

CITY OF OWOSSO
REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES SYNOPSIS
MONDAY, OCTOBER 20 2008

Present: Mayor Michael E. Bruff, Mayor Pro-Tem Mark D. Owen, Councilpersons Michael N. Cline, Joni M. Forster, Benjamin R. Frederick, Gary M. Martenis, and Jason D. Simmons.

Absent: None.

PRESENTATIONS

Employee of the Month. Human Resources Director Unangst introduced the City of Owosso Employees of the Month for July, August, and September of 2008.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

CITIZEN COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Brian Berry invited everyone to the Preservation Owosso fund raiser to be held Saturday, October 25th at 7:00 p.m. at Mootzie's Gallery. The event will raise funds for Fayette Square improvements and possible historic street signage for the historic areas of the City. RSVP is required. He also noted Preservation Owosso's Victorian Christmas event at Fayette Square on December 6th.

Burton Fox thanked Ron Baker and John Archer for their work on the lot at Washington and Main Streets. He also thanked John Archer for his presence at Fayette Square this morning as Phase 1 of improvements to the square was completed.

Deana Finnegan introduced herself and indicated she is running for sheriff. She listed her experience and qualifications for the position along with organizations that endorsed her candidacy.

Henrietta Sparkes current County Commissioner indicated she is running for re-election and would appreciate support from City residents.

Shelva Cebulski said she had called to report an illegal burn on Saturday and did not appreciate how she was treated by dispatch. She also inquired whether a report of burning citations issued was available. It was noted the report is available.

Daniel Vargas indicated the drainage in his street is poor and that he is being taxed for improvements that were never made. He also took issue with the improvements in the downtown taking precedence over his drainage issue. It was noted the improvements downtown were paid in part by grant funding. City Manager Fivas asked to speak with Mr. Vargas after the meeting to investigate his claim that he was charged for improvements that were never performed.

Eddie Urban detailed handouts he had distributed to Council in regard to Agent Orange and security measures at schools. He also gave his endorsement of Chris Perry as representative to the Cable Access Advisory Commission.

Daniel Stewart, County Commissioner District 1, updated the Council on issues handled by the Board of Commissioners including the establishment of a fund for indigent veterans and grant funding for small businesses to educate their staff.

Councilperson Frederick expressed his hope that any support derived from the veteran's fund would be in addition to any support they were already receiving.

Councilperson Martenis echoed Mr. Urban's sentiments on Chris Perry.

It was noted that burning leaves is not illegal in the City as previously mentioned in citizen comments.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Fivas noted the annual curbside leaf pickup program will begin November 3rd. The program was delayed this year to accommodate the late falling of leaves. He indicated the City is working with Preservation Owosso on winter events for the downtown. He also indicated the Blue Ribbon Committee is working on a report to Council, targeting Thanksgiving as a completion date. He went on to detail the work being done on the Washington and Main Street lot, the Walk of History, and river trail.

He encouraged everyone to vote, pointing out the City has a bond measure on the ballot. The proposal would supplement funding for street reconstruction and maintenance. He noted the bond proposal renews a longstanding bond that will be paid off this year.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda was approved as follows:

Special Assessment District No. 2008-06. Authorized Resolution No. 1 for Special Assessment District No. 2008-06 for the regrading of the alley adjoining the 600 block of East Main Street.

Special Assessment District No. 2008-06. Authorized Resolution No. 2 for Special Assessment District No. 2008-06, setting Public Hearing for November 3, 2008 for the regrading of the alley adjoining the 600 block of East Main Street.

Payment Authorization. Authorized payment to Orchard, Hiltz & McCliment for construction engineering services for the Sanitary Sewer Overflow Control Project Phase 1A for the period ending September 20, 2008 in the amount of \$8,463.00.

Boards and Commissions Appointment. Approved the appointment of Christopher Perry as the Owosso Public Schools representative to the Cable Access Advisory Commission.

Warrant No. 372. Accepted Warrant No. 372 as presented.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

Change to Street Lighting Contract. Approved change to the Street Light Contract with Consumers Energy by adding one new mercury vapor light at 824 Wilkinson Street and authorized the Mayor and City Clerk to execute appropriate documents.

Identity Theft Prevention Program. Adopted the proposed Identity Theft Prevention Program to comply with the Fair and Accurate Credit Transaction Act.

Professional Services Agreement. Authorized Professional Services Agreement with Plante Moran, PLLC for the conduct of the City's audit for the year ending June 30, 2008.

Proposal for Audit Services. Approved Proposal for Audit Services with Plante Moran, PLLC for the conduct of the City's audit for the calendar years 2008-2012.

Council Member Office Hours. Agreed to hold Council Member Office Hours Monday, October 27, 2008 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Gould House.

Property Lease. Approved a Site Lease with Option with T-Mobile Central LLC for a cell tower on City owned property off Chippewa Trail at the Wastewater Treatment Plant Site in Owosso Charter Township.

Property Sale. Approved purchase agreement with American Waste Services, LLC for property on South Street described as *Part of the NE ¼ and NW ¼, Section 26, T7N – R2E, City of Owosso, Beginning 203 Feet East and 33 Feet South of NE Corner of NW ¼ of said Section 26, where South Line of South Street intersects with Railroad Right of Way; Then West 544 Feet along said South line of South Street, Then South 300 Feet, Then East 320.5 Feet (M/L) to Railroad Right of Way, Then Northeasterly along said Railroad Right of Way to Point of Beginning. (2.98 Acres M/L)* in the amount of \$20,000.

Bid Correction. Authorized correction to the Early Salt Bid, originally approved October 6, 2008, to reflect the actual amount delivered at 805.29 tons with an additional cost of \$228.85 for a total bid of \$34,836.85.

COMMUNICATIONS

Jessica Thompson. Letter of resignation from the Cable Access Advisory Commission.

Greg Klapko. Letter of resignation from the Cable Access Advisory Commission.

Michael Dvorak. Letter of resignation from the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Shiawassee Airport Board.

John F. Archer, Building Official. September 2008 Building Department Report.

John F. Archer, Building Official. September 2008 Code Violations Report.

Michael T. Compeau, Public Safety Director. September 2008 Police Department Report.

Michael T. Compeau, Public Safety Director. September 2008 Fire Department Report.

Owosso Historical Commission. Minutes of Meeting of September 16, 2008.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the handling of anonymous letters addressed to Council. Some members expressed frustration with the credence given to anonymous letters, one member said they would read aloud every anonymous letter they received. It was noted the local paper does not print anonymous letters unless the safety of the author an issue. The

Council voted to restrict anonymous letters from the Council agenda packet and asked they not be delivered at a Council meeting.

CITIZEN COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Shelva Cebulski inquired about the foul odor coming from the waste water treatment plant. Utilities Director Burk said he would follow up on her complaint, indicating no other complaints about the plant had been received.

Ed Brush reminded veterans, thanks to new legislation, they could now salute the flag during the Pledge of Allegiance if they wished. He also indicated he felt Council could be spending time on more important issues than signs in the right of way and where semis park.

Bruce Kilpatrick, American Waste representative, thanked Council for their affirmative vote on the sale of the property on South Street.

Burton Fox echoed the sentiments of Council members that felt anonymous letters should be given less priority. He also inquired as to when his letter would be included in the Council packet.

Betty Coon defended those writing anonymous letters saying sometimes the name of the author predisposes people to conclusions on the content of the letter. She also inquired how the DPW determines the exact amount of salt that was delivered. It was noted each truck comes with paperwork from the scales indicating its exact weight.

Eddie Urban said he felt the Council Office Hours needed to be more publicized to attract a better turnout. He also noted the good turnout for the Public Safety Department open house.

Various Council members asked to see Mr. Fox's letter.

There was further discussion regarding anonymous letters.

NEXT MEETING

November 3, 2008

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS OPENINGS

Planning Commission – term expires 06-30-2011

Building Board of Appeals – term expires 06-30-2011

Owosso Community Airport Board – term expires 12-31-2009

Zoning Board of Appeals – term expires 06-30-2009

Zoning Board of Appeals – Alternate

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Michael E. Bruff, 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.