

**OWOSSO CITY COUNCIL**

**APRIL 24, 2013**

**7:00 P.M.**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** MAYOR BENJAMIN R. FREDERICK

**PRESENT:** Mayor Benjamin R. Frederick, Mayor Pro-Tem Cindy S. Popovitch, Councilpersons Loreen F. Bailey, Thomas B. Cook, Michael J. Erfourth, and Christopher T. Eveleth.

**ABSENT:** Councilperson Burton D. Fox.

Motion by Councilperson Eveleth to set a time limit of 8:30 p.m.

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

**DISCUSSION – BUDGET**

Finance Director Rick C. Williams and City Manager Donald D. Crawford presented the budget information to council. Mr. Williams explained that due to declining home values and reductions in state shared revenue the city has lost over \$600,000 over just the last 3 to 4 years.

Council discussed the city's payment to the retirement system. There was a question why everyone's payment is increasing. Mr. Williams explained the city has a defined benefit plan and the portfolio experienced major losses with a \$1.1 million loss going back to 2008 and those are smoothed in over four year period. This will be the last year of that process; however, there is another loss of 700,000 and that will be smoothed over in 4 years. The Actuary will be here for the June Retirement Board Meeting and will be discussing different actuarial options for the System.

Motion at 8:30 p.m. by Councilperson Cook to extend the time limit until 9:00 p.m.

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

There was a discussion regarding the expense of the brush pickup and the Aiken Road drop off site. It was noted that more residents are taking advantage of the curbside pick up and due to this there is more work at the drop off site.

Mr. Crawford explained there is one request to increase capital outlay expenditures. There was a long list of projects proposed but it was eliminated. The request in question is to have 2 police cars fitted with video cameras. Public Safety Director Kevin D. Lenkart explained that Owosso is one of the very few cities in the state that do not have video cameras in police cars. The benefits would be an increase in prosecutions and a decrease in liability and lawsuits.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS**

James Morel, 996 Marguerite Drive, Owosso, questioned the allocation of funds. He suggested the city could take money from the water fund to cover any potential short falls in the general fund. It was noted that governmental accounting regulations permit this only under certain very specific circumstances.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Councilperson Eveleth to adjourn at 9:04 p.m.

Motion supported by Councilperson Cook and concurred in unanimous vote.

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Benjamin R. Frederick, Mayor

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Roxane K. Cramer, Clerk's Assistant