



City Manager's Report: September 5, 2023

Projects, Updates, Community Information, Staffing, General Operations

STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Pension Funding Grant Program	In 2022, the state legislature was considering creating a grant fund to help cities pay down their unfunded liabilities with pensions. \$750 million was going to be allocated for cities that were below 60% funded and \$250 million was for cities over 60% funded. The \$750 million was kept but the \$250 million was eliminated. So only municipalities (cities, counties, villages) with a sub-60% funded ratio are eligible. Owosso is 95% funded.	State budget does not include this funding. State has denied the request.
Curbside Recycling Required by 2028	Passed in December of 2022, this legislation amended PA 451 of 1994 – specifically Part 115 – to mandate that all cities over a population of 5000 shall be required to have curbside recycling established with at least 90% of single family households within the city by January of 2028.	HB 4454 (2021)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

152 Howard Street - \$725,000 Rental Rehab Grant (Federal) - 2019	\$1.2 million project to rehab building to add 7 new residential units – 4 of which will be low income for 5 years. Façade restoration is included. MEDC announced to owners that this grant program does not fit with the project. We are awaiting their alternative proposal to continue redevelopment efforts. This project has local tax abatements.	Public Hearing on Oct 16 to revoke abatements.
Westtown craft brewery – tentative \$400,000 CRP grant - 2022	\$800,000 project to redevelop a historic Westtown storefront building into a craft brewery and upper story housing. Total state grant amount estimated at \$400,000 through the Community Revitalization Program grant	Application approved
123 N Washington project – estimated \$750,000 CRP grant - 2022	\$2.9 million redevelopment of downtown building to include 11 new upper story residential units and a restored historic façade. This project includes local tax abatements.	CRP grant LOI received. Owners working with MEDC for formal grant award. Grant LOI extended to December 2023
Old Middle School project - 2022	Estimated \$12-\$15 million redevelopment to include 50-54 new residential units. This project will most likely include LITEC and historical tax credits. This project was granted a 4% PILOT for the life of the mortgage but only for the previous developer. The new developer will ask for a similar PILOT ordinance to be granted. The tax credit application was rated 3 rd out of all submitted. It is likely that MSHDA will only have enough funding this round for one	OPS sold property to Venture, Inc. 4% PILOT ordinance approved. Tax Credit application submitted to state in October 2022. Denied. Resubmitting in April, 2023. Denied.

	project. October round denied. Will apply again in April 2023.	Unclear if Venture will resubmit.
114 W Main St Upper Story Housing - \$700,000 rental rehab grant - 2021	This project will add 7 new residential units on the 3 rd floor of this downtown building. The first two floors are commercial. This project includes tax abatements already granted.	Abatement underway. Should be completed early October 2023.
TOTAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS	\$19,175,000	

Project Name	Status	
ZONING AMENDMENTS		
City of Owosso	Amendments and rewrite of the City's zoning ordinance – draft zoning ordinance presented to the Planning Commission for the public hearing on August 28. Planning Commission to reconsider draft zoning ordinance at September meeting.	
LAND DIVISIONS/COMBINATIONS		
1400/1500 W Oliver	Industrial – lot split to separate the steel building from the 4-story building	
BUILDING PERMITS – COMMERCIAL		
601 W Main	McDonald's – interior renovations	
101 N Washington	New roof	
216 W Main	Renovations for a cosmetology school	
221 E Main	Speedway – accessory structure	
1015 S Washington	Demolition of building	
MARIHUANA LICENSES		
GROW		
1. 1750 E South St	Recreational	Renewed – July 2023
2. 1370 E South St	Medical/Recreational	Renewed - October 2022
3. 1455 Industrial	Medical Recreational	Renewed Feb 2023 Issued Feb 2023
4. 1410/1420 Hathaway	Recreational	In Process- new build
PROCESSING		
1. 1750 E South St Ste. 1	Recreational	Issued Jan 2023
RETAIL		
1. 117 W Main St	Medical and Recreational	Renewed - October 2022
2. 1115 Corunna	Medical and Recreational	Renewed – July 2023
3. 901 W Main (moving to 200 E Main)	Medical and Recreational	Renewed – May 2023
4. 116 N Washington	Medical and Recreational	Renewed – December 2022

PROJECTS/ISSUES OF PUBLIC INTEREST		
Matthews Building Site	Site backfilled, hydro-seeded, and secured. Code enforcement will be issuing additional violations for the condition of the building that remains. Building listed for sale by local broker for \$420,000.	
City Club Building (Exchange Street)	After an interior collapse occurred in June, 2023 a natural gas line was severed and repaired. The building official red-tagged the building and required owner to submit stamped engineering report detailing the building's structural integrity. Stabilization of front and rear walls complete. Owner and Engineer to present plan to Building department to clear debris and secure site. Historic District Commission issued demolition by neglect	

	notice. Owner says he plans to apply for land bank grant to clean debris.	
--	---	--

Grants			
Grant	Amount	Status	Description
Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund - 2023	\$1,033,750	Preliminary Award - 2023	This grant will help with lead service line replacement, water main replacement, and well upgrades. It's part of a \$4,045,000 project to continue improving the Owosso water system. Water Main: North, Lee, Clyde, Lunn, Huron, Milwaukee. Lead Service replacements in water main project areas. SCADA upgrades at water treatment plant. Improvements to Palmer 3a and Juniper wells. Fishbeck water study. Remainder of cost will be paid with low interest SRF loans.
Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund - 2023	\$1,412,500 plus \$5,300,000 loan forgiveness	Preliminary Award – 2023	This grant plus loan forgiveness program will partially fund the replacement of the 3 treatment towers at the wastewater treatment plant. Total cost of the project is \$13,425,000. The remainder of the cost will be paid with low interest SRF loans.
Railroad Grade Repair Grant	\$181,653	Awarded	This grant is from MDOT and will fund the replacement of the railroad crossing at S. Cedar Street.
ARP Grant – Medicare/Medicaid/CHIP - 2021	\$80,708	Award Updated	The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), is making payments to providers based on the amount and type of Medicare, Medicaid, and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) services provided to rural beneficiaries from January 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020. Initial award was \$56,200. An additional \$24,530 was awarded in Dec 2021.
ARPA Funding - 2021	\$1,510,000	Awarded	1 st payment received. Last payment will be received in 2022. Public online survey completed. Waiting on Council members to submit project application scoring to staff. \$750,000 has been allocated to water infrastructure.
MSHDA NEP Grant - 2023	\$75,000	Awarded	Used to assist low-income home owners with eligible exterior home improvements up to \$7,500. Application being drafted.
MSHDA MI HOPE Grant - 2023	\$105,000	Awarded	This grant program is designed to encourage and facilitate energy-efficiency focused residential housing repairs and upgrades to owner occupied homes and non-owner occupied single-family homes and multi-family properties consisting of a maximum of three total units within both rural and urban areas.
DNR Grant for Holman Pool Building - 2020	\$150,000	Cancelled	Bids came back more than twice what was budgeted for the project due to increases in labor and material costs. The building will be used for storage.
EGL E DWAM Grant - 2019	\$460,000	Awarded	Original work scope includes investigating 364 water service lines through the city, updating distribution system material inventory, and updating the water asset management plan. The project is funded by a grant from the State of Michigan. All addresses on the original list and the change order no. 1 list have been hydro-excavated at the curb stop and restoration is complete. Change order no. 2 list of addresses for hydro-excavation is planned to begin mid-September.
EGL E Service Line Replacement Funding - 2020	\$3,000,000	Awarded	Owosso's application was scored the highest this round. Project plan submitted July 1, 2021. This is 100% forgiven loan (Booker Funding) through the state's revolving loan fund program. Dollars will be used to replace water service lines subject to LCR requirements.

EGL Service Line Replacement Funding (2)	\$1,345,000	Awarded	This partial loan forgiveness funding is tied to the application above. This project involves more LSR replacements coupled with the replacement of the Center St water main and rehabilitation of the water system elevated towers. This opportunity is 30% Booker forgivable. Remainder of this project will need ARPA funding to complete.
FEMA SCBA Grant - 2022	\$250,000	Denied	This grant replaces the OFD's breathing apparatuses. This is the second year we have been denied.
FEMA Radio Grant - 2021	\$1,200,000	Denied	This grant was in conjunction with other municipalities to replace OFD's radio units.
Federal COPS Grant - 2022	\$582,875 over 3 years	Denied	This grant funds up to 3 new police officer positions for 3 years. If awarded, the city would be required to continue funding these positions for an additional year.
Saginaw WIN Grant - 2020	\$10,500	Awarded	To help fund the Middle School area kayak launch.
Safe Routes to School - 2022	\$600,000	Awarded	Work scope includes constructing ADA compliant sidewalk ramps at various locations within the city along with constructing new sidewalks primarily in the Middle School area. Grade Inspection meeting was August 24, 2023. Final plans and specifications are due to MDOT by November 1, 2023.
Consumers LED Rebate - 2021	\$5,460	Completed	Replace light fixtures in City Hall with more efficient LED lights
Small Urban Grant - 2022	\$375,000	Denied	Reconstruct Chipman St from Beehler to M-21.
MEDC WRI Grant - 2021	\$1,600,000	Denied	Replace water main, streets, and LSLs on Center, Clyde, Huron, Lynn, and Milwaukee Streets. 25% match required.
MCACA Grant - 2020	\$82,500	Denied	Replace library AC, Library steam pipes, Gould House heat and AC, and Castle boiler. Required \$82,500 match. Will know in September, 2021 if we are awarded.
Small Urban Grant - 2019	\$375,000	Awarded	Reconstruct Gould St from Oliver to Moore.
T-Mobile Hometown Grant - 2020	\$45,300	Denied	Possibly help fund the Middle School Kayak Launch project so no millage money would be needed to complete the project. This would add to the Saginaw WIN Grant already awarded.
Wellhead Protection Grant - 2021	\$52,000	Denied	Fund wellhead educational activities, groundwater audit, wellhead protection software, and update the city's wellhead plan.
Consumers Tree Planting Grant - 2022	\$2,600	Awarded	Consumers Energy's tree planting grant program to assist with annual fall tree planting in 2022.
MDOT RR Grade Crossing Grant – Woodlawn	\$108,621	Denied	Replace RR crossing at Woodlawn Ave. Funding: 60% MDOT/40% RR
MDOT RR Grade Crossing Grant – Chestnut -	\$81,765	Denied	Replace RR crossing at Chestnut St. Funding: 60% MDOT/40% RR
MDOT RR Grade Crossing Grant – Cedar	\$181,653	Awarded - 2021	Replace RR crossing at Cedar St. Funding 60% MDOT/40% RR
MDOT RR Grade Crossing Grant – S. Chipman -	\$112,381	Denied	Replace RR crossing at S Chipman St. Funding: 60% MDOT/40% RR
FY 2023 DWSRF – Water	\$1,011,250	Awarded	Replace water main on North, Lee, Clyde, Lunn, Huron, and Milwaukee St and LSRs (see below for project specifics). SCADA control upgrade at water plant. Wells at Palmer and Juniper. Fishbeck water study. Grant amount is 25% of total project cost. Remainder to be funded by SRF low interest loans.
FY 2023 CWSRF – Sewer	\$6,712,500	Awarded	Replace waste water plant treatment towers (3). This represents 50% of the cost of the project funded by grants and forgivable loans. The remainder will be funded by low interest SRF loans.

DNR Spark Grant - 2022	\$752,500	Application delayed to resolve property ownership issue.	Make improvements to the James Minor River Trail along Jerome St to coincide with future street reconstruction. Grant will fund trail improvements and paving from Washington St to the Oakwood walk bridge.
Match on Main - 2022	\$25,000	Awarded	Grant from MEDC to Aviator Jayne for business expansion.
Match on Main - 2022	\$25,000	Awarded	Grant from MEDC to Taphouse Meat Market for business creation.
Consumers Tree Grant – 2023	\$3,000	Awarded	Grant from Consumers Energy to plant 15 trees in the city right of way.
TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED	\$22,920,574	<i>Grants Denied</i>	<i>\$4,490,442</i>

STREETS AND SIDEWALKS			
2023 Chip Seal Program		<p>The scope of work is double chip and fog seal on the following streets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beehler from Lansing to Cedar • Bradley from Lansing to Curwood Castle • Cedar from River to Beehler • Howell from Bradley to River • Lansing from Beehler to Beehler • Lyon from Bradley to Beehler • River from Cedar to Shiawassee (M-52) • Union from Beehler to north end <p>Project awarded to Highway Maintenance with work planned to begin early September.</p>	Fall 2023
2023 Sidewalk Replacement Program		The focus area for sidewalk replacement is the area bounded by Hickory St, Main St, Gould St, and Jerome St. Work is about 15% complete.	Fall 2023
2023 Street Patch Program		Work scope includes patches on various streets within the city of Owosso needed for water main breaks, sewer repairs, etc. The first patch list is complete. A second list of patches will begin in September. 50% complete	Fall 2023
Street Projects	Center Street: King to North	Work scope includes crush and shape with asphalt pavement construction (south end) and asphalt pavement rehabilitation and select curb and gutter replacement (north end). Storm sewer and street widening is complete. Project is complete with punch list and close out procedures underway.	Complete
	North Street: Hickory to M 52	Work scope includes pavement rehabilitation with select curb and gutter replacement, ADA sidewalk ramps, select sidewalk repair, select storm sewer replacement, and permanent pavement markings and signing; water main replacement and water service line replacements. The street portion of the project is being funded in part by a MDOT Small Urban grant with the water main portion	2023

		of the project being funded by an EGLE Drinking Water Revolving Loan. Water main and storm sewer work is complete. Aggregate base installation and concrete work are planned for September. Asphalt paving to follow.	
	Lee Street: Clark to Ada (petition)	Work scope includes pavement rehabilitation with select curb and gutter replacement, ADA sidewalk ramps, sidewalk replacement, and select storm sewer replacement; water main replacement and water service line replacements. Project was initiated by citizen petition. The water main portion of the project is being funded by an EGLE Drinking Water Revolving Loan. Project is scheduled to begin end of May pending loan closing.	2023
	Jerome: Hickory to Oakwood	Jerome Street from Hickory to Oakwood: Work scope includes crush and shape with asphalt pavement construction along with minor drainage upgrades. Project is on hold until funding is available.	On hold pending funding.
Street Projects - 2024	Stewart: M52 to Washington	Work scope includes pavement reconstruction with curb and gutter replacement, storm sewer replacement, ADA sidewalk ramps, select sidewalk replacement, and permanent pavement markings and signing; water main replacement. Project is a MDOT Small Urban Program project. Grade Inspection meeting was July 20, 2023. Special assessment resolutions no. 2 and no. 3 are planned for the September city council meetings. Final plans and specifications are due to MDOT by October 1, 2023.	2024 MDOT Small Urban Project. Design Phase
Bridge Projects - 2024	Gould St Bridge & Oakwood ped bridge	The scope of work is preventative maintenance repairs on the Gould Street bridge over the Shiawassee River and timber bridge deck replacement on the Oakwood Avenue bridge over the Shiawassee River. Design is in progress by Spicer Group. Work is planned for Spring 2024.	Spring 2024
Downtown/DDA	Replace overhead street lights and poles	Select replacement of street lights with new chairman lights and LED bulbs. In partnership with DDA. \$275,000 APRA awarded project. UPDATE: a survey of the foundations for existing lights were found to be deficient for reuse. They were not reinforced when installed. The project will continue but less lights will be replaced because of the added cost to replace the light foundations.	Efforts to begin in FY 22-23

UTILITIES (Water and Sewer)			
Project	Project Name/Description	Status	Completed

Lead/Galvanized Service Line Replacement	2022-2024	Work scope includes noncompliant water service lines replacements at 600 locations within the City of Owosso over a 3-year time period. Water service line replacements began for the 2023 construction season at the end of March. A total of 360 water service lines have been replaced to date. Water service line replacements will continue for the remainder of the construction season.	Ongoing
Water Treatment Plant	SCADA System - 2023	Kick-off meeting with Tetra tech was 10.30.20. Design phase completed. Included in next DWRP loan application.	In progress
Waste Water Treatment Plan	Screw pump building roof replacement	Replace roof on screw pump building.	Postponed due to cost
	Influent sampler replacement	Replace 25 year old influent sampler	Postponed
	Pipe hanger replacement	Replace corroded plant sewer pipe hangers. As needed. Labor in house. Pay as you go.	Ongoing
	Solids Handling Project - 2022	Demolition of old equipment in sludge tank room is complete. Disk Filter PILOT program is progressing but needing adjustment more than we would like.	Ongoing. Project delays due to contractor and unforeseen required repairs to building
Sanitary Sewer Repair – 2023	N Chestnut, E Comstock, S Dewey, and Wilshire	Work scope includes open-cut sewer repairs on sanitary sewers on N Chestnut St, E Comstock St, S Dewey St, and Wilshire Dr. Project is complete with close out procedures underway.	Complete
Sanitary Sewer Lining - 2024	Various	The scope of work is sewer lining on sanitary and storm sewers at various locations. Design in progress by OHM Advisors. Work is planned for Spring 2024.	Spring 2024
Water Main Replacement - 2023	Clyde St: Walnut to Shiawassee	Work scope includes water main replacement and water service line replacements. The project is being funded by an EGLE Drinking Water Revolving Loan. Project is complete with punch list and close out procedures underway.	Complete
	Huron St: Huggins to E end	Work scope includes water main replacement and water service line replacements. The project is being funded by an EGLE Drinking Water Revolving Loan. Project is complete with punch list and close out procedures underway.	Complete
	Lynn St: Howell to W end	Work scope includes water main replacement and water service line replacements. The project is being funded by an EGLE Drinking Water Revolving Loan. Project is complete with punch list and close out procedures underway.	Complete
	Milwaukee St: S Lyon to S Cedar	Work scope includes water main replacement and water service line replacements. The project is being funded	Complete

		by an EGLE Drinking Water Revolving Loan. Project is complete with punch list and close out procedures underway.	
	Center St: W North to W King	Work scope includes water main replacement and water service line replacement along Center Street from W King to W North. Project is complete. Project is complete and close out procedures are underway.	Complete.
	Lee St: Clark to Ada	Work scope includes pavement rehabilitation with select curb and gutter replacement, ADA sidewalk ramps, sidewalk replacement, and select storm sewer replacement; water main replacement and water service line replacements. Project was initiated by citizen petition. The water main portion of the project is being funded by an EGLE Drinking Water Revolving Loan. Project is complete with punch list and close out procedures underway.	Complete
Water Main Replacement - 2024	Dewey St: Brandon to Moore	Work scope includes water main replacement including non-compliant water service line replacement. Project under design phase. The project was submitted as part of the State of Michigan Department of EGLE 2024 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund project plan. Projects being funded will be announced around October.	Pending funding announcement
	Grace St: Cedar to Shiawassee	Work scope includes water main replacement including non-compliant water service line replacement. Project under design phase. The project was submitted as part of the State of Michigan Department of EGLE 2024 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund project plan. Projects being funded will be announced around October.	Pending funding announcement
	Tracy St: Frederick to Stewart	Work scope includes water main replacement including non-compliant water service line replacement. Project under design phase. The project was submitted as part of the State of Michigan Department of EGLE 2024 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund project plan. Projects being funded will be announced around October.	Pending funding announcement
	Young St: Chestnut to Brooks	Work scope includes water main replacement including non-compliant water service line replacement. Project under design phase. The project was submitted as part of the State of Michigan Department of EGLE 2024 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund project plan. Projects being funded will be announced around October.	Pending funding announcement

Storm Sewer Lining - 2023	Allendale, Beehler, S Elm, and River St.	Work scope includes cured-in-place pipe installation in storm sewers on Allendale Ave, Beehler St, S Elm St, and River St. Project was awarded to Insituform Technologies. All storm sewers have been lined except for River Street. The River Street sewer is planned to be lined in September.	Starting in June, 2023
----------------------------------	--	--	------------------------

PARKS/ CEMETERY/ FORESTRY/ NONMOTORIZED

Project	Project Name/Description	Status	Completed
	CIS Trail Extension – Extend trail from Priest Rd. to City.	Huron & Eastern Railroad told the city they will not agree to allow the trail to run along RR right of way for liability reasons. Alternate route being pursued. This route does not involve RR at all. Would require easements through township and private property. UPDATE: State funding may be available to complete. Unclear as to what route will be used. City engineers provided estimates for state officials to seek funding.	TBD
	Canoe/Kayak Launch installation	Work scope includes constructing a kayak launch, landing area, and stairway. The project location is along the east bank of the Shiawassee River, about 60' north of the Heritage Footbridge. The launch, landing area, stairway, sidewalk, and rip rap are complete. The site is mostly complete but we are still waiting on the canoe chute and railing to be installed.	Complete pending placement of canoe chute
	Oakwood Bridge Surface Repair	Replacement of entire bridge service will be bid if FY 23-24 budget approved.	On Hold pending funding

MOTOR VEHICLE POOL

Public Safety	Ambulance replacement - 2022	Order placed. Will take 18 months. Saving \$100,000 this year and purchasing FY 2022-23. Chasing down potential new grant opportunities through USDA.	Complete
	Fire Truck Replacement – 2023	Bond application approved by council. Purchase budgeted in proposed FY 23-24. Lead time is 18 months or more.	June 2024

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

Library	Exterior window painting	Scrape and repaint exterior windows. \$15k in approved FY 23-24 budget	2023-24
	Boiler Steam Distribution Line Replacement	The boiler for the library is in good shape. However, the distribution lines are leaky and need replacement. This would replace the entire distribution system. Multiple patches have been	TBD

		installed and the leaks are just appearing in new areas. Unlikely to be completed with MCACA grant denial.	
Gould House	Landscaping improvements - 2022	Peterson Landscaping hiring to begin major cleaning of landscaping. DPW staff assisted with some minor trimming and weeding to get us through the summer.	Complete
City Hall	Security and Accessibility - IT	Replace/Add technology at city hall for security and accessibility. Replace old doorbell on basement entry and upgrade silent alarm system.	2023
	Wireless accessibility	Replace and add routers for better WiFi coverage in city hall. Current dark areas on all floors will be corrected. Speed increased	Complete
	Replace phone system routers	These routers connect all city facilities on one phone system. Current routers are no longer supported by Cisco.	2023

CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS			
	Agreement between Land Bank, Woodland Trails, and City regarding development of Woodland Trails Lots owned by Land Bank	Currently negotiating with HOA and Land Bank on terms for an agreement to release remaining lots from HOA "common area" to ready them for development. Land Bank has chosen a developer from a previous request for proposals. City will undertake repairs on sewer system to finally assume the system as public property but this is contingent upon a brownfield plan and development agreement to reimburse city for cost. City has televised this area to identify problem areas. Project will add 14 new single-family residential units.	Ongoing