

CITY OF OWOSSO
REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2025
6:30 P.M.
VIRGINIA TEICH CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

PRESIDING OFFICER: MAYOR ROBERT J. TEICH, JR.

OPENING PRAYER: PASTOR BILL MOULL
OWOSSO FREE METHODIST CHURCH

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: COUNTY CLERK CAROLINE WILSON

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

ABSENT: None.

APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Councilmember Olson to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion supported by Councilmember Ludington and concurred in by unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 2, 2025

Motion by Councilmember Ludington to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 2, 2025 as presented.

Motion supported by Councilmember Owens and concurred in by unanimous vote.

PROCLAMATIONS / SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

None.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Edward Sharoian, 409 Michigan Avenue, relayed his recollection about a homeless man that was injured in a fire on the railroad tracks near his home. He indicated that the number of homeless people seems to be growing and asked if Council was aware of the problem.

Pastor Bill Moull, Owosso Free Methodist Church, said that the local churches are working hard to help the homeless and the effort will take everyone. He went on to address the recent assassination of conservative political activist Charlie Kirk, saying there is no place for violence in the political debate. He asked everyone to adopt an attitude of resolution and respect the fact that other people have their own perspectives.

County Clerk Caroline Wilson was on hand to update the Council the activities of the County Clerk's Office over the course of the last year including, converting the County directory into a digital format, bringing the Secretary of State Office to the County Courthouse to assist citizens desiring real IDs, and the overwhelming success of the early voting precincts and ballot on demand.

Tom Manke, 2910 W. M-21, spoke about the assassination of Charlie Kirk, saying it was a hate crime by the far left.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Councilmember Olson to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

Boards and Commissions Appointment. Approve the following Mayoral Boards and Commissions appointment:

Name	Board/Commission	Term Expires
Adeline Mahoney	Parks & Recreation Commission Student Representative	06-30-2026

Traffic Control Order No. 1546. Approve Traffic Control Order No. 1546 closing N. Cedar Street from Main Street to the alley (aka Eleanor Drive) until such time as the structural condition of the building at 800 W. Main Street is remedied.

Traffic Control Order Request – Walk to End Alzheimer’s. Approve request from Friends of Pat’s Place for the closure of Ada Street from Jennett Street to the dead-end from 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 p.m. on Saturday, September 27, 2025 for the Walk to End Alzheimer’s event and further approve Traffic Control Order No. 1541 formalizing permission, contingent upon satisfactory receipt of insurance.

Traffic Control Order Request - Owosso High School 2025 Homecoming Parade. Approve request from Owosso High School for closure of the streets listed on the application from 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. on Friday, October 3, 2025 for the annual High School Homecoming parade and approve Traffic Control Order No. 1547 formalizing the request.

Master Plan Implementation Goals: 4.2, 4.6, 5.12, 7.1

Traffic Control Order Request - Owosso High School Marching Band Festival. Approve request from Jillian Kowalczyk, Owosso High School Band Director, for the closure of various streets surrounding Willman Field for the Owosso High School Marching Band Festival from 2:30 p.m.-10:00 p.m. on Monday, October 13, 2025 (rain date Monday, October 20, 2025) and approve Traffic Control Order No. 1548 formalizing the permission.

Emergency Repair Authorization – Public Safety Vehicle. Authorize payment to All Star Towing & Repair LLC for emergency repair and replacement of the brakes on Public Safety Vehicle #2 in the amount of \$2,054.50 as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 129-2025

**AUTHORIZING PAYMENT TO
ALL STAR TOWING & REPAIR LLC
FOR EMERGENCY REPAIR OF OWOSSO POLICE DEPARTMENT VEHICLE**

WHEREAS, the city of Owosso, Shiawassee County, Michigan, has a police department vehicle that required emergency repairs; and

WHEREAS, the city directed All Star Towing & Repair LLC to proceed and make the emergency repairs, which subsequently totaled \$2,054.50; and

WHEREAS, the Public Safety Chief has reviewed the detailed billing from All Star Towing & Repair LLC for the cost of the repairs and recommends payment in the amount of \$2,054.5.00 for the work that was satisfactorily completed.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Owosso, Shiawassee County, Michigan that:

- FIRST: it has heretofore determined that it was necessary and in the public interest to contract with All Star Towing & Repair LLC for the emergency repairs to Owosso Police Department Vehicle #2.
- SECOND: the accounts payable department is authorized to submit payment to All Star Towing & Repair LLC in the amount up to \$2,054.50 as authorized by Council this 15th day of September, 2025.
- THIRD: the above expenses shall be paid from the Police Department vehicle repair fund.

***Change Order – 2025 Well Improvements Project.** Approve Change Order No. 1 to the 2025 Well Improvements Project increasing the contract in the amount of \$480,653 for the replacement of 17 non-working valves and actuators, and further approve payment up to the amount of \$1,827,653.00 to the contractor upon satisfactory completion of the project or portion thereof as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 130-2025

**AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER NO. 1
TO THE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF OWOSSO AND
SORENSEN GROSS COMPANY OF FLINT, MICHIGAN
FOR 2025 WELL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT
FOR WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS**

WHEREAS, the City of Owosso, Shiawassee County, Michigan, approved a contract with Sorenson Gross Company, on June 2, 2025 for improvements to its existing water distribution system, known as the 2025 Well Improvements Project, which is a planned and approved 2025 SRF project; and

WHEREAS, the project is now underway, and a change order is necessary to reconcile contract work and supplies to be used.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Owosso, Shiawassee County, Michigan that:

- FIRST: it has heretofore determined that it is advisable, necessary and in the public interest, to amend the 2025 Wells Improvements Project contract with Sorenson Gross Company to increase the contract amount for the replacement of 17 non-working valves and actuators.
- SECOND: the Mayor and City Clerk are instructed and authorized to sign the document substantially in form attached as Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$480,653.00; an increase to the Contract for Services between the City of Owosso and Sorenson Gross Company revising the total current contract amount from \$1,347,000.00 to \$1,827,653.00.
- THIRD: the Accounts Payable department is authorized to pay Sorenson Gross Company for work satisfactorily completed up to the revised contract amount of \$1,827,653.00.
- FOURTH: the above additional expenses of \$480,653.00 are contingent upon EGLE’s approval.
- FIFTH: the above expenses shall be paid from the Water Fund and SRF Bond Funds.

Master Plan Implementation Goals: 3.4, 3.7, 3.8, 6.6

Warrant No. 659. Authorize Warrant No. 659 as follows:

Vendor	Description	Fund	Amount
Shiawassee Economic Development Partnership	Annual Investment Pledge (2025-2026)	General	\$40,000

Motion supported by Councilmember Ludington.

Roll Call Vote.

AYES: Councilmembers Osmer, Fear, Olson, Ludington, Mayor Pro-Tem Haber, Councilmember Owens, and Mayor Teich.

NAYS: None.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

5th Monday Meeting

City Manager Nathan R. Henne indicated he would like to take advantage of the 5th Monday in September to discuss the new curbside recycling mandate.

Councilmember Fear indicated she was not available that day.

Motion by Mayor Pro-Tem Haber setting a 5th Monday meeting for Monday, September 29, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. for the purpose of discussing recycling and the new state laws regarding recycling.

Motion supported by Councilmember Ludington.

Roll Call Vote.

AYES: Councilmembers Ludington, Osmer, Mayor Pro-Tem Haber, Councilmembers Owens, Olson, and Mayor Teich.

NAYS: Councilmember Fear.

SATA Commitment

Master Plan Implementation Goals: 7.1

City Manager Henne noted that the millage levied for SATA would not be able to cover the entire commitment, due to roll-backs. If SATA requires the full commitment the millage would fall short by approximately \$8,000.00 and would need to be subsidized by the General Fund.

Motion by Councilmember Olson to approve the annual commitment to the Shiawassee Area Transportation Agency (SATA) for their upcoming fiscal year starting October 1, 2025 in an amount not to exceed \$117,682.97 for the provision of public transportation as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 131-2025

APPROVING THE SHIAWASSEE AREA TRANSPORTATION AGENCY (SATA) COMMITMENT FOR 2026

WHEREAS, the City of Owosso is a member of the Shiawassee Area Transportation Agency (SATA), a public transportation service committed to providing safe, reliable, and affordable transportation to the citizens of Shiawassee County; and

WHEREAS, the SATA Board of Directors has approved the budget for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2025, and ending September 30, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the City of Owosso's share of the total local funding request for the fiscal year is \$117,682.97, which reflects the City's proportional share based on the established funding model; and

WHEREAS, this commitment from the City of Owosso is necessary to ensure the continued provision of essential transportation services to the community; and

WHEREAS, SATA has requested that the City of Owosso forward their commitment regarding this funding request by August 26, 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Owosso, Shiawassee County, Michigan that:

FIRST: it hereby approves the commitment of \$117,682.97 to the Shiawassee Area Transportation Agency (SATA) for their fiscal year October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026.

SECOND: the City Manager is authorized to sign and submit any necessary documentation to confirm the City's commitment to SATA.

THIRD: the funds for this commitment shall be allocated from the Transportation Fund – Contractual Services: 588-200-818.000 and any other funds approved by Council.

Motion supported by Councilmember Osmer.

Roll Call Vote.

AYES: Councilmembers Owens, Olson, Ludington, Fear, Osmer, Mayor Pro-Tem Haber, and Mayor Teich.

NAYS: None.

Water Portal Proposal

Master Plan Implementation Goals: 3.3, 3.4

City Manager Henne explained this is a bit of unfinished business from earlier this summer. The resolution has not changed, but Silverblaze has clarified that the \$58,000.00 charge included in the proposal for application customization would not apply as the City's subscription with them was cancelled less than a year ago. Despite this clarification, staff continues to recommend denial of the contract due to the low level of usage experienced in the past. He asked that Council make a decision on the matter tonight.

Councilmember Olson said she believes that with the water rate increases more people will want to monitor their water usage. She said she thinks that it may be possible to contract with a third party for less money and asked if staff had looked at any other third-party firms. City Manager Henne said that he was not aware that anyone was interested in pursuing a third party. He asked that Councilmembers do a better job of communicating what they want to see during meetings as he would've researched other firms if he had known that Council was interested.

Motion by Councilmember Fear to table the Water Portal Proposal until such time as staff has investigated third party alternatives.

Motion supported by Councilmember Olson.

Discussion continued on the various ways one can track their water usage and preferred methods of communication.

Roll Call Vote.

AYES: Councilmembers Olson, Fear, Osmer, Ludington, and Owens.

NAYS: Mayor Pro-Tem Haber and Mayor Teich.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Tom Manke, 2910 W. M-21, said that young people want other means of communication rather than the traditional phone call or email. He went on to say that there must be a vote on monthly water billing and the status of the homeless situation in the area.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Osmer indicated there is a homeless issue and that there are people trying to work on it. She said the biggest needs are a space for homeless people to shelter and the volunteers to operate it. She went on to list a bunch of non-profit events in the coming weeks: Friends of the Shiawassee River Wine Tasting on September 18th, the Humane Society's Woofstock event on September 20th, and separate events for the SafeCenter including its telethon October 1st-3rd, Art Show on October 3rd, and its Fall Open House on October 14th.

Councilmember Fear noted that the Art Walk & Movie event will be taking place downtown on Friday from 4:00pm – 8:00pm.

Public Safety Director Lenkart indicated that the City is aware of the homeless situation along the railroad tracks.

COMMUNICATIONS

Tanya S. Buckelew, Planning & Building Director. September 2025 Building Department Report.
Tanya S. Buckelew, Planning & Building Director. September 2025 Code Violations Report.
Tanya S. Buckelew, Planning & Building Director. September 2025 Inspections Report.
Tanya S. Buckelew, Planning & Building Director. September 2025 Certificates Issued Report.
Kevin D. Lenkart, Public Safety Director. September 2025 Police Report.
Kevin D. Lenkart, Public Safety Director. September 2025 Fire Report.
Parks & Recreation Commission. Minutes of August 27, 2025.
DDA/Main Street Board. Minutes of September 3, 2025.

NEXT MEETING

Monday, September 29, 2025 – 5th Monday Meeting, if approved
Monday, October 6, 2025 – Regular Meeting

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/OMS 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

Motion by Councilmember Olson for adjournment at 7:22 p.m.

Motion supported by Councilmember Owens and concurred in by unanimous vote.

Robert J. Teich, Jr., Mayor

Amy K. Kohagen, City Clerk

*Due to their length, text of marked items is not included in the minutes. Full text of these documents is on file in the Clerk's Office.