

**CITY OF OWOSSO
REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES SYNOPSIS
MONDAY, JULY 07, 2025**

PRESENT: Mayor Robert J. Teich, Jr., Mayor Pro-Tem Jerome C. Haber, Councilmembers Janae L. Fear, Carl C. Ludington, and Rachel M. Osmer.

ABSENT: Councilmembers Emily S. Olson and Christopher D. Owens.

PROCLAMATIONS/SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

None.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

CDBG Infrastructure Grant Application. Conducted a public hearing to receive citizen comment regarding the proposed application to the Michigan State Housing Development Authority for a grant to extend utilities infrastructure to the Washington Park Housing Development and authorized said application and approval of related documents. There were no citizen comments received prior to, or during the hearing. The Council moved to approve the grant application and authorize the execution of related documents.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Erica Matteson, chairperson of Owosso Pride, thanked the City for their support of the 3rd annual Pride Festival, specifically highlighting the work of the Police Department, DPW, the OHC, the Parks & Recreation Commission, and the Building Department.

Don Fields expressed concern with the Pride event, saying they conducted an obscene drag show with children present. He implored Council to stop such events from taking place on public property.

Jacob Unger introduced himself as an Eagle Scout candidate that is looking for an Eagle Scout project that would give back to the community by fulfilling a real need. Mayor Teich congratulated Jacob on his journey toward Eagle Scout and directed him to speak with Assistant City Manager Amy Fuller for potential projects.

Adam Easlick said it is disheartening when people try to stop events like Pride, saying everyone has a right to express their truth.

Geno Phillips said the finale of the Pride event was an obscene performance that included the visibility of naked butts. He said the performance was grooming behavior. He asked that Council not allow the Pride event to continue and warned that their unfaithfulness today will earn God's wrath in the future.

Krista Cross introduced herself as a teacher and parent, said she took her children to the Pride event and her daughter had a great time meeting a princess. She thanked the City for their support of the event. She admonished the people that filmed her children at the event and put the footage online to shame her and her family, saying she no longer feels safe.

Todd Brenton said there is judgement in the Bible, and that he is forgiven because he believes in Jesus and those with no faith are sinners.

Patty VanLuven said she is a survivor of child sexual abuse and it is dangerous to mislabel certain people as pedophiles and certain activities as grooming behavior when it's not. She warned that true pedophiles look and act just like everyone else, yet they are profoundly dangerous. She asked that people educate themselves on what it means to be gay and what grooming behavior really entails.

Dennis Pratt said he is a born-again Christian and that it's great to be a Christian.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Pro-Tem Haber thanked Mr. Fields for sending him the videos he had taken. He said the Council had a duty to protect children as gatekeepers for the City and grown men should not be dressed as women in front of children.

Mayor Teich said he saw some of the comments regarding the Pride event on Facebook and he agreed with the City Manager that the City has an obligation to evenly apply the rules that have been set.

Councilmember Osmer thanked everyone that came to speak about the Pride event. She said she was able to attend, she was pleased with the police presence, and that there were lots of family friendly activities available for participants.

Councilmember Osmer went on to note that the Summer Concert Series at the Amphitheater is back. Five free shows will be held on Thursdays over the course of the next five weeks and the Moonlight Market will be happening at the same time.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda was approved as follows:

Boards and Commissions Appointments. Approve the following Mayoral Boards and Commissions appointments:

Name	Board/Commission	Term Expires
Karen Parzych	DDA / Main Street Board filling unexpired term of E. Olson	06-30-2028
Jon Moore	DDA / Main Street Board filling unexpired term of A. McGuire	06-30-2028

Traffic Control Order – Rollin’ Blooms Grand Opening. Approved the request from Georgia McCrandall, owner of Rollin’ Blooms, for the closure of three parking spots directly in front of 114 N. Washington Street on Saturday, July 19, 2025 from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. for their Grand Opening event and further approved Traffic Control Order No. 1536 formalizing the action.

Traffic Control Order – PFC Cantu Annual 5K Run/Walk. Approved request from Jennifer Clarke, event organizer, for the partial closure of various streets in the northeast quadrant of the City for the PFC Cantu Annual 5k Run/Walk from 7:00 a.m.-12:00 noon on Sunday, August 24, 2025, waive the insurance requirement, and further approved Traffic Control Order No. 1537 formalizing the action.

Traffic Control Order - Vintage Motorcycle Show. Approved the request from Lizzie Fredrick, Owosso Main Street & DDA Executive Director, for the closure of Main Street Plaza (Lot #13), S. Washington Street from Main St. to Water St., and Comstock Street from Water St. to Park St. on Saturday, August 23, 2025 from 6:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. for the Vintage Motorcycle Show and Custom Bike Build Competition, and further approved Traffic Control Order No. 1538 formalizing the action.

Traffic Control Order – Moonlight Market. Approved the request from Stephen Schlaack, owner of Owosso Farmers Market, LLC, for the closure of Curwood Castle Drive from M-52 to just north of the Heritage Footbridge sidewalk on Thursday, July 10, 17, 24, 31, and August 7th from 4:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. for the Moonlight Market event, and further approved Traffic Control Order No. 1539 formalizing the action.

Emergency Repair Authorization – Fire Department Tower 1. Authorized payment to Front Line Services, Inc. for emergency repair and replacement of parts on Fire Department Tower 1 in the amount of \$14,857.28.

Professional Services Agreement Extension - Planning Consultant. Authorized extension of the professional services agreement with CIB Planning, Inc. for the provision of planning and zoning services for the 12-month period ending June 30, 2026, and further authorized payment to the professional according to the terms of the contract.

Professional Services Agreement – Survey Services. Waived competitive bidding requirements, approved a professional services agreement with Fleis & Vandenbrink Engineering, Inc. for topographic survey services for the 2026 Water Main Replacement and Street Projects in the amount of \$18,800.00, and further approved payment upon satisfactory completion of the project or portion thereof.

Check Register – Jue 2025. Affirmed check disbursements totaling \$2,735,441.85 for June 2025.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

Notice of Pecuniary Interest. Entered notice of pecuniary interest on the record for Councilmember Carl Ludington as it relates to proposed contracts with Ludington Electric, Inc. in the amount of \$4,801.59 for the month of May 2025.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Stephen Schlaack, market master for the Owosso Farmers Market and the Moonlight Market, said he is looking forward to joining the Summer Concert Series and that he already has over 70

vendors that have expressed an interest in participating. He spoke about his plans for the Markets saying he hopes to transition to a non-profit next year so it will be eligible for grant funding. He said he is always looking for ways to help grow the Markets.

Erica Matteson, chairperson of the Owosso Pride board, defended their event saying it was a permitted public event, and no laws or ordinances were violated. She pointed out that drag is not inherently obscene or explicit and is a First Amendment right. She asked for tolerance, imploring people not to judge how others parent their children.

Bill Moull, Historical Commission member, noted that the OHC recently created a goal to educate young people about the history of our community and he is looking forward to working with the Schools on the effort.

Robert Hooper noted that an 1892 Supreme Court decision stated that the U.S. is a Christian nation, but it is not a theocracy. He said it is important to see where we are coming from while we are moving into the future and asked that people not discount the values of the past.

Jackie Burzmor, Pride board member, said it is not the job of the City or anyone else in the room to decide how she should raise her child. She said the drag show at the Pride event and the drag show that would be performed at a bar are two different things. Lastly, she thanked the City for allowing the Pride event.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

None.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Nathan R. Henne, City Manager. City Manager Report – June 2025.

COMMUNICATIONS

Dakota Woodworth, DDA/Main Street Board. Letter of resignation.

Brad A. Barrett, Finance Director. Financial Report – May 2025.

Historic District Commission. Minutes of May 21, 2025.

WWTP Review Board. Minutes of June 24, 2025.

NEXT MEETING

Monday, July 21, 2025

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS OPENINGS

Building Board of Appeals – Alternate - term expires June 30, 2026

Building Board of Appeals – Alternate - term expires June 30, 2027

DDA/Main Street Board – term expires June 30, 2028

Zoning Board of Appeals – Alternate – term expires June 30, 2027

Zoning Board of Appeals – Alternate – term expires June 30, 2028

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 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.