

**CITY OF OWOSSO
REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES SYNOPSIS
MONDAY, OCTOBER 07, 2019**

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

ABSENT: Councilmember Loreen F. Bailey.

PROCLAMATIONS/SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Supplemental Trash Presentation. (This item was added to the agenda.) City Manager Henne gave a presentation answering questions that were raised after his initial trash presentation at the meeting of September 30, 2019. Information on the presentation will be posted to the City's website and social media pages. Councilmember Pidek asked that an analysis of the recycling options be conducted. Councilmember Haber indicated he had met with the City Manager and local trash haulers earlier in the day and the meeting was productive. The Council moved to table any decision that would change trash service until such time as a public forum is held.

Councilmember Haber will contact the trash haulers about possible dates and times for the forum.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Proposed Special Assessment Project – Cedar Street. City Manager Henne gave a brief presentation outlining the proposed project. A public hearing was conducted to receive citizen comment regarding Resolution No. 3 for proposed Special Assessment District No. 2020-01 for Cedar Street from South Street to Hampton Avenue for street rehabilitation. The following people commented in regard to the proposed project: Terry Ochodnicky and Anna Reed. The Council moved to approve Resolution No. 3 and authorize the project as proposed.

Proposed Special Assessment Project – Clark Avenue. City Manager Henne gave a brief presentation outlining the proposed project. A public hearing was conducted to receive citizen comment regarding Resolution No. 3 for proposed Special Assessment District No. 2020-02 for Clark Avenue from Oliver Street to King Street for street rehabilitation. The following person commented in regard to the proposed project: Kathy Bond. The Council moved to approve Resolution No. 3 and authorize the project as proposed.

CITIZEN COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Prior to opening the Citizen Comments period Mayor Eveleth clarified Council's earlier action to table the decision on trash haulers saying that Council will not be making any decisions on the topic until a public forum on the matter is held.

County Commissioner District 2 Dan McMaster indicated the County Commission is looking for feedback at the public hearing regarding the proposed expansion of the County Road Commission that will be held October 10th. He welcomed any comments from residents.

Mark Silvernail commented on his objections to moving to a single trash hauler saying stronger enforcement of the ordinance would be better.

Anna Reed said she believes that competition provides a better marketplace for citizens. She also indicated she felt it was unfair the schools are not being charged for special assessments.

Alan Thompson remarked that he was charged 25% more than his neighbors for the Owosso Drain assessment and he didn't think it was fair. He also commented on trash pickup saying he only pays \$.50/week for service and can't afford more because he's on disability.

Bruce Bentley said he pays \$1.00 to drop off a bag of trash at his hauler's location and asked that people like him be able to opt out of dedicated weekly service.

Former City Councilmember Burton Fox clarified for residents how special assessment amounts are determined noting that people are only paying for the pavement and a wide street will cost more per foot than a narrow street. In regard to trash Mr. Fox asked if the City had refuse problem or an ordinance problem. He outlined further concerns about local trash haulers, enforcement of the ordinance, and potential changes to the ordinance before he ran out of time to speak.

Eddie Urban said he has trouble with the single hauler service that is provided to his property up north and he is concerned about what such a change might do to small local haulers. Hanora Bignall described the issue she has with her special assessment saying the house behind her accesses their home from Hanover Street but was not assessed for any of the work done to the street last year. She feels this is unfair and would like someone to look into the matter. She said she had discussed it with staff but no resolution was found. Mayor Eveleth took her information so the matter could be looked into further.

City Manager Henne defended the fact that he did not have any concrete information as to how much a single service hauler would cost the average homeowner because he does not have the authority to seek bids until the ordinance is changed. In lieu of hard numbers he had done his best to gather information from other communities to fill the gap.

In response to Ms. Reed's comment Mayor Eveleth noted that everyone pays special assessments; churches, schools, Consumers Energy, etc. So the Schools will be paying a special assessment as well. He further noted that special assessments are based on the amount of front footage a property has, which is why some people are assessed more than others. Councilmember Pidek asked that the problems with Herman Street be looked at so they don't get any worse.

Councilmember Law inquired whether there was something that City Council could do to authorize the City Manager to obtain bids for trash service for the purposes of discussion. He said he didn't feel right about telling residents we have no idea what the potential cost would be.

Councilmember Fear indicated that Council would have to agree on the scope of service before quotes could be sought.

There was a brief discussion about putting the question on a ballot. Councilmember Haber suggested waiting to make any decisions until the public forum is held, saying he thinks there is a lot to learn from one another before moving forward. Mayor Eveleth will work with Councilmember Haber to determine how the forum will work and will bring their suggested format to the next regular meeting for consideration. Mayor Eveleth said he welcomed any Council feedback on the topic so they are able to determine the proper scope for the forum.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Henne detailed the latest Project Status Report.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda was approved as follows:

Set Public Hearing – Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate. Set a Public Hearing for Monday, October 21, 2019 to receive citizen comment regarding the application of Covenant Eyes, Inc. for an Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate for real property improvements at 1525 West King Street.

Proposed Special Assessment Project – North Street. Authorized Resolution No. 2 setting a public hearing for Monday, October 21, 2019 for proposed Special Assessment District No. 2020-03 for North Street from Hickory Street to Gould Street for street reconstruction.

First Reading & Set Public Hearing – Zoning Ordinance Amendment. Conducted first reading and set a public hearing for Monday, October 21, 2019 to receive citizen comment on the proposed amendments to Section 38-390, Site Plan Review, of Article XVII, *General Provisions*, of Chapter 38, Zoning, of the Code of Ordinances, to allow staff approval of select site plans.

First Reading & Set Public Hearing – Sign Ordinance Amendment. Conducted first reading and set a public hearing for Monday, October 21, 2019 to receive citizen comment on the proposed repeal and replacement of Chapter 26, Signs, of the Code of Ordinances.

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

Name	Board/Commission	Term Expires
Steve Flayer	Historical Commission	12-31-2021
Mark Erickson	Historical Commission	12-31-2021
Justin Steckbauer	SATA Board	10-01-2022

Oktoberfest Permission. Approved request from the Shiawassee Regional Chamber of Commerce for use of the Ball/Exchange Parking Lot (Lot#5) and various downtown streets at

assorted times from October 10, 2019 at 5:00am through October 13, 2019 at 5:00pm for Oktoberfest 2019 and further approved Traffic Control Order No. 1428 formalizing the request. Change Order No. 1 – 2019 Street Program Engineering Services Contract. Authorized Change Order No. 1 to the contract with Fleis & Vandenbrink, Inc. (Change Order No. 1 to Amendment No. 5 of Addendum No. 4) adding \$42,500.00 for the provision of additional construction monitoring and administration services for Street Program Contract Nos. 1 & 3 for the City's 2019 Street Resurfacing Program, and further authorized payment for the original amount of the contract plus Change Order No. 1.

Purchase Authorization - Road Salt. Waived competitive bidding requirements, authorized purchase order with The Detroit Salt Company, LLC, via State of Michigan Contract No. 171-180000000768, in the amount of \$21,094.40 for early delivery of 400 tons of road salt at \$65.92/ton, plus an additional quantity of 1,400 tons in the amount of \$57,905.60 at \$60.36/ton to be delivered as needed during the 2019-20 contract period, and further authorized payment up to \$88,700.00 upon satisfactory receipt of the product.

Bid Award – Fire Hydrant Painting. Approved bid award to David Hamilton d/b/a American Flo Blasting for hydrant restoration and painting services for hydrants located in Caledonia and Owosso Charter Townships in the amount of \$21,700.00 and authorized payment to the contractor upon satisfactory completion of the work or portion thereof.

Warrant No. 575. Authorized Warrant No. 575 as follows:

Vendor	Description	Fund	Amount
Caledonia Charter Township	Caledonia Utility Fund Payment 7/1/19 – 9/30/19	Water	\$36,415.14
Owosso Charter Township	Owosso Charter Township 2011 Water Agreement Payment	Water	\$14,973.59
Michigan Municipal Risk Authority	Building & Property Insurance 2 of 3 installments for FY 19/20	Various	\$62,482.50

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

Professional Engineering Services Contracts for Utilities. Authorized agreements with Tetra Tech; OHM Advisors; C2ae/Black & Veach and Jones & Henry Engineers, LLC to provide professional engineering services for future utilities projects in accordance with the City Purchasing Policy for a period, renewed annually, through October 30, 2025.

The meeting was recessed from 8:41p.m. until 8:50p.m.

Closed Session. (This item was removed from the agenda.)

Professional Services Contract – Public Relations. (This item was added to the agenda.) City Manager Henne indicated the proposed contract was borne out of the idea that the trash discussion is a very important topic and he wants to include as many points of view as possible. He said Council has been critical of the City's past efforts at communication and in light of the fact they tabled a decision on the trash issue he is looking for direction from Council as to whether the PR help would be better used now or later. Councilmember Fear abstained from voting due to the fact that she has been employed on a contractual basis by Rathbun Public Relations. Ms. Fear was excused from the discussion at 8:53 p.m. Individual members expressed support for immediately moving forward with the contract, with one Councilmember suggesting the scope of the contract be increased to include items outside the trash discussion. The Council moved to approve a contract with Carrie Rathbun-Hawks for educational and public relations services in relation to the trash collection issue in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00.

Councilmember Fear returned to the meeting at 9:04p.m.

COMMUNICATIONS

Jake Adams, Planning Commission. Letter of resignation.

Jed Dingens, Historical Commission. Letter of resignation.

Karen Marumoto, Historical Commission. Letter of resignation.

Randy Woodworth, Parks & Recreation Commission. Letter of resignation.

Cheryl A. Grice, Finance Director. August 2019 Revenue & Expenditure Report.

Downtown Development Authority/Main Street. Minutes of September 4, 2019.

Historical Commission. Minutes of September 9, 2019.

Planning Commission. Minutes of September 23, 2019.

WWTP Review Board. Minutes of September 24, 2019.

CITIZEN COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Pete Yerian said he pays \$36 per quarter for trash service in the Osburn Lakes neighborhood. He said he can see both sides of the trash collection argument.

Alan Thompson reminded Council to keep in mind that the bigger haulers usually have bigger trucks that cause more damage to the streets.

Former Councilmember Burton Fox recommended the public forum be held in a location capable of holding at least 200 people, he also suggested that Council stop the clock after each citizen question to provide an answer and they not restrict the amount of time people would like to comment.

Eddie Urban showed off the Shiawassee County newsletter saying it has lots of great information.

Scott Hoenshell said he was confused about what is going on with special assessments and better communication from the City is necessary. He also said he is looking forward to the public forum on trash collection.

NEXT MEETING

Monday, October 21, 2019

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS OPENINGS

Building Board of Appeals – Alternate - term expires June 30, 2019

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

Brownfield Redevelopment Authority – term expires June 30, 2022

Historical Commission – term expires December 31, 2019

Historical Commission – 2 terms expire December 31, 2020

Parks & Recreation Commission – term expires June 30, 2021

Planning Commission – term expires June 30, 2019

SATA Board of Directors – term expires October 1, 2022

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:13 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.