

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
OWOSSO DDA / MAIN STREET
Council Chambers, City Hall
September 3, 2014 – 7:30 am.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 7:38 a.m. by Dave Acton.

ROLL CALL was taken by Secretary Alaina Kraus.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Dave Acton, Authority Members Benjamin Frederick, Bill Gilbert, Dawn Gonyou, Lance Omer, Secretary Alaina Kraus, and Treasurer James Demis

MEMBERS ABSENT: Authority Members Ken Cushman and Meredith Landino.

OTHERS PRESENT: Josh Adams, DDA /Owosso Main Street Manager; Susan Montenegro, City of Owosso; Jeff Deason, Chamber of Commerce; Kevin Lenkart, Public Safety (7:49)

AGENDA:

MOTION BY AUTHORITY MEMBER GILBERT, SUPPORTED BY AUTHORITY MEMBER KRAUS TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR SEPTEMBER 3, 2014.

YEAS ALL. MOTION CARRIED.

MINUTES:

MOTION BY AUTHORITY MEMBER GILBERT, SUPPORTED BY AUTHORITY MEMBER GONYOU TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF AUGUST 6, 2014.

YEAS ALL. MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC / BOARD / STAFF COMMENTS:

None

COMMITTEE UPDATES

1. Design – Authority Member Bill Gilbert

Thinking about adding a new workplan for a downtown coloring book towards historic education. Down to one case each of the drinking glasses. People are starting to ask if a second set will be made.

Kevin Lenkart is talking to the city attorney about the Parking subcommittee exemption and it is hoped to go to the city council next meeting.

2. Economic Restructuring – Dave Acton

The committee has had trouble getting quorum so they will be holding a special meeting to look at workplans for the welcome packet and business visitation as well as confirm merchants for the Retail Merchandising workshop on October 6.

Gilbert inquired about how the Market Study can be made available to people. Adams has been working with Panterra for a breakdown to go to each committee.

3. Organization – Manager Adams

They are looking at a way to do a larger scale fundraiser than anything that has been done before. They are considering a way to do a late July water festival that will cost a bit of money but also raise money. The committee is really focusing on the nuts and bolts of what org should be – fundraising and volunteer organization.

4. Promotion – Manager Adams

Tour Our Town happened weekend before last using Main Street resources. We were the first to use Main Street graphic design resources. Visitors to each location counted over 100 people, varying between locations, and talks have already begun for next year including more downtown businesses and restaurants.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS:

1. CHECK REGISTER APPROVAL.

A different plan will be happening for irrigation next year. Rick Williams is familiar with these types of systems and is willing to help train people.

SEE BOARD PACKET FOR CHECK REGISTER

MOTION BY AUTHORITY MEMBER KRAUS, SUPPORTED BY AUTHORITY MEMBER GILBERT TO APPROVE THE CHECK REGISTER FOR AUGUST 2014 AS PRESENTED. YEAS ALL. MOTION CARRIED.

2. BUDGET REPORT.

Adams and the volunteer who works with Quickbooks will be working on a monthly and yearly budget. Demis brought up the change in the amount of work involved in auditing has decreased greatly without the market being run through Owosso Main Street, so he will talk to them about decreasing that cost again.

We have not gotten TIF and DDA funds for the year, but the big one that is being waited on is whether or not personal property taxes are removed. There is a refund request already in motion for that, but no word has been heard. There is supposed to be a re-appropriation of use tax to make up for the loss of funds, but a back-up plan of pulling from reserves next year is already in motion.

3. DIG UPDATE (SUSAN M & JOSH A).

Bids were opened yesterday. Two bids were in. The one for the retaining wall is unchanged. Bids for the parking lot were approximately \$400,000 over estimates making it approximately \$800,000 over budget. The city is meeting with the MEDC and hoping to be able to remove the retaining wall and fund that in a different way, easing up the budget to be able to do the parking lots. Omer asked if it was unusual to come in so far over estimates. Montenegro said part of it is that it is the end of the

construction year which raises costs. A recommendation will be included to move the kayak launch.

In order to apply for grants like the DIG and façade grants, we must be a low to moderate income community. When we applied the information was pulled from 2000 census data. HUD has since updated and the adjustment makes Owosso ineligible. The city can do a community survey to have a more recent assessment of numbers, but it is costly to complete. Adams has already opened lines of communication with Michigan Main Street on ways that Main Street can be involved in this process. It is a good problem, but the change was unexpected.

Deason said this may be associated with Federal funds, which could limit the MEDC's ability to adjust timeline or other aspects of the grant.

Façade grants would have to come under job creation instead of low/moderate income.

PUBLIC / BOARD / STAFF COMMENTS:

None

MOTION MADE BY DEMIS, SUPPORTED BY AUTHORITY MEMBER KRAUS TO
ADJOURN AT 8:18 AM.

YEAS ALL. MOTION CARRIED.

Alaina Kraus, Secretary