

CITY OF OWOSSO
REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES SYNOPSIS
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2007

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.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Brownfield Redevelopment Plan. A Public Hearing was conducted to receive citizen comment regarding proposed Brownfield Redevelopment Plan--"District #13, Wesener Building." The following people addressed the Council regarding the plan: Betty Coon, Teresa Skaryd, Suzanne Carpenter, Burton Fox, and Thomas Holley. The Council adopted the Brownfield Redevelopment Plan for District #13, Wesener Building.

CITIZEN COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Dan Stewart, County Commissioner District 1, commented on recent issues taken up by the County Commission.

Suzanne Carpenter commented on the desire of downtown property owners to save the trees in the downtown from being cut down.

Betty Coon inquired as to why the house at 1507 Palmer Avenue will not be rented and indicated she does not want work trucks using her street if the City decides to tear down the house.

Thomas Holley commented on his happiness on seeing work taking place on the old Lebowsky Center.

Burton Fox commented on graffiti under the bridge, efforts to take care of it and punishing those that deface property.

Teresa Skaryd indicated she felt drugs were being sold under the bridge near the Middle School. Eddie Urban commented on his appreciation that area between Jerome Street and the river had been mowed.

There was general discussion regarding why the large trees in the downtown need to be considered for removal and replacement. Issues included their general size, their propensity to push up sidewalk panels and grates, and their possibility of causing damage to the foundations of downtown buildings. Community Development Director Hathaway indicated the decision regarding the removal and replacement of the trees would be considered by a committee and would be approached very carefully.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda was approved as follows:

Bid Award. Waived bid irregularities and approved the purchase of salt for the 2007-2008 season through the State of Michigan purchasing contract with the Detroit Salt Company in the amount of \$28.84 per ton for early shipment (approximately 400 tons) and \$36.51 per ton regular delivery (approximately 2000 tons).

Change Order. Approved Change Order No. 1 to increase the bid award for Arrow Construction for the 2007 Street Patch Program by \$2,600.00.

Warrant No. 349. Accepted Warrant No. 349 as presented.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

Michigan Department of Transportation Agreement. Authorized Contract with the Michigan Department of Transportation for the closure of the railroad crossing at Elm Street south of Cass Street in exchange for \$25,000 and further authorized the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the appropriate documents.

City Manager Contract. Considered contract with the potential city manager. Council provided direction for the next round of negotiations. City Attorney Brown indicated he hoped to have the matter finished by the next regular Council meeting.

1507 Palmer Avenue. Approved the bid from Fisher Gravel for demolition of the structure at 1507 Palmer Avenue in the amount of \$3,944.00.

Gould House Garage. Considered the future of the Gould House garage. Council was in support of plans to build a usable replica of the structure following state guidelines for reconstructing historic buildings.

Liquor License Request – Amend Original Motion. Rescinded Resolution No. 41-2007, originally adopted August 6, 2007 and adopted Resolution No. 44-2007 recommending the issuance of an on-site liquor license for Woodard Station.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Marcella Church. Letter in opposition to burning.
2. Terry Judd. Letter regarding flowers in the downtown.
3. Petition to keep trees in the downtown.
4. Richard C. Williams, Finance Director. Revenue and Expenditure Report August 2007
5. Michael T. Compeau, Public Safety Director. Fuel usage report.
6. Michael T. Compeau, Public Safety Director. September 2007 Police Department Report.
7. Michael T. Compeau, Public Safety Director. September 2007 Fire Department Report.
8. Downtown Development Authority. Minutes of Meeting of September 5, 2007.
9. Invitation to Neighborhoods of Choice Program Meeting. (handed out at the meeting)
10. Letter declaring Owosso a 2007 Vibrant Small Cities Initiative Finalist. (handed out at the meeting)

CITIZEN COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Suzanne Carpenter reiterated her concern about removing and replacing the trees in the downtown.

Thomas Holley inquired as to why there was no cross walk marked on the intersection of Jerome Street and South Washington Street. It was indicated a cross walk could be added.

Betty Coon commented on past votes on the burning issue and her feeling the potential city manager is too demanding. She also inquired about the number of vacation days he was requesting.

Burton Fox commented on his desire to see the City protect itself from lawsuits and protect citizens against injury by properly removing trees that are too large for the downtown.

Teresa Skaryd commented on federal laws against burning toxic materials.

JoEllen Hartley inquired as to the penalties for repeated burning offenses.

Gary Martenis invited Council to join in the first SATA route ride on October 1st.

Eddie Urban inquired as to when the house on Glenwood Avenue would be demolished. It was noted the contractor is waiting for Consumers Energy to finish their work at the site. Mr. Urban also inquired about changing the lane markings at the intersection of Comstock Street and South Washington Street to better accommodate the flow of traffic.

City Attorney Brown indicated Council had approved the offer of 17 vacation days to the potential city manager.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

Linda L. Robertson, 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.