLC aka The Argus-Press for the period from October 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027, and authorize payment based on unit prices for actual services rendered as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 158-2026

AUTHORIZING PAYMENT TO OWOSSO NEWSMEDIA LLC FOR ANNUAL LEGAL SERVICES

WHEREAS, the City of Owosso, Shiawassee County, Michigan has a duty to keep the public informed of City-related events and meetings; and

WHEREAS, the City is required to publish notices for said events and meetings through various laws and rules; and

WHEREAS, The Argus Press, owned by Owosso Newsmedia LLC, is currently the only functioning newspaper in the city; and

WHEREAS, Owosso Newsmedia LLC is proposed to serve as the City's publisher for legal notices.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Owosso, Shiawassee County, Michigan that:

FIRST: The City of Owosso has heretofore determined that it is advisable, necessary and in the public's interest to pay Owosso Newsmedia LLC monthly for legal printing services rendered.

SECOND: The finance department is authorized to issue a purchase order and pay Owosso Newsmedia LLC in an amount estimated at $6,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027.

THIRD: The above expense shall be paid from various funds as outlined in the approved FYE 6-30-2027 budget.

Warrant No. 669. Authorize Warrant No. 669 as follows:

Vendor	Description	Fund	Amount
Shiawassee Economic Development Partnership	Annual Dues	General	$40,000.00
Caledonia Charter Township	Quarterly Payment per Water District Agreement	Water	$89,924.22
Owosso Charter Township	Quarterly Payment per Water Agreement	Water	$32,609.93
		TOTAL	$162,534.15

Motion supported by Choose an item..

Roll Call Vote.

AYES:

NAYS:

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

None.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mike Cline, 204 Stratford Drive, asked if the City's financial records were open to the public if they wanted to come to City Hall and sit down to look at them.

Julie Pickell, 120 W. King Street, said she had lots of visions as to what could be done in recruiting volunteers and educating the public.

Tom Manke, 2910 W. M-21, said he did not believe Ms. Osmer's statement of innocence and said the matter should be investigated. He went on to note that Councilmember Ludington makes a disclosure every time he performs work for the City.

Lori Bailey, 530 N. Chipman Street, thanked the Councilmembers for being brave and for loving the City. She said she knew from experience that they were not making easy decisions.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Osmer clarified that Councilmember Ludington gets paid for his work for the City, she does not.

Councilmember Owens said Council is well aware of who she works for.
Councilmember Olson announced that she would like to hold an Owosso Repair Day on November 14th from 10:00am – 4:00pm at her shop next to Taphouse Specialty Meat. Her desire is to have people good at fixing things volunteer to repair various items other citizens bring in.

There was a discussion among Council if they could "nip this in the bud" before Mr. Manke goes home and writes a story that is inaccurate. It was ultimately agreed there was nothing they could do.

Councilmember Fear noted that Council worked a long time to narrow the options on recycling and the single hauler option was chosen by a unanimous vote. She said that Councilmembers work to be mindful of the whole city and that Ms. Osmer had no conflict of interest when she voted on recycling.

COMMUNICATIONS

Nathan Henne, City Manager. September 2026 Financial Report.
Tanya S. Buckelew, Planning & Building Director. September 2026 Building Department Report.
Tanya S. Buckelew, Planning & Building Director. September 2026 Code Violations Report.
Tanya S. Buckelew, Planning & Building Director. September 2026 Inspections Report.
Tanya S. Buckelew, Planning & Building Director. September 2026 Rental Report.
Tanya S. Buckelew, Planning & Building Director. September 2026 Certificates Issued Report.
Kevin D. Lenkart, Public Safety Director. September 2026 Police Report.
Kevin D. Lenkart, Public Safety Director. September 2026 Parking Citation Report
Kevin D. Lenkart, Public Safety Director. September 2026 Fire Report.
Downtown Development Authority. Minutes of October 14, 2026.

NEXT MEETING

Monday, November 2, 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

Motion by Councilmember Osmer for adjournment at 7:36 p.m.

Motion supported by Councilmember Fear and concurred in by unanimous vote.

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Robert J. Teich, Jr., Mayor

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Amy K. Kohagen, City Clerk

*Due to their length, text of marked items is not included in the minutes. Full text of these documents is on file in the Clerk's Office.