

**CITY OF OWOSSO
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF JULY 30, 2018
7:30 P.M.**

PRESIDING OFFICER: MAYOR CHRISTOPHER T. EVELETH

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: MAYOR CHRISTOPHER T. EVELETH

PRESENT: Mayor Christopher T. Eveleth, Mayor Pro-Tem Susan J. Osika, Councilpersons Elaine M. Greenway, Daniel A. Law, and Robert J. Teich, Jr.

ABSENT: Councilperson Loreen F. Bailey, with one vacancy.

CITIZEN COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Tom Manke, Owosso Township resident, said as a new senior citizen he cannot believe that the city expects people to pay another 13.5%...they just don't have it.

Jane Settingington, Owosso Township resident, owns 6 properties in the city, said she is not objecting to the increase as much as to the amount of the increase. She also had concerns about the water meter roll out. The meters were installed in November but did not get an accurate reading until June. She said she stopped by City Hall numerous times to get issue resolved and to date only had one property resolved.

Mike Cline, 204 Stratford Drive, said the King and Washington Street Fire Hydrant not working and he reminded Council of the City sign ordinance about placing signs between curbs and sidewalks.

Jonathan McCorkle, 315 Prindle Street, Indicated that he was a "working class guy." and it was not a good idea right now to raise water rates. Wages have flat lined, although there are more jobs. He said he needs to hear a good reason why the water rates are going up.

Mayor Pro-Tem Osika mentioned that the 3rd Annual Moonlight Market will again take place on Thursday, August 2nd at Curwood Castle Park. She mentioned that the water services in Owosso and the welfare of the citizens are very important to her and Council, and for that reason they called tonight's special meeting.

PRESENTATION

Water & Sewer Systems Presentation

City Manager Nathan R. Henne gave a presentation providing an overview of the City's water and sewer rate structures and capital needs.

ITEM OF DISCUSSION

Water & Sewer Rate Options

Discussion of the options available to Council regarding changes to water and sewer rates and the pros and cons of each option.

Mayor Eveleth asked Utilities Director Glenn M. Chinavare to give some detail as to the staffing and organizational structure and needs of the water department(s). Discussion ensued.

The City Manager gave more feedback on the urgency of the maintenance to the waste water plant.

Mayor Eveleth asked if there would there be an opportunity for the citizens to see the water plants. City Manager Henne answered: Water – YES; but because of safety concerns and other issues, Sewer – NO.

Councilmember Greenway stressed the importance of the Grit System at the Wastewater Plant. City Manager Henne indicated that a new Grit System would decrease maintenance by as much as 20%.

Mayor Eveleth opened the discussion to the general public.

Tom Manke: Indicated that we are in the position that we are in because the rates were not raised as they should have been and they were left for someone else to raise. He also asked if a

new build would be less expensive than the current plan to repair. City Manager Henne replied that it would cost \$25 to \$30 million to build a new plant.

Councilmember Teich and Mr. Henne discussed improvements to the current and future waste water flow, and specific improvements which would address this issue, with input from Utilities Director Chinavare.

Mayor Pro-Tem Osika thanked the City Manager for getting this information to the Council. She also thanked the workers at both plants, and indicated that they care very deeply about the people of Owosso and their jobs.

Mayor Eveleth indicated that the water infrastructure is the most used and underappreciated city service that we utilize.

NEXT MEETING

Monday, August 06, 2018

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS OPENINGS

Building Board of Appeals – Alternate - term expires June 30, 2019
Building Board of Appeals – Alternate - term expires June 30, 2021
City Council, - term expires November 13, 2018
Historical Commission – term expires December 31, 2020
Zoning Board of Appeals – term expires June 30, 2021

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilmember Teich for adjournment at 9:03 pm.

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

Christopher T. Eveleth, Mayor

Robert V. Doran-Brockway, Recording Secretary