

**OWOSSO CITY COUNCIL**

**APRIL 12, 2010**

**7:30 P.M.**

**PRESIDING OFFICER:** MAYOR BENJAMIN R. FREDERICK

**OPENING PRAYER:** MAJOR HENRY TEMPEL  
SALVATION ARMY

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** JOHN GREENWAY

**PRESENT:** Mayor Benjamin R. Frederick, Mayor Pro-Tem Cindy S. Popovitch, Councilpersons Thomas B. Cook, Michael J. Erfourth, Christopher T. Eveleth, Joni M. Forster, and Gary W. Martenis.

**ABSENT:** None.

**APPROVE AGENDA**

Motion by Councilperson Cook to approve the agenda as presented with the removal of the proclamation for Arbor Day and a note to correct the date.

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

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 15, 2010**

Motion by Councilperson Eveleth to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 15, 2010 as presented.

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

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 29, 2010**

Motion by Councilperson Forster to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 29, 2010 as presented.

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

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

Proclamation – Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Mayor Frederick read aloud a proclamation of the Mayor's Office declaring April 2010 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month in the City of Owosso as follows:

**A PROCLAMATION  
OF THE MAYOR'S OFFICE OF THE CITY OF OWOSSO, MICHIGAN  
PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF APRIL 2010 AS  
"SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH" IN THE CITY OF OWOSSO**

WHEREAS, sexual assault affects women, children and men of all racial, cultural and economic backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the immediate physical and emotional costs, sexual assault may also have associated consequences of post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse, depression, homelessness, eating disorders and suicide; and

WHEREAS, sexual assault can be devastating for not only the survivor, but also for the family and friends of the survivor; and

WHEREAS, no one person, organization, agency or community can eliminate sexual assault on their own, but we can work together to educate our entire population about what can be done to prevent sexual assault, support victim/survivors and their significant others, and increase support for agencies providing services to victims/survivors; and

WHEREAS, Sexual Assault Awareness Month provides an excellent opportunity for citizens to learn more about preventing sexual violence;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Benjamin R. Frederick, Mayor of the City of Owosso, do hereby proclaim the month of April 2010 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month in the City of Owosso.

Proclaimed this 12<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2010.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

None.

## **CITIZEN COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS**

Eugene Riley, 1106 Beehler Street, indicated that he has burned all his life and he does not believe any illnesses are the result of burning. He asked Council not to take away his right to burn.

Frank Livingston, 531 Randolph Street, said that times have changed and the city needs to move into the 21<sup>st</sup> century and ban open burning.

Shelah Hockman, 705 Campbell Drive, read aloud parts of an article detailing case law on the right to live free of nuisances going back to the time of Hammurabi.

James Hardwick, 813 North Shiawassee Street, inquired whether the Mayor, City Manager, and Clerk had received his letter asking for the exclusive use of the cable access channel 3 days per week. He asked when he would receive a response.

John Greenway, 115 Curwood Castle Drive, said there are many, many things that cause air pollution and that banning burning wouldn't accomplish anything. He requested Council submit the issue to voters.

Katie Heid, 1008 North Ball Street, indicated she felt better enforcement of the current ordinance would resolve the issue and that she should not be punished because a few people violate the law. She asked that the issue be placed on the ballot.

David Green, 604 Ryan Street, indicated he is opposed to burning. He asked the Council to ban the burning of leaves and only allow papers to be burned.

Robert Dumond, 401 North Cedar Street, wanted to know if he or the City could clean up the large clump of brush on the Vaungard property. He also noted that he is for burning.

Michael Belanger, 515 East Exchange Street, indicated he would like to see this issue placed on the ballot. He also said people should use common sense and talk to their neighbors.

Shelva Cebulski, 1243 Marion Street, echoed Mr. Livingston's thoughts that the City needs to ban burning. She asked the Council to ban burning for those that are sicker than she is.

Robert Coon, 1204 Palmer Avenue, said the people have voted on the burning issue at least twice and he cannot see why Council is looking at changing the ordinance. He said if the ordinance needs to be changed those that want the ordinance changed should take up a petition.

Robert McNinch, 413 Chipman Street, said that he felt the people that want to ban burning are employing scare tactics to get what they want. He also inquired why people that park on the street overnight do not get a ticket every time.

Susan Davis, 1113 Tracy Street, said that if the rules were enforced there would be no problem with burning. She also said she felt that if burning was prohibited for environmental reasons than they should also look at the pollution caused by prescription medication.

Eddie Urban, 601 Glenwood Avenue, indicated he was in the process of obtaining a wheelchair for use by citizens at City Hall. He also spoke about the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

The 30 minute time limit was reached.

Motion by Councilperson Eveleth to extend the comments and questions period by 35 minutes.

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

Jacob Meganck, 1114 Beehler Street, said he was in favor of recreational burning and felt that smoke was not a trigger for asthma. He also said that the American Cancer Society has not linked cancer to recreational fires. He further said he moved to a house on the river so that he could have recreational fires.

Bozena Bienias, 1432 Mallard Circle, invited Council to attend the free training being offered by the Michigan State University Michigan Prosperity Initiative being held at the Baker College Welcome Center April 29, 2010.

George Hebert, 411 Curwood Drive, pointed out the country is a republic not a strict democracy and said that health issues should not be decided by public vote.

Lorraine Weckwert, 1011 North Shiawassee Street, encouraged Council to consider a burning ban. She said that she feels most people do not want to intentionally hurt their neighbors but they

must not have all the facts if they insist on burning. She said she understood that campfires are fun but people live too close in proximity to one another to allow it. She said everyone has the right to clean air.

Michael Espich, 1124 Ada Street, indicated he owns a large piece of property in the city and that he needs to burn brush in order to dispose of it. He asked that Council remember that people voted on the issue and move on to other issues.

Betty Coon, 1204 Palmer Avenue, said she felt that if the burning ordinance needed to change it should be done by the citizens through a petition. She said she felt most people were in favor of burning and they have already made compromises.

Councilperson Martenis said it upsets him that not everyone can see City Council meetings. He wanted to know if staff had the means to put all Council meetings on the website for on demand viewing. He also inquired about changing the security policy to allow the fire bay doors to be open, if the new bathrooms at the ball fields would be required to be open all the time, and the traffic issue at the corner of Stewart and Washington Streets created by the detour of South M-52.

City Engineer Baker responded to the concerns with traffic at the Washington and Stewart Street intersection saying the issue is only temporary and in his experience the installation of a temporary 3-way stop would only cause accidents as the change would cause confusion. He said that he would continue to monitor the intersection and asked that people avoid the area during peak hours if possible.

Mayor Frederick said he would like to see M-52 become a 4 lane highway all the way to Perry, noting he was not in favor of MDOT's idea to change to a 3 lane highway. He said he would like to see this item on a future agenda.

Councilperson Erfourth echoed the Mayor's statements, saying he was concerned that the proposed turn lane would become a de-facto passing lane. He also inquired about posting a police car at the corner of Washington and Stewart Streets during peak traffic hours.

Councilperson Cook noted that while he is open to exploring the 3 lane vs. 4 lane issue he does see the benefit in the traffic calming aspects of the 3 lane idea. He said he was also concerned about the success of the businesses along South M-52 during the reconstruction of the street and asked what could be done to help them. Lastly he noted he was appreciative of the Sexual Assault Awareness proclamation.

It was noted that staff will look into the issue at the former Vaungard site. Staff will look into who owns the site and see that it gets attended to.

Public Safety Director Compeau noted that each night each police officer on duty is assigned a section of the city to patrol for parking violations and typically each officer writes 5-8 parking tickets per night. He said that officers cannot get to every illegally parked car every night. He also noted that he does not discourage officers from visiting businesses that are open throughout the night as that is where problems tend to crop up.

Councilperson Martenis asked about the issue raised by Mr. Hardwick. The Mayor noted he was drafting a response to Mr. Hardwick's request.

### **CITY MANAGER REPORT**

City Manager Crawford noted that residents had responded well to the Census saying the city had close to an 80% return rate which exceeded expectations. He directed those that did not get a Census form or misplaced their form to call the Clerk's Office or the Information Desk for directions to get a replacement.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

#### **First Reading and Set Public Hearing - Ordinance Amendment**

The First Reading on the amendment was held.

A public hearing was scheduled for April 19, 2010 to receive citizen comment regarding proposed ordinance amendment to amend Chapter 2, Administration, Section 2-348, "*Lowest qualified bidder*" defined, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Owosso, Michigan as follows:

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 2, ADMINISTRATION, ARTICLE VI, FINANCE, DIVISION 3, PURCHASES CONTRACTS AND SALES, SECTION 2-348 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF OWOSSO, MICHIGAN.

THE CITY OF OWOSSO ORDAINS:

Section 1. Section 2-348, "Lowest qualified bidder" defined, of Chapter 2, Administration, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Owosso shall be and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

**Sec. 2-348. "Lowest qualified bidder" defined.**

The term "lowest qualified bidder," as used in this division, shall mean the lowest bidder having qualifications to perform the work which are satisfactory to the council. The lowest bidder shall be determined based on an adjusted bid tabulation which shall be prepared in the following manner:

- (1) To the bid of any bidder which is neither a city-based business nor a county-based business shall be added an amount equal to six (6) percent of the bid or two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00), whichever is less.
- (2) To the bid of any bidder which is a county-based business shall be added an amount equal to three (3) percent of the bid or two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00), whichever is less; provided, however, that if no bid is received from a city-based business, no additional amount shall be added to the bid of a county-based business.
- (3) "Owosso-based business" shall be interpreted to mean a business registered with the county clerk or a corporation registered with the state having a business address within the city limits which pays real and/or personal property taxes levied by the city.

The term "county-based business" shall be interpreted to mean a business other than a city-based business registered with the county clerk or a corporation registered with the state having a business address within the county which pays real and/or personal property taxes levied by the county.

- (4) If twenty-five (25) percent or more of a contract for construction or other services is to be subcontracted by a city-based business bidder to a non-city-based business or businesses, or by a county-based business bidder to a non-county-based business or businesses, the adjusted bid shall be calculated by applying the provisions of this section separately to each portion of the contract based on the status of the contractor or subcontractor performing that portion of the contract as a city-based or county-based business.

Section 2. This ordinance shall become effective 20 days after its adoption.

Section 3. This Ordinance may be purchased or inspected in the City Clerk's Office Monday through Friday between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Bid Award. Authorized resolution awarding the bid for the Washington Street Bicycle Ramp Project to Sumbera Excavating to in the amount of \$25,802.40 and approved payment up to the contract amount as follows:

**RESOLUTION 22-2010**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A CONTRACT FOR THE  
WASHINGTON STREET BICYCLE RAMP PROJECT  
WITH SUMBERA EXCAVATING, INC.**

WHEREAS, the city of Owosso, Shiawassee County, Michigan, has determined that a bicycle ramp shall be constructed to connect the Sam and Opal Voight walkway on the south side of the Shiawassee River to the James Minor River Walk on the north side of the Shiawassee River and that the project is advisable, necessary and in the public interest; and

WHEREAS, the city of Owosso sought bids for construction of a bicycle ramp to connect the Sam and Opal Voight walkway on the south side of the Shiawassee River to the James Minor River Walk on the north side of the Shiawassee River; a bid was received from Sumbera Excavating, Inc.; and it is hereby determined that Sumbera Excavating, Inc. is qualified to provide such services and that it has submitted the lowest responsible and responsive bid;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the city council of the city of Owosso, Shiawassee County, Michigan that:

FIRST: The city of Owosso has heretofore determined that it is advisable, necessary and in the public interest to employ Sumbera Excavating, Inc. for construction of a bicycle ramp to connect the Sam and Opal Voight walkway on the south side of the Shiawassee River to the James Minor River Walk on the north side of the Shiawassee River.

SECOND: The mayor and city clerk are instructed and authorized to sign the document

substantially in the form attached as Exhibit A, Contract for Services Between the City of Owosso, Michigan and Sumbera Excavating, Inc., with a \$25,802.40 bid.

THIRD: The above expenses shall be paid from the 2009 General Obligation Limited Tax Bond proceeds.

Bid Award. Authorized resolution awarding the bid for the Ball and Mason Parking Lot Paving Project to A-1 Asphalt in the amount of \$21,692.50 and approved payment up to the contract amount as follows:

#### **RESOLUTION 23-2010**

##### **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A CONTRACT FOR THE 2010 BALL AND MASON PARKING LOT PAVING PROJECT WITH A-1 ASPHALT SEALING AND REPAIR, INC.**

WHEREAS, the city of Owosso, Shiawassee County, Michigan, has determined that the surface of the Ball and Mason parking lot has deteriorated and that replacement is advisable, necessary and in the public interest; and

WHEREAS, the city of Owosso sought bids for milling, catch basin adjustment, and asphalt resurfacing as part of the 2010 Ball and Mason Parking Lot Paving Project; a bid was received from A-1 Asphalt Paving and Sealing, Inc.; and it is hereby determined that A-1 Asphalt Sealing and Repair, Inc. is qualified to provide such services and that it has submitted the lowest responsible and responsive bid;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the city council of the city of Owosso, Shiawassee County, Michigan that:

FIRST: The city of Owosso has heretofore determined that it is advisable, necessary and in the public interest to employ A-1 Asphalt Sealing and Repair, Inc. for milling, catch basin adjustment, and asphalt resurfacing as part of the 2010 Ball and Mason Parking Lot Paving Project.

SECOND: The mayor and city clerk are instructed and authorized to sign the document substantially in the form attached as Exhibit A, Contract for Services Between the City of Owosso, Michigan and A-1 Asphalt Sealing and Paving, Inc., with a \$21,692.50 bid.

THIRD: The above expenses shall be paid from the 2009 General Obligation Limited Tax Bond proceeds.

Bid Award. Authorized resolution awarding the bid for the Ball and Mason Brick and Block Project to Oak Construction Corp. in the amount of \$7952.00 and approved payment up to the contract amount as follows:

#### **RESOLUTION 24-2010**

##### **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A CONTRACT FOR THE 2010 DUMPSTER CORRAL PROJECT WITH OAK CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION**

WHEREAS, the city of Owosso, Shiawassee County, Michigan, has determined that construction of a dumpster corral at the Ball and Mason parking lot is advisable, necessary and in the public interest; and

WHEREAS, the city of Owosso sought bids for construction of a dumpster corral at the Ball and Mason parking lot; a bid was received from Oak Construction Corporation; and it is hereby determined that Oak Construction Corporation is qualified to provide such services and that it has submitted the lowest responsible and responsive bid;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the city council of the city of Owosso, Shiawassee County, Michigan that:

FIRST: The city of Owosso has heretofore determined that it is advisable, necessary and in the public interest to employ Oak Construction Corporation for construction of a dumpster corral.

SECOND: The mayor and city clerk are instructed and authorized to sign the document substantially in the form attached as Exhibit A, Contract for Services Between the City of Owosso, Michigan and Oak Construction Corporation, with a \$7,952.00 bid.

THIRD: The above expenses shall be paid from the 2009 General Obligation Limited Tax Bond proceeds.

Payment Authorization. Authorized Payment to MDOT for the City's share of costs incurred for the reconstruction of Park Street from Main Street to Mason Street in the amount of \$3,252.24.

Payment Authorization. Authorized Payment to MDOT for the City's share of costs incurred for the reconstruction of King Street from Dewey Street to Gould Street in the amount of \$12,871.76.

Artisan Market Permission. Approved the application of Owosso Main Street for use of Main Street Plaza on consecutive Thursdays from 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. from June 27, 2010 through September 2, 2010 for the Artisan Market, authorized Traffic Control Order No. 1230 formalizing the action, and waived the insurance requirement.

Community Pride Permission. Approved the application of the Green-up & Clean-up Owosso Committee for use of Main Street Plaza on Saturday, May 1, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. for Community Pride activities and lunch, authorized Traffic Control Order No. 1231 formalizing the action, and waived the insurance requirement.

Crop Walk Permission. Approved the application of The Owosso Kiwanis Club for use of Hopkins Lake Park, Hopkins Lake Trail and Palmer Avenue and Hopkins Lake Drives on Sunday, May 2, 2010 from noon until 4:00 p.m. for the annual Crop Walk and authorized Traffic Control Order No. 1232 formalizing the action.

Farmers Market Permission. Approved the application of The Owosso Farmers Market for use of the Armory parking lot (Lot #4) on consecutive Saturdays from 6:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. from May 1, 2010 through October 30, 2010, with alternate location in the Park/Mason lot (Lot #1) June 5, 2010, for the 2010 Farmers Market and authorized Traffic Control Order No. 1233 formalizing the action.

Child Abuse Prevention March Permission. Approved the application of The Shiawassee County Child Abuse Prevention Council for use of the Kiwanis Ball Field parking lot, Jerome Avenue from Oakwood Avenue to Washington Street, Water Street from Washington Street to Mason Street, Mason Street from Water Street to Ball Street, and the Amphitheater from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. for "Champions for Children March Against Abuse" and authorized Traffic Control Order No. 1234 formalizing the action.

Warrant No. 400. Accepted Warrant No. 400 as follows:

<b>Vendor</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Fund</b>	<b>Amount</b>
CalFirst Leasing Corporation	Annual payment for HME Tower/Ladder Fire Truck	General	\$121,717.50
Netarx, LLC	Network Engineering Support March 2010	General	\$8,568.00
Caledonia Charter Township	Caledonia Utility Fund payment covering January – March 2010	Water	\$12,530.71

Motion supported by Councilperson Cook.

Roll Call Vote.

AYES: Councilperson Forster, Mayor Pro-Tem Popovitch, Councilpersons Martenis, Erfourth, Eveleth, Cook, and Mayor Frederick.

NAYS: None.

**ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

**UNPAID UTILITY CHARGES**

Motion by Councilperson Eveleth to authorize the Annual Notice for the collection of unpaid utility charges and the intent to lien therefore in compliance with Chapter 15, Section 15.4(c) of the Owosso City Charter.

Motion supported by Councilperson Erfourth.

Roll Call Vote.

AYES: Councilpersons Martenis, Eveleth, Mayor Pro-Tem Popovitch, Councilpersons Cook, Forster, Erfourth, and Mayor Frederick.

NAYS: None.

**HIRING SOLUTIONS CONTRACT**

A number of Council members expressed their happiness with Mr. Crawford's performance so far and had an interest in pursuing a lengthier agreement with him. There was discussion regarding

approaching Interim City Manager Crawford to see if he would be interested in staying with the City longer than originally anticipated. There was further discussion about conducting our own background checks. Some expressed a desire to attempt to hold off on the spending required to perform an executive search if possible.

Motion by Councilperson Cook to table the issue and instruct staff to negotiate with Interim City Manager Crawford to possibly extend the length of his contract.

Motion supported by Councilperson Eveleth.

Roll Call Vote.

AYES: Councilperson Eveleth, Mayor Pro-Tem Popovitch, Councilpersons Forster, Cook, Erfourth, Martenis, and Mayor Frederick.

NAYS: None.

### **SPECIAL MEETING TIME**

There was no consideration for setting either a special meeting time or a special meeting to begin the City Manager search process as Council did not execute the contract with Hiring Solutions in order to allow time for negotiations with the Interim City Manager.

### **FIRST READING AND SET PUBLIC HEARING – ORDINANCE AMENDMENT**

There was significant discussion about putting the issue on the ballot in November instead of amending the ordinance in an attempt to stop the constant debate over burning. A few Council members expressed a desire to ban burning but recognized the community's desire to allow recreational fires and indicated they would not be opposed to a ballot measure. There was a proposal to put two questions on the ballot to clarify the types of burning citizens want allowed, followed by further discussion regarding how the question or questions should be worded and the creation of an inspection and permit system for recreational burning. There was general consensus to require inspection prior to allowing citizens to burn in their yards as well as adjusting the allowed burning hours to coincide with the noise ordinance should burning continue.

City Attorney William C. Brown reminded Council that the Office of the Great Seal and the Michigan Attorney General's Office must review any Charter amendment questions prior to their being placed on a ballot. He also cautioned Council that the State may not allow two potentially conflicting Charter amendment questions placed on the ballot at the same time.

Motion by Mayor Pro-Tem Popovitch to direct the City Attorney to prepare two Charter amendment ballot questions: one asking if burning should be banned except for recreational fires and grilling, and the second asking if recreational fires should be banned.

Motion supported by Councilperson Cook.

Roll Call Vote.

AYES: Councilpersons Forster, Erfourth, Cook, Mayor Pro-Tem Popovitch, and Mayor Frederick.

NAYS: Councilpersons Martenis and Eveleth.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

Shiawassee Economic Development Partnership. Letter seeking new board member.

Arbor Day Foundation. Tree City USA designation.

Gary M. Burk, Utilities Director. 2010 Water Quality Report.

Planning Commission. Minutes of the Meeting of March 22, 2010.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Review Board. Minutes of the Meeting of March 23, 2010.

Mayor Frederick asked for volunteers to serve on the SEDP Board. City Manager Crawford indicated he would serve should it be the Council's desire.

Mayor Frederick congratulated Director of Economic Development and Neighborhood Services Brent Morgan on his appointment as the new City Manager of Caro.

Mayor Pro-Tem Popovitch indicated the Planning Commission is now working on a new master plan and is looking for grant money to assist with the project.

### **CITIZEN COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS**

Kevin Brown, 217 Curwood Castle Drive, thanked Council for their work on the burning issue. He said that he is against open burning but is willing to compromise on recreational burning.

Lorraine Weckwert, 1011 North Shiawassee Street, expressed her concern that a ballot question would be a difficult endeavor saying that just because people vote for something doesn't make it right. She also noted her feeling that reducing the lanes to 3 on M-52 would have a traffic calming effect that would be beneficial to the residents along that stretch of road.

Shelva Cebulski, 1243 Marion Street, indicated she appreciated Council's hard work on the burning issue. She also suggested the City install a permanent 4-way stop at the corner of Washington and Stewart Streets. It was noted that Washington Street is subject to much higher traffic and a stop sign would back up traffic and cause congestion.

James Hardwick, 813 North Shiawassee Street, indicated he had not heard the Mayor's response to his request for use of the cable access channel 3 days per week. The Mayor noted that he would be drafting a response to Mr. Hardwick's request.

Michael Belanger, 515 East Exchange Street, indicated he was in support of the inspection and permit system for recreational burning and suggested that people be required to call in for a permit prior to every fire they have to allow for easier enforcement. He also inquired what was being done in the city from a parks and recreation standpoint.

George Hebert, 411 Curwood Drive, asked if both burning questions would be on the ballot. It was noted that in its current form both questions would be on the ballot.

Robert Dumond, 401 North Cedar Street, expressed his concern there would not be enough officers to enforce a burning ordinance that includes a permit system. He also asked what he should do with his grass clippings if he cannot take them to the brush and leaf drop off site.

Bozena Bienias, 1432 Mallard Circle, encouraged the Council to choose the wording of any ballot proposals carefully so as not to make voters feel the City is being heavy handed.

Eddie Urban, 601 Glenwood Avenue, indicated that he had successfully worked throughout the meeting to secure a wheelchair for use by citizens at City Hall.

Brian Berry, 627 North Washington Street, noted different events happening in town in the next few weeks including the National Day of Prayer event to be held at Fayette Square on May 6<sup>th</sup>.

Betty Coon, 1204 Palmer Avenue, thanked Mr. Urban for his kind gesture. She also asked to have the proposed ballot questions clarified.

Owosso Fire Department Lieutenant Jeffrey Hetfield pointed out there is a significant loss of energy via the glass garage doors in the ambulance bay, causing heaters and air conditioners in the building to work overtime. He said that in the summer the doors must be opened or the entire men's quarters becomes too hot, but opening them violates the building security policy previously passed by Council.

Councilperson Martenis inquired whether the policy needed to be changed to allow the doors to be opened for cooling purposes. He also spoke about the street light at Prindle Street and Palmer Avenue, the proposed Armory deal falling through, and the activities of the Parks & Recreation Commission. Lastly he talked about the reasons for reducing the lanes on M-52 from 4 to 3, saying it would be generally safer for both motorists and pedestrians. He had also mentioned that he would like to see Holman Pool back on the ballot.

Mayor Frederick indicated the Council recognizes the value of a good parks system. He also indicated that Holman Pool will be a topic of discussion once again, though he cautioned people that even if a millage were passed it would be no guarantee the pool would open again.

Councilperson Forster asked if any other Council members were interested in changing the allowed hours for burning to make them coincide with the noise ordinance. Most agreed they would like to explore such an amendment but shied away from the complexity of changing the ordinance in light of the idea that it was going to be decided by voters in the fall.

City Manager Crawford indicated the Parks & Recreation Commission would be making their annual presentation at the next meeting. He also indicated he would put together some information on options for the pool.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Councilperson Eveleth for adjournment at 10:45 p.m.

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

---

Benjamin R. Frederick, Mayor

---

Amy K. Kohagen, City Clerk