

OWOSSO CITY COUNCIL

SEPTEMBER 4, 2007

7:30 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, Joni M.
Forster, and Justin R. Horvath.

ABSENT: None.

APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Councilperson Bruff to approve the agenda as presented with the deletion of 1507 Palmer Avenue from Item of Business #2 and the addition of Item of Business #6 as follows:

6. Executive Session. Authorize holding executive session at the conclusion of regular business for the purpose of discussing possible lease of real property.

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF AUGUST 16, 2007

Motion by Councilperson Forster to approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of August 16, 2007 as presented.

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 20, 2007

Motion by Councilperson Bruff to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 20, 2007 as presented.

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

CITIZEN COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Thomas Holley, 507 South Washington Street, Apt 13, commented on his desire to see the graffiti on the back of the bus garage and underneath the bridges taken care of.

Mayor Robertson indicated the water was too high during the annual river clean up to paint underneath the bridges.

Larry Lecureux, address unknown, commented on the need for benches in the downtown.

Nancy Cadieux, 118 ½ North Lansing Street, commented on the benches that used to be located in the downtown and inquired as to why they were removed.

Community Development Director Philip B. Hathaway indicated the old benches were removed due to loitering after business hours.

Burton Fox, 216 East Oliver Street, commented on his concern with the city manager candidate's lack of management experience and his alleged demands. He also indicated he felt the Council should interview more candidates before making a decision.

Betty Coon, 1204 Palmer Avenue, commented on her concern the city manager candidate is being too demanding and her desire to see other candidates interviewed.

There was general discussion regarding where citizens heard the city manager candidate's alleged demands. Citizens were informed the candidate had made no demands other than his salary and he had indicated all items were negotiable.

There was further discussion regarding the former city manager's salary, the city manager candidate's educational background, and the cost of pursuing out of state candidates.

Building Official John F. Archer indicated he and Community Development Director Hathaway would need to sit in on the executive session.

Gary Martenis, 705 Lingle Avenue, commented on citizens' desire for Council to be cautious when choosing the new city manager.

Councilperson Bruff commented on the need for citizens to check facts and not believe everything they see and hear.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Councilperson Horvath to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

Bid Award. Accepted the low bid of BioTech Agronomics for the 2007/2008 lime softening residuals removal in the amount of \$15.00 per cubic yard with a total estimated contract amount of \$187,500.00.

Bid Award. Waived bid irregularities and accepted bid of Berger Chevrolet for two 2008 Chevrolet Impala police cars in the amount of \$20,378.00 each for a total of \$40,756.00.

Contract Payment. Authorized Progress Payment to Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr and Huber for Oliver Street Bridge construction engineering covering the time period from July 14, 2007 through August 10, 2007 in the amount of \$21,707.86.

Motion supported by Councilperson Bruff.

Roll Call Vote.

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

NAYS: None.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

CONDEMNATION – 616 GLENWOOD AVENUE

Motion by Mayor Pro-Tem Owen to approve the condemnation of the structures at 616 Glenwood Avenue due to fire damage and other conditions.

Motion supported by Councilperson Forster.

Roll Call Vote.

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

NAYS: None.

BID AWARD - DEMOLITION

There was a brief discussion regarding if the bids could be split, if removal of debris was included in the bid, the reason for the wide range of bids, and how local preference affects bids.

Motion by Mayor Pro-Tem Owen to table the bid award to Fisher Gravel for demolition of the structures located at 616 Glenwood Avenue in the amount of \$9,944.00 until after executive session.

Motion supported by Councilperson Bruff.

Roll Call Vote.

AYES: Councilpersons Horvath, Forster, Mayor Pro-Tem Owen, Councilpersons Cline, Bruff, and Mayor Robertson.

NAYS: None.

CABLE ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

Staff sought Council input regarding changing the Cable Ordinance to better reflect the cable channels' revised operations. Council indicated they felt it was reasonable to include all of the current members of the advisory committee and two members of the public on the future cable board. They also indicated an interest in including the RESD on the board.

FIFTH MONDAY MEETING AGENDA

There was general discussion regarding the agenda for the meeting, fostering a sense of community, and the importance of cooperation.

Motion by Councilperson Forster to approve the agenda for the fifth Monday meeting scheduled for October 29, 2007. The meeting will include members of the Chamber of Commerce Board and the Owosso Public School Board. Dr. Gary Smit will be scheduled to speak.

Motion supported by Councilperson Bruff.

AYES: Councilpersons Cline, Bruff, Mayor Pro-Tem Owen, Councilpersons Forster, Horvath, and Mayor Robertson.

NAYS: None.

CITY MANAGER SEARCH

Council discussed their feelings of the remaining city manager candidate. Most comments were positive, though concern was expressed at his lack of managerial experience.

Motion by Councilperson Forster to request City Attorney William C. Brown to enter into contract negotiations with Joseph Fivas for the position of City Manager.

Motion supported by Councilperson Bruff.

Roll Call Vote.

AYES: Mayor Pro-Tem Owen, Councilpersons Forster, Horvath, Bruff, and Mayor Robertson.

NAYS: Councilperson Cline.

City Attorney Brown led a discussion regarding contract details.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Mayor Pro-Tem Owen to adjourn to executive session after the conclusion of regular business.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

Amy K. Kohagen, City Clerk. Memo regarding cable channel equipment.
Owosso Historical Commission. Minutes of Meeting of August 21, 2007.

EXECUTIVE SESSION AMENDMENT

Motion by Mayor Pro-Tem Owen to amend the executive session motion to include "to consider possible lease of real property."

Motion supported by Councilperson Bruff.

Roll Call Vote.

AYES: Mayor Pro-Tem Owen, Councilpersons Horvath, Forster, Bruff, Cline, and Mayor Robertson.

NAYS: None.

There was brief discussion regarding changes to the cable channel operation and future funding for the channels.

Council requested the presence of a Historical Commission representative at the next regular meeting to discuss the repair/demolition of the Gould House garage.

CITIZEN COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Shelva Cebulski, 1243 Marion Street, inquired why the Historical Commission would allow people to use the Gould House garage if it was in need of repair.

Thomas Holley, 507 South Washington Street, Apt 13, commented on his desire to see the Gould House garage repaired.

Betty Coon, 1204 Palmer Avenue, commented on Councilperson Cline's contribution to Council and her desire not to see construction trucks use her street.

Burton Fox, 216 East Oliver Street, commented on the use of cooperation to refurbish area attractions.

Larry Lecureux, address unknown, commented on his desire to see the Gould House garage repaired.

Councilperson Cline commented on the length of the proposed executive session.

Councilperson Forster commented on her desire to see a community effort to place signage along the trail, widen the trail in some spots, and improve of the trail surface.

Mayor Robertson commented on the bridge walk held on the Labor Day holiday.

ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 9:46 P.M.

RETURNED FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 10:06 P.M.

DEMOLITION BID – 616 GLENWOOD AVENUE

Motion by Mayor Pro-Tem Owen to waive bid irregularities and authorize the bid from Fisher Gravel for demolition of the structures at 616 Glenwood Avenue in the amount of \$9,944.00.

Motion supported by Councilperson Bruff.

Roll Call Vote.

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

NAYS: None.

DEMOLITION BID - 1507 PALMER AVENUE

Motion by Mayor Pro-Tem Owen to table the lease discussion and the bid award for Fisher Gravel for the demolition of 1507 Palmer Avenue in the amount of \$3,944.00.

Motion supported by Councilperson Cline.

Roll Call Vote.

AYES: Councilpersons Cline, Horvath, Bruff, Forster, Mayor Pro-Tem Owen, and Mayor Robertson.

NAYS: None.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilperson Bruff for adjournment at 10:08 p.m.

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

Linda L. Robertson, Mayor

Amy K. Kohagen, City Clerk