

**OWOSSO CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING**

APRIL 30, 2015

7:00 P.M.

PRESIDING OFFICER: MAYOR BENJAMIN R. FREDERICK

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: MAYOR BENJAMIN R. FREDERICK

PRESENT: Mayor Benjamin R. Frederick, Mayor Pro-Tem Christopher T. Eveleth, Councilpersons Loreen F. Bailey, David B. Bandkau, Burton D. Fox, Elaine M. Greenway, and Robert J. Teich, Jr.

ABSENT: None.

CITIZEN COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

None.

Motion by Councilperson Bailey to end the meeting by 9:00 p.m.

Motion supported by Councilperson Greenway and concurred in by unanimous vote.

ITEMS OF DISCUSSION

For the convenience of Council and meeting attendees page numbers from the proposed budget are noted next to each item of discussion.

Public Works

(Page 49)

City Manager Donald D. Crawford detailed the sources of funding for street maintenance as well as the typical expenditures. He also went into detail as to where in the budget various DPW revenues and expenditures are noted so that would understand the exact content of the various line items. He highlighted one particular item that Councilperson Bandkau had inquired about prior to the meeting explaining that while the Major Street fund reflected a balance of \$750,000 it was not entirely accurate in that it represented funding for a grant project that the State ultimately funded in a different manner than originally planned. The funding belongs to the State and the City was not authorized to use the funds, after accounting for the grant funding the City looks to have approximately \$10,000 - \$11,000 remaining in the Major Street fund account at the end of the year.

There was significant discussion among Council members regarding the merits of seal coating vs. slurry sealing (a tar and stone application vs. a hard thin sealant) with some members expressing a distinct preference for seal coating, viewing the application as a better use of City funds.

Independent reporter Bill Constine was invited to comment on the maintenance of local streets. He noted that he experiences significant frustration with potholes going unrepaired despite being reported and the poor condition of the pavement on West Oliver Street despite only being a few years old.

Mayor Frederick inquired what criteria are used to determine if a street should be seal coated or slurry sealed. It was noted that seal coating works better when the traffic level on a street is lower.

Based on the discussions had this evening Mayor Frederick asked that staff look into adjusting the street maintenance planned for the coming year.

City Manager Crawford then touched on each of the following items:

a. Leaf and brush collection and disposal (Page 51)

Mr. Crawford noted that the leaf and brush collection programs were very expensive and convincing citizens to mulch leaves rather than raking them to the street would save the City significant funding and staff time.

b. Parking (Page 53)

Mr. Crawford indicated the South Lansing Street parking lot will be completed this year.

There was also a brief discussion regarding the maintenance performed on the brick inlays downtown to prevent tripping hazards.

c. Parks (Page 58)

There was a brief discussion regarding little used parks, changing the sled hill at Holman Grove Park to reduce the incline, and the installation of more splash pads.

d. Fleet Maintenance Fund (Page 97)

City Manager Crawford went into detail regarding the unanticipated failure of the jetter/vac truck used by the Wastewater crew. He indicated that research was currently underway to determine the most cost efficient way to repair or replace it.

Councilperson Bailey indicated she still desired talking points to justify to citizens when new equipment is purchased.

2. DEQ and Shiawassee Sanitary Landfill (Page 17)

City Manager Crawford indicated money had been set aside for the landfill issue though the final tally is still unknown and there may be on-going maintenance costs to consider as well.

3. Historical Commission (Page 80)

Mr. Crawford noted that some of the figures included in this particular part of the budget were estimates as the Commission is responsible for raising some funds and there was no guarantee the funds would be secured. In the interim the budget included estimated figures based on past history.

4. SATA (Page 90)

Mr. Crawford noted that this section of the budget represented an in and out operation as the City levied a millage and distributed it to SATA for their operations.

5. Downtown Development Authority (Page 125)

City Manager Crawford indicated this section of the budget was very sound. Mayor Frederick echoed those remarks noting it was the 2nd year using a zero-based budget process and it was working very well.

6. Library (Page 38)

Mr. Crawford indicated the City was responsible for maintaining the library building. There had been some suggestion that the City spin the building off to the Library Board to cut the final string connecting the two organizations. Councilperson Teich, Library Board member, indicated his fellow members agreed that should they be held responsible for the building they would need to levy an additional millage or cut back services. Mayor Frederick suggested the City establish a maintenance fund to assist the Library in maintaining the building as a part of any agreement to spin off the building. City Attorney William C. Brown also noted that the details of the deed for the property would need to be examined to determine if such a transaction is even possible.

7. Set public hearing for May 18 and adoption on June 2

City Manager Crawford updated Council on the proposed schedule for adoption of the budget.

He also noted that, in light of the progress made this evening, the Council would be presented with the option of cancelling the special budget meeting scheduled for May 9, 2015.

NEXT MEETING

Monday, May 04, 2015, Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, May 09, 2015, Budget Meeting, 9:00 a.m.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS OPENINGS

Historical Commission, expires December 31, 2015
Historical Commission, expires December 31, 2016
Parks & Recreation Commission, expires June 30, 2017
Planning Commission, expires June 30, 2016

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mayor Pro-Tem Eveleth for adjournment at 8:59 p.m.

Motion supported by Councilperson Fox and concurred in by unanimous vote.

Benjamin R. Frederick, Mayor

Amy K. Kirkland, City Clerk