CITY OF OWOSSO
REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES SYNOPSIS
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 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

None.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Shelly Ochodnicky, business owner at 428 Corunna Avenue, asked Council to please reconsider the single trash hauler bid, saying it will destroy existing small businesses.

Kori Shook, business owner at 312 W. Main Street, thanked Councilmembers for their service. She went on to object to the possible vacant building ordinance that is being discussed this evening, saying the City already has the tools necessary to deal with building owners that violate the code. She also asked that Council keep landlords in mind when considering the water shut-off resolutions.

Stacie Zaleski said she supports local trash haulers. She has dealt with Waste Management in the past and found them to be pushy, unresponsive and expensive, and the local haulers have treated her much better.

Kimberly Bowen, former City business owner, said she has previously used Waste Management and they pressured her to continue service. She said that Council is taking away the right to choose which company they use and people are very upset.

Tom Manke said he feels that the Absent Voter returns for the City were dramatically skewed in the November 3rd election and there is now a preliminary investigation underway. He also threatened to report the Public Safety Director to the national news for overcharging on his recent FOIA request.

John Luick, business owner at 620 S. Washington Street, said that his business ran a fun promotion in October and held a suicide awareness event as well. He presented a $227.00 donation to the City and asked that it be put toward street repairs.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Owens said he has serious concerns about the vacant building ordinance, saying the City has no reason to enter people's private property. He went on to say that he is not supportive of the single hauler idea and asked the City Attorney to draw up a resolution to prohibit Flock cameras and prevent employees from accessing national license plate databases. He went on to say that Council works for the people of the City, and it is their responsibility to make sure the City gets what it needs.

Councilmember Osmer supported Councilmember Owens's request on Flock cameras.

A motion was made and supported to develop language prohibiting Flock cameras in the City. Ayes all.

Councilmember Olson said that her community repair day went very well and she plans on doing it again in the spring.

Mayor Teich noted that the trash issue will be decided by the next Council as will the vacant building ordinance. He went on to address Mr. Manke's allegations against the Public Safety Director saying the City is allowed to be compensated for the time and effort it takes to assemble the information for a FOIA request.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda was approved as follows:

Traffic Control Order - Living Nativity Scene Permission. Approved waiver of the insurance requirement and request from First United Methodist Church for the use of North Street and Water Street for a Living Nativity Scene Saturday, December 12, 2026 from 4:00pm until 10:00pm and authorized Traffic Control Order No. 1571 formalizing the action.

Traffic Control Order - Holiday Village. Approved request from Argus-Press for the closure of Exchange Street from Part Street through the end of Remax/Argus Parking lot entrance, Saturday November 28, 2026 from 1:00pm until 5:00pm and authorized Traffic Control Order No. 1572 formalizing the action.

Traffic Control Order – Food Distribution Event. Approved waiver of insurance requirement and request from St. John's United Church of Christ for the closure of Washington Street between Oliver Street and Williams Street, Tuesday December 15, 2026 from 9:00am until 3:30pm and authorized Traffic Control Order No. 1573 formalizing the action.

Change Order – WTP Filters Improvements Project. Approved Change Order #3, contingent upon EGLE approval, to the WTP Filters Improvements Project contract, increasing the contract amount by $342,714.00, bringing the total to $2,222,403.00, with an addition of 166 days to the contract time and further approved payment to the contractor including Change Order No. 3.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

Analysis of Vacant Building Ordinance Proposals. Directed the City Manager and City Attorney to prepare a vacant building ordinance consistent with DDA Resolution No. 03-2026 and consistent code enforcement processes and schedules for Council consideration. And authorized the City Manager to provide the written responses requested by the DDA and the HDC.

Collection of Delinquent Utility Charges – Resolution No 1. Approved resolution establishing March 31 and September 30 delinquency dates for placing delinquent water and sewer charges on the tax roll.

Collection of Delinquent Utility Charges – Resolution No 2. Approved resolution discontinuing the shutoff of water service for nonpayment.

Collection of Delinquent Utility Charges – Resolution No 3. Approved resolution retaining the City's authority to shut off service for nonpayment on landlord-tenant agreements making the tenant responsible, with service restored upon payment of all delinquent charges and shutoff fees.

Collection of Delinquent Utility Charges – Resolution No 4. Declined resolution retaining authority to shut off water service for nonpayment if Shiawassee County ceases reimbursing the City for delinquent utility charges placed on the tax roll.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Christopher Eveleth thanked the four departing Councilmembers for giving back to the community and wished luck to those new members joining the Council.

Frank Fear thanked all of the outgoing Councilmembers and paid tribute to his wife, Councilmember Janae Fear, for her yeoman service to the City on both the Council and the Planning Commission.

Tom Manke said he appreciates the Council despite the fact that they may disagree. He went on to ask the Mayor if he would support the investigation into election fraud.

Angie Brabs said she is heartbroken over the deaths of two homeless people and their dog over the weekend. She asked Council to put more effort into treating the homelessness problem.

Ann Gamboe-Hall encouraged Council to "Pray for the dead and fight like hell for the living." She recommended they contact LifeMoves in California to look into possible housing opportunities for the area's homeless.

Kori Shook, business owner at 312 W. Main Street, said the vacant building ordinance is a private property issue in which there are already remediation solutions. Giving government more opportunity to go after building owners is a terrible idea.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Teich shared a few words about the current Council, saying it has been quite the journey and an honor to work with all of you. He went on to say that he was proud they took on big issues and learned how to respect each other even when they disagree.

Councilmember Osmer thanked the outgoing Councilmembers, saying she learned from each of them.

Councilmember Owens thanked the community for giving him the opportunity to serve and encouraged everyone to serve.
City Manager Henne thanked the outgoing Councilmembers for their service, saying he was proud and he respects them for what they accomplished.
Mayor Pro-Tem Haber said it was a crazy eight years, saying they did what had to be done and made the hard decisions. He thanked staff and said his service has been an honor.
Councilmember Olson said her time on Council has been the experience of a lifetime. She said she was proud that the group learned to talk with each other, disagree, then find common ground. She encouraged the future Council to lead with compassion.
Councilmember Fear thanked Councilmember Olson for sticking with her. She said that it's important to have diversity in representation and hopes that new Councils will be more open-minded about new people. She also asked that the new Council consider changing the prayer to a moment of silence to accommodate others with different beliefs.

COMMUNICATIONS

Tanya S. Buckelew, Community Development Director. October 2026 Building Department Report.
Tanya S. Buckelew, Community Development Director. October 2026 Code Violations Report.
Tanya S. Buckelew, Community Development Director. October 2026 Inspections Report.
Tanya S. Buckelew, Community Development Director. October 2026 Rental Report.
Tanya S. Buckelew, Community Development Director. October 2026 Certificates Issued Report.
Eric E. Cherry, Police Department Captain. October 2026 Police Report.
Kevin D. Lenkart, Public Safety Director. October 2026 Parking Citation Report.
Kevin D. Lenkart, Public Safety Director. October 2026 Fire Report.
Downtown Development Authority. Minutes of November 04, 2026.
Downtown Historical District Commission. Minutes of October 21, 2026.
Owosso Historical Commission. Minutes of November 10, 2026.
WWTP Review Board. Minutes of October 27, 2026.

NEXT MEETING

Monday, December 7, 2026 – Organizational Meeting

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 8:26 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.