

**CITY OF OWOSSO
REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES SYNOPSIS
MONDAY, JULY 20, 2020**

Mayor Eveleth announced the meeting would be held as a Virtual Meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic, under the authority of Executive Order No. 2020-15 of the Office of the Governor of the State of Michigan. He also noted the process for making comments during the Public Hearings and Citizen Comments and Questions period.

PRESENT: Mayor Christopher T. Eveleth, Mayor Pro-Tem Susan J. Osika, Councilmembers Loreen F. Bailey, Janae L. Fear, Jerome C. Haber, Daniel A. Law, and Nicholas L. Pidek.

ABSENT: None.

PROCLAMATIONS/SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

None.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Rezoning – 425 & 429 Hamblin Street. Conducted a public hearing to receive citizen comment regarding the request to rezone the property 425 & 429 Hamblin Street from R-2, Two Family Residential District, to I-1, Light Industrial District. The following people commented in regard to the proposed rezoning: Michael Erfourth, Brian Rinier, Cassondra Boulis, Darlene Shepherd, Darlene Rinier, and Carrie Cobb. After significant debate the Council moved to deny the rezoning request.

Rezoning - N. Washington Street. Conducted a public hearing to receive citizen comment regarding the request to rezone the property on North Washington Street from RM-1, Multiple Family Residential District – Low Rise, to RM-1, Multiple Family Residential District – Low Rise with Planned Unit Development (PUD) overlay. The following people commented in regard to the proposed rezoning: Michael Erfourth, Tom Cook, and Anna Owens. The Council moved to approve the rezoning request as proposed.

Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Exemption Certificate - 300 W. Main Street. Conducted a public hearing to receive citizen comment regarding the application from Owosso REI Group, LLC for an Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Exemption Certificate for their property at 300 W. Main Street. the following person commented in regard to the requested tax abatement: John Hambrick. The Council moved to approve the tax abatement request for a period of 12 years.

CITIZEN COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Tom Manke thanked Council for decision to deny the rezoning for Trebor and asked what the exact plans are for the Matthews Building.

Mike Cline expressed his frustration with the Zoom app, saying he was not able to speak during the item addressing the Washington Street rezoning. He went on to say that he sees signs of all types, old and new, that are violating the sign ordinance. He would like to see stepped up enforcement of the ordinance.

Michael Erfourth spoke about communications issues with the City saying people are treated as afterthoughts.

Mayor Eveleth expressed pride at the fact that the state of Michigan ranked 3rd on the list of best responders to the census. He went on to say that Owosso's response rate is even higher than the state's and he was willing to knock on doors to make it even better.

Mayor Pro-Tem Osika announced a \$20,000.00 grant that is available through the CARES Act for small businesses. Interested parties should contact Justin Horvath at the SEDP.

Councilmember Fear said she has been approached by several people about making adjustments to the animal ordinance to allow people to keep chickens within the City limits. She asked if it would be possible for the Planning Commission to take a look at the ordinance.

The Council moved to ask the Planning Commission to review the animal ordinance with a view to allowing people to keep poultry within the City limits.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda was approved as follows:

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

Name	Board/Commission	Term Expires
Thomas Taylor*	Planning Commission	06-30-2023

* Indicates reappointment

Midwest Brass & Gas Car Parking Permission. Approved the application from the Midwest Brass & Gas for use of a portion of the southwest corner of the Comstock Parking Lot from 9:00 am on August 16, 2020 until 6:00 pm August 21, 2020 to park trucks and trailers associated with the group’s tour of Shiawassee County, and authorized Traffic Control Order No. 1436 formalizing the action.

OMS/DDA RLF Loan Funding Approval – Apple Tree Lane. Approved the application from The Bake Shop and Coffee House, Inc. dba Apple Tree Lane/Wooden Crate Popo requesting a loan from the OMS/DDA Revolving Loan Fund in the amount of \$25,000.00 for expansion of their business at 207 N. Washington Street.

Warrant No. 586. Authorized Warrant No. 586 as follows:

Vendor	Description	Fund	Amount
Caledonia Charter Township	Caledonia Utility Fund payment-4/1/20-6/30/20	Water	\$31,190.25
Owosso Charter Township	Owosso Charter Township 2011 Water Agreement payment-4/1/20 - 6/30/20	Water	\$13,693.96
Gould Law PC	Professional services-6/14/20-7/13/20	General	\$13,720.20

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

Waiver of Penalty Fees - Property Transfer Affidavit. Approved a resolution authorizing the waiver of late fees for Property Transfer Affidavits filed outside the 45-day requirement.

First Responder Hazard Pay Premiums Program Application. Approved application to the State of Michigan for First Responder Hazard Pay Premiums Program funds and authorized a \$1,000.00 payment to each of the 35 Police and Fire/EMS employees by September 30, 2020.

COMMUNICATIONS

N. Bradley Hissong, Building Official. June 2020 Building Department Report.

N. Bradley Hissong Building Official. June 2020 Code Violations Report.

N. Bradley Hissong Building Official. June 2020 Inspection Report.

N. Bradley Hissong Building Official. June 2020 Certificates Issued Report.

Kevin D. Lenkart, Public Safety Director. June 2020 Police Report.

Kevin D. Lenkart, Public Safety Director. June 2020 Fire Report.

CITIZEN COMMENTS & QUESTIONS

Michael Erfourth said that he felt the City should have performed a walk-through prior to the construction project near his home to see what they thought about it before making any changes to the neighborhood. He said he thought he should have been contacted before the City removed a sidewalk access near his home and asked that it be put back in.

Tom Manke thanked Council for honoring first responders.

Mike Cline noted that no one on the Council had responded to his comments on signs. He asked why the subject was not getting addressed as part of code enforcement and threatened to pull offending signs down himself.

Councilmember Law asked if Retriever Solutions had fulfilled all of the terms of the agreement signed when the City agreed to rezone their property.

Councilmember Fear and City Manager Henne debated the level at which the City is responsible for communicating with residents when a construction project is proposed.

Councilmember Fear noted that things would be better for everyone if the City made more effort to communicate and educate citizens.

Mayor Eveleth noted that Councilmember Fear’s comments were well received. He said he would love to see the City hire a person that would be responsible solely for constituent relations.

NEXT MEETING

Monday, August 03, 2020

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS OPENINGS

Brownfield Redevelopment Authority – County Representative – term expires 06-30-2020

Building Board of Appeals – Alternate - term expires June 30, 2022

Building Board of Appeals – Alternate - term expires June 30, 2021

Brownfield Redevelopment Authority – term expires June 30, 2022

Historical Commission – 2 terms expire December 31, 2020

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:14 p.m.

Christopher T. Eveleth, 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.