

**OWOSSO CITY COUNCIL**

**MAY 30, 2006**

**7:30 P.M.**

**PRESIDING OFFICER:** MAYOR LINDA L. ROBERTSON

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** MAYOR LINDA L. ROBERTSON

**PRESENT:** Mayor Linda L. Robertson, Mayor Pro-Tem Mark D. Owen, Councilpersons Michael E. Bruff, Michael N. Cline, Joane E. Ford, and Justin R. Horvath.

**ABSENT:** Councilperson Harvey.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS**

James Griesen, president of Target Industries, 222 South Elm Street. Commented on the condition of the building adjoining his business, code enforcement issues, liability issues, and mandamus.

City Attorney William C. Brown commented on the differing opinions of the condition of the building at 317 South Elm Street, liability issues, writs of mandamus, and reminded Mr. Griesen of his private rights as a building owner.

Rod Spencer, employed by Target Industries, 222 South Elm Street, compared the condition of the old hotel to the condition of the building at 317 South Elm Street.

City Manger Gregg G. Guetschow commented on determining factors for condemnation.

There was general Council and Staff discussion regarding the expertise of trained professionals, a timetable for action, and goals for the process.

Burton Fox, 216 East Oliver Street, commented on one issue taking a majority of the time set aside for "Citizen Comments and Questions".

City Manager Guetschow introduced Liz Shepard of the Argus Press to Council.

Councilperson Cline inquired about other properties in the City owned by Kahuna Properties, LLC.

Mayor Robertson commented on Council and Staff responding to all questions openly.

**DISCUSSION – UTILITIES**

City Manager Guetschow introduced three topics for evening: the proposed Water District Agreement with Caledonia Charter Township, the proposed water rate increase, and the Sanitary Sewer Overflow Program.

Water District Agreement:

All members of Council agreed the agreement was simple, clear, and fair. There was general discussion regarding using this agreement as a base for water discussions with other jurisdictions, reaction from the township, how soon the agreement could be put in place, and how the agreement would effect current out-of-town customers.

Proposed Water Rate Increase:

Utilities Director Gary M. Burk detailed the reasoning behind the proposed increase.

There was general Council and Staff discussion regarding how the proposed water district agreement would effect the need for a water rate increase, the timing of the requested increase, not putting off capital outlay projects, use of fund balance, and cost increases in the production process. Utilities Director Burk agreed to provide a breakdown of cost increases.

Sanitary Sewer Overflow Program:

Utilities Director Burk updated council on the progress of the program and indicated there may be grant funds available to help with the project.

There was general discussion regarding the process of gathering information on the sewer system, determining what sort of help the City will provide in fixing illicit connections, the type of financing used for the project, how new home buyers can detect illicit connections, and extending the storm sewer system to provide for more private connections.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Councilperson Ford for adjournment at 8:44 p.m.

Motion supported by Mayor Pro-Tem Owen and concurred in by unanimous vote.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Linda L. Robertson, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Amy K. Kohagen, Deputy City Clerk