

**OWOSSO CITY COUNCIL**

**APRIL 13, 2011**

**7:00 P.M.**

**PRESIDING OFFICER:** MAYOR BENJAMIN R. FREDERICK

**PRESENT:** Mayor Benjamin R. Frederick, Mayor Pro-Tem Cindy S. Popovitch, Councilpersons Thomas B. Cook, Michael J. Erfourth, Christopher T. Eveleth, Joni M. Forster, and Gary W. Martenis.

**ABSENT:** None.

**DISCUSSION – 2011-2012 PROPOSED BUDGET**

City Manager Donald D. Crawford indicated the discussions for the evening would center around street maintenance and park maintenance.

Streets – In an effort to save money the proposed budget includes cuts to the snow plowing line item. The proposal would reduce plowing to major streets only until a snowfall reaches four inches, only minimally plowing residential streets and applying salt only to major streets and intersections. Council requested the change be widely publicized to minimize confusion and disgruntled residents.

The Council next discussed summertime street maintenance and reconstruction. There was dialogue regarding increasing the number of streets included in the annual street program, outsourcing for some engineering services due to limited staff, utilizing bond funding to accelerate the program, taking advantage of the current lower labor costs, keeping debt repayment costs reasonable for tax payers, involving a critical mass of projects in the acceleration, and “complete streets”. Council directed staff to assemble a report listing the costs and other factors involved in accelerating the street program to take a more proactive approach to street maintenance. Information on “complete streets” will also be included targeting the streets around the schools and the downtown.

Parks – It was noted our parks have deteriorated over time and much of the original equipment has been removed due to age. There was discussion regarding developing a wish list for the parks, seeking the involvement of local civic organizations, establishing a sinking fund for park maintenance, establishing a wayfinding system for the city, a pool status report, and performing a feasibility study for a regional aquatic center. Staff was directed to organize a meeting of mid-county area officials to discuss a potential regional park committee.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS**

Burton Fox, 216 East Oliver Street, indicated a mid-county meeting may be possible sooner rather than later. Everyone he has spoken to is favorable to the idea.

Councilperson Cook volunteered for a regional park committee if one is formed.

**NEXT MEETING**

April 14, 2011, 7:00 p.m. – Budget Workshop  
April 18, 2011, 7:30 p.m. – Regular Meeting

**BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS OPENINGS**

Cable Access Advisory Commission, term expires 06-30-2011  
Downtown Development Authority/Main Street, term expires 06-30-2013  
Parks & Recreation Commission, term expires 06-30-2012

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

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Benjamin R. Frederick, Mayor

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Amy K. Kirkland, City Clerk