

OWOSSO CITY COUNCIL

FEBRUARY 12, 2007

7:36 P.M.

PRESIDING OFFICER: MAYOR LINDA L. ROBERTSON

OPENING PRAYER: PASTOR RODGER DEVORE
FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

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, Matthew B. Harvey, and Justin R. Horvath.

ABSENT: None.

Note: Due to over flow capacity the meeting was held in the Fire Hall in the Public Safety Building.

Mayor Robertson addressed the Council and audience, reading a statement commenting on her feelings regarding the conduct of some Council members during the recent resignation of the City Manager. She indicated that the entire Council needs to work together in the future to do what is best for the City and that citizens are entitled to transparent government and all members of Council should strive to that goal.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

EMPLOYMENT SEPARATION AGREEMENT AND RELEASE

Motion by Councilperson Cline to approve the employment separation agreement and release between the City of Owosso and Gregg G. Guetschow and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute appropriate documents.

Motion supported by Councilperson Harvey.

Roll Call Vote.

AYES: Councilperson Harvey, Mayor Pro-Tem Owen, Councilpersons Cline, Horvath, Ford, Bruff, and Mayor Robertson.

NAYS: None.

The separation agreement and letter of recommendation were presented and signed by the Mayor and the City Clerk.

RESIGNATION

City Manager Gregg G. Guetschow distributed copies of his letter of resignation to the Mayor and City Clerk. Per Charter Section 4.11 the City Clerk read the letter to the Council.

Councilperson Horvath suggested all those in attendance thank Mr. Guetschow for his service to the City. The City Manager received a standing ovation.

Motion by Councilperson Harvey to accept the resignation of Gregg G. Guetschow from the position of City Manager.

Motion supported by Mayor Pro-Tem Owen.

Roll Call Vote.

AYES: Councilperson Harvey, Mayor Pro-Tem Owen, Councilpersons Cline, and Bruff.

NAYS: Councilpersons Ford, Horvath, and Mayor Robertson.

Mr. Guetschow left the meeting.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER APPOINTMENT

There was general discussion regarding the process for appointing an interim City Manager. It was decided that interested parties currently employed by the City of Owosso should submit a letter of interest to Council by February 15, 2007. Those parties will interviewed by Council at the February 20, 2007 meeting.

CITIZEN COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Gary Martenis, 705 Lingle Avenue, commented on his desire for support for the Council in light of the changes they have made. He also suggested Cass Street be renamed in honor of the former City Manager.

Marsha Lyttle, 624 North Saginaw Street, commented on her desire to see a change in attitude from both the Council and the citizens of the City, the need for the Council to regain the citizens' trust, and her desire for some Council members to apologize for their actions. (Time was reached before her comments were completed.)

Charles Schaufele, 1360 Jackson Drive, inquired as to how and if an official investigation would be conducted to determine if the Open Meetings Act was violated by some Council members. He also commented on the effects the City will experience due to the actions of Council members.

Burton Fox, 216 East Oliver Street, commented on his experience with the former City Manager, Council's responsibility to provide direction, and not criticizing those who are in favor of change.

Mark Hanna, 4655 Waugh Road, continued the statements of Marsh Lyttle, reminding citizens of their responsibility in participating in the governmental process. He then commented on his concern with possible Open Meetings Act violations, his desire to see things done properly the first time, and his hopes for continued financial responsibility.

Ed Urban, 601 Glenwood Avenue, commented regarding job openings and the need to separate politics and religion.

Anna Owens, 1201 North Washington Street, commented on the responsibilities of Council and her disappointment that citizens were not involved and represented in the decision making process.

Lorraine Baker, 608 Ada Street, commented on her desire to see Council govern as a group and reminded Council the end does not justify the means.

Michael Nolph, 1219 North Water Street, indicated his support for the removal of the City Manager, his desire to move in a new direction and his wish to see all hiring for City positions done within the city.

Joe DeCaire, 4726 East M-21, Caledonia Township Supervisor, commented on his hope that future work with the City will be "above board".

Kevin M. Brown, 217 Curwood Castle Drive, commented on the need to move forward and make city a better place.

Kay Lorraine Lauro, 4244 South Cook Road, informed Council of a seminar on the Open Meetings Act to be held by the Shiawassee Board of Commissioners.

There were no further citizen comments, time elapsed: 29 minutes.

Councilperson Cline corrected a statement made by a citizen to reflect the fact that 5 members of Council knew of the plan to remove the City Manager, not 4.

In response to a citizen inquiry City Attorney Brown read select sections of the Open Meetings Act in regard to opening an investigation into Council conduct.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilperson Bruff for adjournment at 8:26 p.m.

Motion supported by Councilperson Harvey and concurred in by unanimous vote.

Linda L. Robertson, Mayor

Amy K. Kohagen, City Clerk