



CITY OF OWOSSO
CITY MANAGER'S REPORT
August 2026

Curbside Recycling

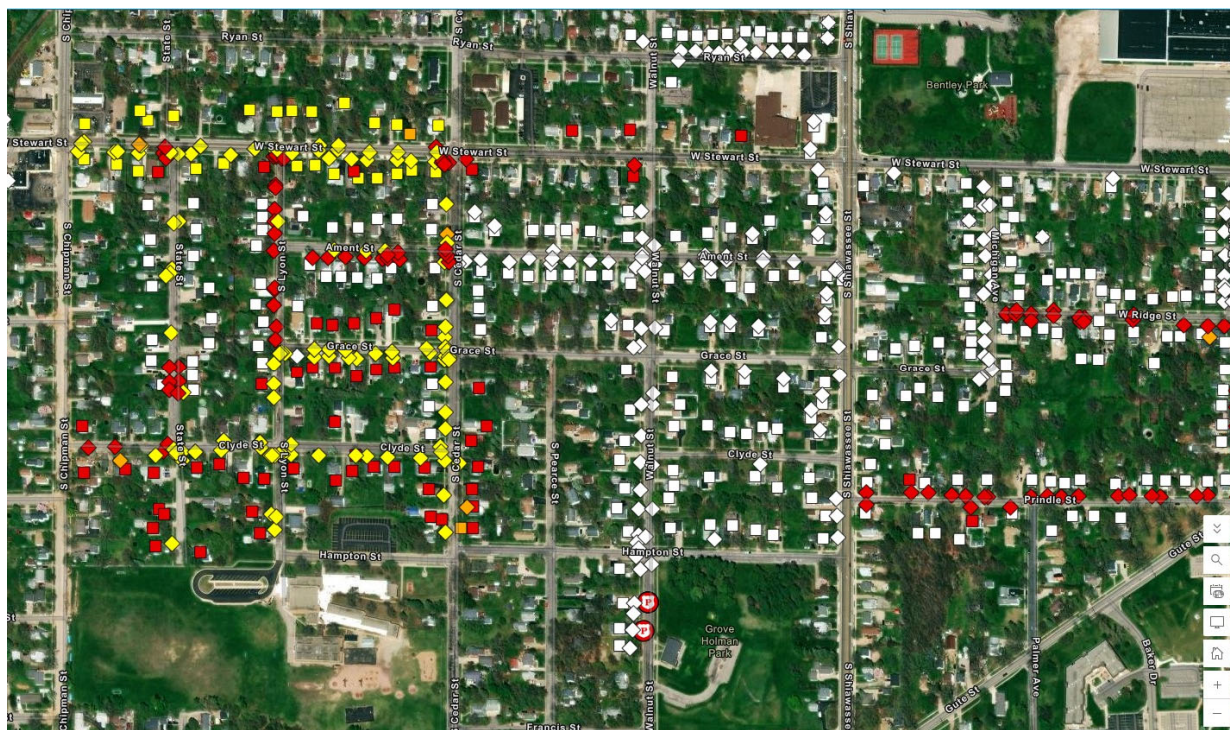
At its August 25 meeting, Council voted unanimously to direct the City Attorney to draft a single-hauler recycling ordinance, building on last month's listening-session findings. The ordinance would amend the City's current trash-service requirement to authorize a single-hauler agreement, similar to Portage's approach; it will require single-stream recycling collection but will not specify particular recyclable materials, avoiding a second cart for residents. First reading is scheduled for the September 21 Council meeting, with a second reading and public hearing at the first October meeting.

Separately, Shiawassee Health and Wellness has announced it will close the DJ Root recycling drop-off facility at the end of the current fiscal year (September 30), which will affect businesses currently using that site for paper and cardboard recycling and creates an opening for another hauler or operator to serve that need.

Public Works & Utilities

Consumers Energy Gas Main Restoration — Stewart Street Corridor

Following a July 27 meeting between City staff and Consumers Energy, Consumers' contractors report substantial progress on soft- and hard-surface restoration in the project area; work along Stewart Street (M-52 to Washington) and M-52 (Grace to Fletcher) remains outstanding, with completion tentatively estimated in about three weeks. The map below, provided by Consumers on July 29 — the most recent restoration-status map the City has received — illustrates progress as of that date; addresses have likely advanced further since.



Consumers Energy gas main restoration status, OWS3 project area, as of July 29, 2026. Yellow = completed; red = released for restoration; white = not yet released but scheduled.

2025 Water Mains — Contracts 1 & 2 Closeout

The DWSRF-funded water main replacement project — Olmstead, Harding, and Hanover Streets under Contract 1, and Grace, Young, and Nafus Streets under Contract 2 — is 95% complete and on budget. Turf

restoration deficiencies on Contract 1 have been satisfactorily resolved, and final acceptance has been recommended by the City. Final closeout, a balancing contract modification for Contract 2, and record drawings for both contracts are targeted for completion in September.

Corunna Water System — SCADA Access Dispute

Coordination with the City of Corunna over shared water infrastructure is ongoing. Corunna's plan for a new SCADA panel, relies on a dialer-based alarm system rather than real-time data integration, and Corunna has indicated the City would need to build its own display and integration separately if it wants that data. DPW leadership considers real-time visibility into Corunna's system non-negotiable, citing Corunna's limited operating hours (four days per week), cybersecurity exposure from integrating with an unknown system, and the City's existing role managing portions of Corunna's system — including filling its water tower — without full visibility into current conditions. Absent a resolution, the City will not permit Corunna to connect its new panel to the plant; discussions with Corunna staff and engineer are ongoing.

Water Customer Portal

The online water portal continues to see strong adoption: 539 registered users (230 new in the past 30 days) and 582 linked water accounts. The system holds nearly 6 million meter readings, with about 32,500 new readings arriving automatically each day, and has generated more than 26,000 automated usage alerts with over 1,700 resident notifications delivered. Of 23 support tickets submitted through the portal, 23 have been closed.

Truck Traffic — Lime Sludge Hauling

Following resident complaints about lime-waste haul trucks using non-truck residential streets, the City's contractor (MAK Industries) engaged a new hauling subcontractor in August with specific instructions on compliant routing. The issue is considered resolved pending continued monitoring by plant operators.

New DPW Superintendent

Chase Peiffer has been named the City's new Public Works Superintendent and is now the primary DPW contact for day-to-day operations and work requests.

Community Development

Building Permits — Commercial Activity

- 1940 W Stewart St — Construction of a 36' x 56' pole barn.
- 105 E Main St — New business, Moon River Customs.
- 301 N Ball St — DayStarr office renovations.

Rezoning, Site Plans & Land Divisions

No rezoning requests, site plans, or land divisions/combinations were submitted during this reporting period.

Marihuana Licenses

The following marihuana licenses are active within the City of Owosso:

Type	Address	Status
Grow	1370 E South St	Medical/Recreational — Renewed Sept. 2025
Grow	1455 Industrial	Recreational — Renewed Oct. 2025
Grow	1750 E South St	Recreational — Renewed March 2026

Type	Address	Status
Grow	1410 Hathaway	Recreational — Issued August 2026
Processing	1750 E South St Ste. 1	Recreational — Renewed Jan. 2026
Retail	117 E Main St	Medical & Recreational — Renewed Oct. 2025
Retail	200 E Main	Recreational — Renewed May 2026
Retail	116 N Washington	Recreational — Renewed Jan. 2026

MSHDA / Housing Grants

We continue to actively leverage state and federal housing grant funding. The MIN 1.0 & 2.0 figures below reflect an August 2026 update: \$15,000 was transferred from administrative funds to project funds in the current round to cover an emergency repair.

Program	Year	Grant Amt.	Admin. Reimb.	Scope / Status
NEP Round 8	2023	\$70,000	\$5,000	5 homes — Completed
NEP Round 9	2024	\$70,000	\$2,500	3 homes — Completed
NEP Round 9 Public Amenity	2024	\$15,000	\$0	Grand Ave Park Equipment — Completed
MI-HOPE	2024–25	\$250,000	\$15,000	11 homes, energy efficient — Completed
MI-HOPE HiPerformer	2024–25	\$100,000	\$0	5 homes, energy efficient — Completed
MIN 1.0 & 2.0 (CDBG)	2025–26	\$860,831	\$64,469	30 homes — Complete by Nov. 2026 (Aug.: \$15,000 shifted from admin to cover an emergency repair)
CDBG Round 2	2026–27	\$400,000	\$72,000	10 homes
CDBG Round 3 — Residential	2027–28	\$760,000	\$115,930	19 homes
CDBG Round 3 — Citizens Loft	2026–27	\$500,000	\$76,270	5 rental units downtown
CDBG Round 4	2028–29	\$1,262,500	\$212,500	32 homes
TOTALS		\$4,288,331	\$564,669	119 homes — Grand Total: \$4,853,331

Citizens Loft / 123 N. Washington — MSHDA Funding Timeline

The signed MSHDA reservation memo has been submitted, and Community Development issued an RFP for a historic preservation consultant, with proposals received August 26 and Council award anticipated in September. Because the project's exterior work requires State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) review, the environmental assessment process is expected to take 90–120 days rather than the standard 45, followed by a required 15-day public comment period and a 15-day MSHDA comment period before funds can be released — pushing anticipated release of funds toward the end of the year. The developer has raised concerns about meeting the project's MEDC extension deadline and its Historic District Commission construction-start commitment given this timeline, and has flagged that additional environmental testing or abatement requirements could put the project's participation in the grant at risk — though the responsibility of coordinating grants is his alone. The city will continue to work towards full completion of this needed project.

Vacant Building Registration Ordinance — DDA Committee

The DDA committee continued work on a proposed downtown vacant-commercial-building registration ordinance. Discussion focused on how to define "vacant" for mixed-use buildings, the length of the grace

period before a building becomes subject to the ordinance, and whether known problem properties should be captured retroactively. Staff advised the committee to keep the definition simple and narrow at the outset, consistent with Adrian's own practice of amending its ordinance over time rather than starting broad. The committee expects to finalize specifics at its September meeting, ahead of a DDA Board recommendation at its first October meeting.

Parks & Recreation

Curwood Castle Restoration

An August 19 site visit with Perrin Construction and H2A Architects found the tower stucco and EIFS repairs complete and in the curing process; some additional EIFS wear was identified near trim edges and under the base and will be priced separately. Roof flashing has been cut in, with slate installation expected to begin the following week using colors matched to the building's original slate — greens, grays, and maroons — rather than a later, non-original bright red. Electrical scope has been finalized (outlets on each of the three turrets and one on each of the three gutters), with electrical work to precede painting so conduit can be painted out to match. A cost proposal for additional downspout work and the extra EIFS repairs is pending, and the next construction pay application is expected soon.

Public Safety Building — Construction Update

Following July's pre-bid walkthrough, the City interviewed the two lowest bidders — Perrin Construction and Nielsen Construction — on August 10. Spicer Group and Veridus Advisors are recommending award to Nielsen Construction of Lansing, whose base bid of \$984,420 (plus allowances) came in about \$134,000 over the City's \$850,000 construction budget goal; the overage will be covered by the City's healthy general fund balance. A formal notice to proceed and execution of the AIA contract are planned for presentation to Council in September. Nielsen's proposed schedule calls for substantial completion in 12 to 20 weeks once construction begins, comfortably within the mid-May deadline before liquidated damages would apply.

Public Safety

Code Enforcement — 1413 Young Street

Following complaints about an abandoned camper trailer being used for habitation at 1413 Young Street — with associated sewage and sanitation concerns — the City is pursuing a court order authorizing removal of the vehicle and any hazardous waste. A 48-hour vacate notice was posted on the property in the interim to encourage voluntary compliance while the order is finalized, and Community Development has brought a resolution to Council seeking authorization to clean up the site. Officers have increased patrols in the area in response to ongoing resident complaints.

South Street Homeless Camp

Officers and Community Development staff visited a homeless encampment approximately a quarter mile off South Street on August 25, in response to resident complaints. Five to six occupants were present and cooperative when informed they would need to vacate.

Bio-Care Grant — Firefighter Physicals

Bio-Care has received a state grant to cover annual physicals and fit testing for career firefighters statewide. Owosso's testing, scheduled for February 2027, will be provided at no cost to the City — a savings of approximately \$8,173, based on last year's cost.

Finance

Finance Director Transition

Finance Director Brad Barrett departed the City on August 21 after five years of service. The City has engaged Maner Costerisan to provide interim day-to-day accounting support and assist with audit preparation, with Adam Frost serving as the firm's primary point of contact; the City Manager is now the auditors' primary point of contact going forward. Interim responsibilities for banking, payroll, and grant administration have been reassigned among existing finance staff, and a search for a permanent Finance Director is underway, with a strong candidate already in the applicant pool. Year-end audit fieldwork is expected to begin in October, with a first draft targeted for early December.

USDA Ambulance Grant — Reimbursement Received

USDA Rural Development processed a \$116,500 electronic funds transfer in August, covering the federal share of the City's ambulance grant, following submission of required documentation.

Capital Improvement Plan Software Transition

The City is replacing its ClearGov capital improvement plan software with PlanIt, a lower-cost comparable tool, ahead of this winter's CIP planning process. Historical project data — 223 projects in all — has been imported and is being reconciled for funding/expense discrepancies inherited from ClearGov. Hands-on staff training is planned for September, ahead of the City's December CIP cycle.

November Election — City Council

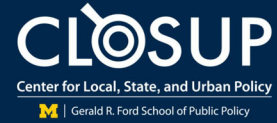
Twelve candidates have filed to run for the four City Council seats up for election this November. The Clerk's office will publish the full candidate list and begin standard pre-election preparations, including the accuracy test and election inspector training, in the coming weeks.

Elections Administration — Statewide Confidence Survey

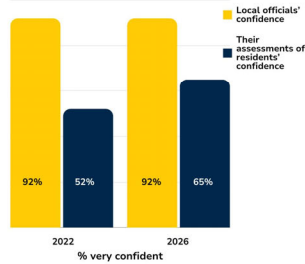
The University of Michigan's Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy (CLOSUP), part of the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, released Spring 2026 Michigan Public Policy Survey findings on election administration in August. Statewide, 92% of township and city officials report being very confident in their jurisdiction's ability to administer an accurate election this November, unchanged since 2022. Officials are less certain their residents share that confidence, though the gap is narrowing: 65% now believe their residents are very confident, up from 52% in 2022. Nearly half of jurisdictions statewide (49%) report election administration costs as a budget problem, while very few (3%) see voting equipment security as a significant concern. Larger jurisdictions are more likely than smaller ones to anticipate problems with election-related disinformation this fall.

From the Spring 2026 Michigan Public Policy Survey

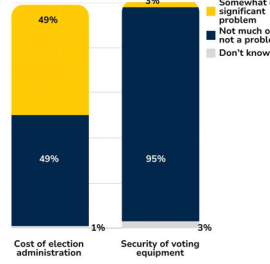
Michigan local governments highly confident in election integrity, wary of disinformation



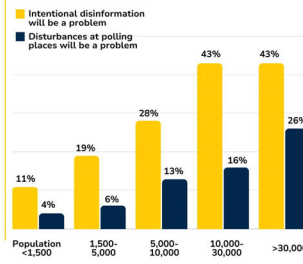
1 Michigan township and city officials are highly confident in their election administration for November, but less certain of their residents' confidence



2 Half of townships and cities say costs for election administration are a problem; very few concerned about voting equipment security



3 Larger jurisdictions are the most likely to express concerns about disinformation and disturbances at polls this November



Website: closup.umich.edu | email: CLOSUP@UMICH.EDU | Source: 2026 Michigan Public Policy Survey

Summary findings from the University of Michigan Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy's Spring 2026 Michigan Public Policy Survey on election administration.