

**CITY OF OWOSSO  
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES SYNOPSIS  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2024**

City Clerk Amy K. Kirkland administered the Oath of Office to Carl C. Ludington (four-year term); Rachel M. Osmer (four-year term); Robert J. Teich, Jr. (four-year term); and Christopher D. Owens (two- year term).

City Manager Nathan R. Henne called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Utilities Director Ryan E. Suchanek led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**PRESENT:** Councilpersons Fear, Haber, Ludington, Olson, Osmer, Owens, and Teich.

**ABSENT:** None.

**ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

Adoption of Rules of Order. The Council discussed potential changes to the Rules of Order, specifically as to the prayer. Three separate motions to alter the way the prayer is conducted and/or addressed were voted upon without success. The Council approved a resolution adopting Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised Edition, as the rules of order, setting a meeting time of 6:30 p.m., creating a standard agenda structure, setting the procedure for the election of the Mayor and Mayor Pro-Tem, establishing rules for roll call votes, and rules for addressing the Council with no change to the prayer on a 4-3 vote.

Election of Mayor. Robert J. Teich, Jr. was unanimously elected Mayor. The City Clerk administered the Oath of Office and City Manager Henne turned over the chair of the meeting to Mayor Teich.

Election of Mayor Pro-Tem. Jerome C. Haber was elected Mayor Pro-Tem. The City Clerk administered the Oath of Office to Mayor Pro-Tem Haber.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS**

Robert Hooper thanked Councilmembers for the way they handled themselves during the discussions on the prayer, calmly engaging one another while trying to work out differences. He said he was thankful that we as citizens of the United States have the right to a republican government.

Tom Manke congratulated the newly elected Councilmembers. He went on to say that he expects Councilmembers to serve the entire community, not just one subset, indicating that he felt attacked by certain members of the Council.

Councilmember Olson called for a point of order, asking if it was permissible for people to lie to the public when making citizen comments. It was noted that the speech of citizens commenting during a meeting is protected by the First Amendment.

Mr. Manke continued his comments, accusing the Fair Mavens of numerous nefarious deeds including rioting.

Geno Phillips shared the testimony of God saying Councilmembers have entered a position of sacrifice and they should look to Jesus for guidance.

Karen Mead-Elford congratulated all the newly elected Councilmembers. She went on to say that it was disappointing to see the prayer mandated rather than allowing the moment to be more inclusive. She asked if we were really following Jesus by mandating prayer to others.

Pastor Bill Moull asked that everyone please listen to each person that speaks. As a pastor he doesn't want to force anyone to do anything, but wants people to be seen, heard and loved.

Jeff Turner said he didn't know what the big deal was about the prayer because most of the people present at the meeting tonight wouldn't be here in two weeks.

City Manager Henne explained the rules for abstaining from voting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Robert J. Teich, Jr., Mayor  
Amy K. Kirkland, 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](http://www.ci.owosso.mi.us).