CITY OF OWOSSO
REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF JANUARY 5, 2026
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:	MAYOR ROBERT J. TEICH, JR.
PRESENT:	Mayor Robert J. Teich, Jr., Mayor Pro-Tem Jerome C. Haber, Councilmembers Janae L. Fear, Emily S. Olson, Rachel M. Osmer, and Christopher D. Owens.
ABSENT:	Councilmember Carl C. Ludington.

APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Councilmember Olson to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion supported by Mayor Pro-Tem Haber and concurred in by unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 15, 2025

Motion by Mayor Pro-Tem Haber to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 15, 2025 as presented.

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

PROCLAMATIONS / SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

***Audit Presentation**

Presentation of the annual audit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025 by Ken Berthiaume, Principal CPA, with Berthiaume & Co. CPAs, via Zoom. He reported that the audit went smoothly, there were no problems with procedures and controls, and very few adjusting journal entries were required. He further noted that the City appears to be healthy financially, with a strong balance sheet, stable business funds, and adequate cash balances. Mr. Berthiaume gave the City an unmodified opinion and said that its financial statements fairly state the condition of the City as of June 30, 2025.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Brandon Albrecht, 1307 Young Street, said he was saddened to see the problems with drug use and homelessness just down the street from his house. He expressed frustration that calling the police doesn't seem to resolve the problem. He went on to comment that the direction the town is headed is not good and will eventually result in people leaving, including his family.

Joseph Moore, property owner of 304 Michigan Avenue, said he thought the City's enforcement of the rental inspection policy is unequal and unfair with some landlords getting away without having their property inspected for years at a time and are not fined for violations. He said he works hard to be a good landlord and wondered why the rules seem to apply to some, but not all, landlords.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Osmer gave positive comments about the sled library at the sledding hill and the New Year's Eve Ball Drop event. She went on to say that two local churches continue to serve as warming centers and are looking for volunteers to cook meals and monitor the overnight shelter. She encouraged the City to do more this year to help the community, suggesting it could start by helping to preserve and repair existing homes and protect renters and single-family homes.

Mayor Teich and Councilmember Olson expressed an interest in reviewing the rental inspection policy. City Manager Henne noted that the current policy requires an inspection once every five years, though a reduction to three years had been discussed in the past. He went on to say that the Building Department is slightly behind in the rental inspection process, and he has spoken to them.

Councilmember Fear inquired how many rental properties the City has? Mr. Henne noted that he will see that that information is included in future Building Department reports.

Councilmember Olson suggested maybe grant funding could be made available for single-family residential owners to build accessory dwelling units on their property to help ease the shortage of homes. City Manager Henne suggested she pass the idea along to Representative BeGole and Senator Singh.

Mayor Teich asked Public Safety Director Lenkart to speak to Mr. Albrecht about his issues. He went on to thank Councilmember Owens for another great New Year's Eve event downtown, as well as Pastor Bill Moull for being a constant positive presence and for all of his efforts to support Council.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Set Public Hearing – CDBG Grant Acceptance. Set a public hearing for Tuesday, January 20, 2025 to receive citizen comment regarding the proposal to accept CDBG grant funding for interior and exterior improvements on eight qualified residential homes as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 01-2026

SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING RECEIVE CITIZEN COMMENT REGARDING THE CITY OF OWOSSO CDBG HOUSING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the City of Owosso, Shiawassee County, Michigan, has received an additional CDBG grant to assist single family homeowners with interior and exterior improvements to their homes; and

WHEREAS, the CDBG program requires a public hearing to receive citizen comment regarding the objectives of the grant, permitted activities, eligible locations, and the amounts allocated to each activity.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Owosso, Shiawassee County, Michigan that a public hearing is set for Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers to receive citizen comment regarding the City's CDBG Housing Improvement Program.

Master Plan Implementation Goals: 1.1, 1.9

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

Name	Board/Commission	Term Expires
Jayne Brown*	Board of Review	12-31-2030

* Indicates reappointment

Designation of Street Administrator. Authorize resolution designating DPW Superintendent Thomas Wheeler as Street Administrator to represent the City in transactions with the State Transportation Department pursuant to Act 51 as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 02-2026

DESIGNATION OF STREET ADMINISTRATOR

WHEREAS, Section 13(9) of Act 51, Public Acts of 1951 provided that each incorporated city and village to which funds are returned under the provisions of this section, that, "the responsibility for street improvements, maintenance, and traffic operations work, and the development, construction, or repair of off-street parking facilities and construction or repair of street lighting shall be coordinated by a single administrator to be designated by the governing body who shall be responsible for and shall represent the municipality in transactions with the State Transportation Department pursuant to this act."

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this Honorable Body designates DPW Superintendent Thomas Wheeler as the single Street Administrator for the City of Owosso in all transactions with the State Transportation Department as provided in Section 13 of the Act.

Master Plan Implementation Goals: 3.4, 3.22

Professional Services Agreement Extension – Audit Services. Approve extension of the professional services agreement with Berthiaume & Company for auditing services for the 2026 and 2027 fiscal years as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 03-2026

AUTHORIZING EXTENSION OF A MULTI YEAR SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH BERTHIAUME & COMPANY

WHEREAS, the city of Owosso, Michigan is required to have an independent audit performed annually according to the Government Accounting Standards Board, American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Government Accountability Office and the State of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, the city of Owosso Charter states an independent audit shall be made of all accounts of the city government at the close of each fiscal year….(section 8.14); and

WHEREAS, the City Council approved a contract with Berthiaume & Company of May 1, 2023 for auditing services and now wishes to extend said contract to include the audits for the 2026 and 2027 fiscal years.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OWOSSO, SHIAWASSEE COUNTY, MICHIGAN:

FIRST: that the city of Owosso has heretofore determined that extending the agreement with Berthiaume & Company, certified public accountants, is advisable and necessary, for the conduct and preparation of audit of the basic financial statements and single audit for the city of Owosso, Michigan;

SECOND: that the City of Owosso chooses to act on optional years 4 and 5 of the service agreement; and

THIRD: that the city clerk and mayor is hereby instructed and authorized to sign a service agreement for the city of Owosso reflecting optional years 4 and 5.

FOURTH: Annual payments are hereby approved per the submitted auditing proposal as indicated below from various funds being audited.

1. $31,715 (Year 4)
2. $33,135 (Year 5)

Professional Services Agreement - Private Credit Assessment Services. Approve professional services agreement with S&P Global, Inc., for the provision of private credit assessment services in the amount of $40,950.00, which price may increase in 2026, for DWRF Project No. 7920.01, and CWRF Project No. 6034.01 and further approve payment to the firm upon satisfactory completion of the contracted tasks as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 04-2026

AUTHORIZING A CREDIT ASSESSMENT SERVICES FROM S&P GLOBAL RATINGS

WHEREAS, the City of Owosso, Shiawassee County, Michigan, will be asked to approve a resolution of intent to issue revenue bonds per Public Act 94 of 1933, as amended; and

WHEREAS, such revenue bonds will be purchased by the State of Michigan under their Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund program and Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund program; and

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan programs require municipalities to include a private credit assessment with their application; and

WHEREAS, professional services are exempt from the city's adopted purchasing ordinance; and

WHEREAS, S&P Global, Inc., provides such service that meets the requirements of the State of Michigan programs.

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

FIRST: The City of Owosso has heretofore determined that it is advisable, necessary and in the public interest to enter into a professional service agreement with S&P Global, Inc., to provide a private credit assessment.

SECOND: Private credit rating assessment services are associated with a revenue bond issuance involving the State of Michigan Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund Program and Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund Program.

THIRD: The accounts payable department is authorized to pay S&P Global, Inc., for work satisfactorily completed at a cost estimate of $40,950 under said professional service agreement, which may increase.

FOURTH: This expense shall be paid from the Water Fund 591.901.972.000-DWRF792001 and WWTP Fund 599.901.977.000 CWSR603401.

Master Plan Implementation Goals: 3.4, 3.7

Professional Services Agreement - Governmental Accounting Services. Authorize a professional services agreement with Taylor and Morgan, C.P.A., P.C. for the provision of onsite governmental accounting services in an amount not to exceed $30,000.00 for the 2026 calendar year, and further authorize payment to the firm for services rendered in accordance with the contract as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 05-2026

AUTHORIZING A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH TAYLOR & MORGAN, P.C. FOR GOVERNMENTAL ACCOUNTING SERVICES

WHEREAS, the City of Owosso, Shiawassee County, Michigan, is required to complete an independent audit per Section 8.4 of the Owosso City Charter; and

WHEREAS, the Finance Department has statutory responsibilities per Section 7.5 of the Owosso City Charter; and

WHEREAS, Taylor & Morgan, P.C., a full service public accounting firm, has submitted a proposal for onsite accounting services for the calendar year ending December 31, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the employment of professional services is an exception to competitive bidding per Section 2-346(2) of the City of Owosso Code of Ordinances.

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

FIRST: The City of Owosso has heretofore determined that it is advisable, necessary and in the public interest to enter into a professional service agreement with Taylor & Morgan P.C. for governmental accounting services, annual budget creation, monthly reconciliation and annual independent audit preparation services.

SECOND: The mayor and city clerk are instructed and authorized to sign the document substantially in form attached as Professional Services Agreement between the City of Owosso and Taylor & Morgan P.C.

THIRD: The accounts payable department is authorized to pay Taylor & Morgan P.C. for work satisfactorily completed under said professional services agreement, estimated at $30,000.

FOURTH: The above expenses shall be paid from General Fund Account 101.201.818.000.

Purchase Authorization - Bentley Park Splashpad. Waive competitive bidding requirements, authorize the purchase and installation of splashpad equipment from Waterplay Solutions Corp., in the amount of $166,046.00 and further authorize payment to the vendor upon satisfactory delivery and installation of the splashpad equipment as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 06-2026

AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A WATERPLAY SPLASHPAD VIA SOURCEWELL CONTRACT #010521-WTR

WHEREAS, the City of Owosso, Shiawassee County, Michigan, has a Parks and Recreation Commission requiring the purchase and installation of splashpad equipment; and

WHEREAS, the City of Owosso may waive competitive bidding requirements when purchasing equipment in coordination with another unit of government.

WHEREAS, the City of Owosso desires to purchase splashpad equipment from Waterplay Solutions Corp., holder of the Sourcewell contract #010521-WTR with the State of Minnesota; and it is hereby determined that Waterplay Solutions Corp., is qualified to provide such equipment and that it has submitted the responsible and responsive bid; and

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

FIRST: The City of Owosso has theretofore determined that it is advisable, necessary, and in the public interest to purchase splashpad equipment, utilizing Sourcewell Contract No. #010521-WTR, for a cost to the City of Owosso of $166,046.00.

SECOND: The Finance Director and the City Manager are hereby instructed and authorized to sign necessary documents to complete the purchase.

THIRD: Authorize payment to Waterplay Solutions Corp., in the amount of $166,046.00 upon delivery and installation of the splashpad equipment.

FOURTH: The above expenses shall be paid from the parks millage fund 208-751-974.000 in the amount of $166,046.00.

Payment Authorization - Legal Services Payment. Authorize payment to Dickinson Wright PLLC, in the amount of $7,753.06 for bond counsel services associated with the installment purchase agreement to purchase a street sweeper and vactor/jetter truck, as approved in Resolution No. 99-2025 as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 07-2026

AUTHORIZING PAYMENT TO DICKINSON WRIGHT PLLC

WHEREAS, the City of Owosso, Shiawassee County, Michigan, is a city located in the state of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, Public Act 99 of 1933 authorizes cities to enter into contracts and agreements for the purchase of real or personal property for public purposes for no more than 15 years; and

WHEREAS, the City of Owosso financed the purchase of a single curb side gutter broom street sweeper and vactor combination sewer cleaner truck via PA 99 of 1933; and

WHEREAS, Dickinson Wright PLLC was appointed bond counsel to complete the installment purchase agreement between the City of Owosso and Huntington Bank; and

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

FIRST: The City of Owosso has heretofore determined that it is advisable, necessary and in the public interest to pay Dickinson Wright PLLC for services rendered as bond counsel.

SECOND: Bond counsel services were associated with an installment purchase agreement as authorized under Public Act 99 of 1933.

THIRD: The accounts payable department is authorized to pay Dickinson Wright PLLC for work satisfactorily completed at a cost of $7,753.06.

FOURTH: The above expense shall be paid from the Fleet Fund (661.901.979.000)

***AP Check Register – December 2025**. Affirm Accounts Payable check disbursements totaling $3,671,044.75 for December 2025.

***Payroll Check Register – December 2025**. Affirm Payroll check disbursements totaling $408,371.58 for the period from November 27, 2025 to December 20, 2025.

Motion supported by Councilmember Olson.

Roll Call Vote.

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilmember Ludington.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

***Audit Acceptance**

Motion by Councilmember Olson to approve a resolution accepting and placing on file the City of Owosso Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025 as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 08-2026

ACCEPTING AND PLACING ON FILE
THE CITY OF OWOSSO, MICHIGAN FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

WHEREAS, the City of Owosso is required by the laws of the state of Michigan to annually have an independent audit performed in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards; and

WHEREAS, the Owosso City Charter requires an independent audit be made of all accounts of the city government at the close of each fiscal year per section 8.14; and

WHEREAS, the City of Owosso employed Berthiaume and Company, certified public accountants, to audit the financial records of the City of Owosso and said audit has been completed and is presented this date to the city council.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the city council of the city of Owosso, Shiawassee County, Michigan that:

FIRST: The City of Owosso Annual Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025, attached hereto and made a part hereof as Exhibit A, is hereby accepted and placed on file.

SECOND: A copy of the City of Owosso, Annual Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025 will be maintained on file in the office of the city clerk for public examination, a copy will be placed in the Shiawassee District Library Owosso Branch for public examination, and copies will be sent to those required by law and agreement.

Motion supported by Councilmember Fear.

Roll Call Vote.

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilmember Ludington.

Notice of Pecuniary Interest

Motion by Councilmember Owens to enter notice of pecuniary interest on the record for Councilmember Carl Ludington as it relates to proposed contracts with Ludington Electric, Inc. for the month of December 2025 as follows:

STATEMENT REGARDING BUSINESS DEALINGS WITH THE CITY
Per Owosso City Charter Section 14.4 and Michigan Public Act 317 of 1968, as amended

I, Carl Ludington, being an officer of the City of Owosso, do hereby declare a pecuniary interest in the following proposed contract(s) with the City of Owosso as described as:

PO NUMBER	DEPT.	VENDOR	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
000047425	862	LUDINGTON ELECTRIC, INC.	REPLACING BURNED UP WIRES ON WASHINGTON STREET	185.26
000047456	862	LUDINGTON ELECTRIC, INC.	NEW 20 AMP CIRCUIT FOR CHRISTMAS TREE	452.48
000047501	863	LUDINGTON ELECTRIC, INC.	INVOICE NO. 28935 09-26-25, REPLACED CONTRACTOR SILO	120.00
				$ 75.74

For the Period of:
December 2025

Vendor: Ludington Electric, Inc

Total Amount: $757.74

I am making this declaration because I am the owner/operator of Ludington Electric, Inc. I confirm that I will not vote on the matter(s) in question, I will not take part in discussion on any question in respect to the matter(s), and I will not attempt in any way whether before, during or after the meeting to influence the voting on any such question at a public meeting of the Owosso City Council.

Said items will be considered for approval at the January 20, 2026 meeting of the Owosso City Council.

Declared this 5th day of January, 2026.

Motion supported by Councilmember Olson.

Roll Call Vote.

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilmember Ludington.

Set Special Meeting

Motion by Councilmember Olson to set a special meeting for Thursday, February 26, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers for the Council's annual goal setting session.

Motion supported by Councilmember Owens.

Roll Call Vote.

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilmember Ludington.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Brandon Albrecht, 1307 Young Street, said he's not here tonight simply to complain, he recognizes that the City Council is already dealing with challenges, but we've tried the same techniques year after year without seeing real change. He said its time to try something new, it starts right here, and he would like to be part of it.

Joseph Moore, 641 N. Shiawassee Street, said he had just purchased a rental home that had not been inspected in 10 years. He suggested the City do better.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

None.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

*Nathan R. Henne, City Manager. City Manager Report – December 2025.

COMMUNICATIONS

Brad A. Barrett, Finance Director. FY2025 Pension and OPEB Report.
Brad A. Barrett, Finance Director. Financial Report – November 2025.
Owosso Historical Commission. Minutes of December 08, 2025.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, January 20, 2026

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS OPENINGS

Building Board of Appeals – Alternate - term expires June 30, 2026
Building Board of Appeals – Alternate - term expires June 30, 2027
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 7:40 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.