

OWOSSO CITY COUNCIL

OCTOBER 29, 2007

7:30 P.M.

PRESIDING OFFICER: MAYOR PRO-TEM MARK D. OWEN

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: MAYOR PRO-TEM MARK D. OWEN

PRESENT: Mayor Pro-Tem Mark D. Owen, Councilpersons Michael E. Bruff, Michael N. Cline, Joni M. Forster and Justin R. Horvath.

ABSENT: Mayor Linda L. Robertson.

This special meeting of the City Council was held jointly with the Owosso School Board and the Board of Directors of the Shiawassee Regional Chamber of Commerce.

GUEST SPEAKER: Owosso Public Schools Superintendent Greg Gray introduced Dr. Gary Smit of the Josephson Institute to speak about the Character Counts! Program.

Character Counts! is a framework which enables all members of a community to assist in task of bringing up moral children. The program includes six characteristics or "pillars" that are essential in raising such a child. They are trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship. The idea of the program is to create a pervasive atmosphere surrounding children in which they realize that character matters. The program is all encompassing in that training can be provided for the schools, local government, faith based organizations, and sporting organizations, among others. Owosso Public Schools currently participates in the program with some success.

DISCUSSION: Discussion took place regarding why society has lost its values in regard to ethics, the Schools use of the Character Counts! program, and the desire to not let this opportunity for character development pass by.

CITIZEN COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS: The following members of the public addressed comments to the members present: Michael McClosky, Burton Fox, Philip Hathaway, and Eddie Urban.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilperson Bruff, supported by Councilperson Cline for adjournment at 9:05 p.m. and concurred in by unanimous vote.

Mark D. Owen, Mayor Pro-Tem

Amy K. Kohagen, City Clerk