

**CITY OF OWOSSO
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 21, 2016
7:30 P.M.**

City Clerk Amy K. Kirkland administered the Oath of Office to Loreen F. Bailey (four-year term); Daniel A. Law (four-year term); Susan J. Osika (four-year term); Elaine M. Greenway (two-year term); and Christopher T. Eveleth (two-year partial term to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of David B. Bandkau).

City Manager Donald D. Crawford addressed the City Council regarding the custom of having the City Clerk chair the meeting until a Mayor is elected.

City Clerk Kirkland called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. and lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

PRESENT: Councilmembers Bailey, Eveleth, Fox, Greenway, Law, Osika, and Teich.

ABSENT: None.

APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Councilmember Eveleth to approve the agenda as presented.

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

ADOPTION OF RULES OF ORDER

City Attorney William C. Brown addressed the City Council regarding the rules for abstaining from voting and the staff recommendation for the adoption of Robert's Rules of Order, 1990 Edition – 9th Edition, as the rules of procedure.

Motion by Councilmember Eveleth to adopt Robert's Rules of Order, 1990 Edition – 9th Edition as the rules of procedure.

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

ELECTION OF MAYOR

City Clerk Kirkland explained the method of voting for the election of the Mayor and Mayor Pro-Tem and opened the floor for nominations.

Councilmember Greenway nominated Councilmember Eveleth for Mayor.

After the third call for nominations for Mayor, nominations were closed with one nominee.

Motion to approve Councilmember Eveleth as Mayor of the City of Owosso.

Roll Call Vote.

AYES: Councilmembers Bailey, Eveleth, Fox, Greenway, Law, Osika, and Teich.

NAYS: None.

City Clerk Kirkland administered the Oath of Office and turned over the chair of the meeting to Mayor Eveleth.

ELECTION OF MAYOR PRO-TEM

Mayor Eveleth opened the floor for nominations for Mayor Pro-Tem.

Councilmember Bailey nominated Councilmember Osika for Mayor Pro-Tem.

After several calls for nominations for Mayor Pro-Tem, nominations were closed with one nominee.

Motion to approve Councilmember Osika as Mayor Pro-Tem of the City of Owosso.

Roll Call Vote.

AYES: Councilmembers Bailey, Fox, Greenway, Law, Osika, Teich, and Mayor Eveleth.

NAYS: None.

City Clerk Kirkland administered the Oath of Office to Mayor Pro-Tem Osika.

CONSIDERATION OF CITY COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE

Councilmember Fox proposed that citizen questions be answered immediately after they are asked with a pause in the time allotted to each speaker while answers are given. There was discussion regarding whether such a process would be cumbersome and time consuming.

Motion by Councilmember Fox to amend the Rules of Procedure to require Council to answer questions raised during the Citizen Comments & Questions period immediately after they are raised, at no cost to the time allotted to each individual speaker.

Motion supported by Councilmember Teich.

Roll Call Vote.

AYES: Councilmembers Fox, Law, and Teich.

NAYS: Mayor Pro-Tem Osika, Councilmembers Bailey, Greenway, and Mayor Eveleth.

The motion fails for lack of affirmative votes.

Councilmembers expressed their desire to strike a balance that allowed citizen questions to be answered without taking an unnecessary amount of time or created a cumbersome process.

Motion by Councilmember Bailey to adopt the following Rules of Procedure as originally proposed:

CITY COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE

Rules for Roll Call Votes

1. *These rules are adopted pursuant to Section 5.4(j) of the Charter of the City of Owosso.*
2. *The purpose of these rules is to establish the procedure to be followed when conducting a roll call vote of City Council members.*
3. *When requested by the Mayor or, in his or her absence, the presiding officer, to conduct a roll call vote, the City Clerk shall call the names of all Council members except the Mayor in a random order followed by the name of the Mayor.*
4. *The City Clerk shall implement these rules in such a manner as to insure that the order in which names of Council members is called shall vary from one roll call vote to the next.*
5. *The City Clerk shall use a computer randomization program or other similar method to insure that each Council member's name has a statistically equal probability of appearing in any given position in the order of the roll call.*
6. *If a member of the Council is absent from a meeting, the City Clerk may strike his or her name from the roll call and such striking shall not constitute a violation of the procedure for random roll call voting. If the Mayor is absent from a meeting, the name of the presiding officer shall be included in the random roll call vote.*

Rules for Addressing A Meeting of the City Council

1. *These rules are adopted pursuant to Section 3(5) of P.A. 267 of 1976, commonly known as the Open Meetings Act.*
2. *The purpose of these rules is to establish procedures to be followed when persons desire to address a meeting of the City Council so as to insure that all persons who wish to do so are afforded an adequate opportunity to exercise the right to address their city government while conducting the public business in an orderly, professional manner.*
3. *Persons wishing to address a meeting of the City Council shall do so during times set aside on the agenda for that purpose and at other times when recognized by the Mayor for the purpose of addressing the meeting.*
4. *Persons wishing to address the City Council and attending officials shall stand, raise a hand, or otherwise signal a desire to speak, and wait to be recognized by the Mayor. When so recognized, persons shall give their names and addresses, and address their comments and/or questions to any City official attending the council meeting.*

5. *Each person wishing to address the City Council shall be afforded one opportunity of up to four (4) minutes duration during the first occasion provided for citizen comments and questions, one opportunity of up to three (3) minutes duration during the last occasion provide for citizen comments and questions and one opportunity of up to three (3) minutes duration during each public hearing; provided, however, that comments made during public hearings shall be relevant to the subject for which the public hearings are held.*
6. *In addition to the opportunities to address the City Council described above, a citizen may respond to questions posed to him or her by the Mayor or members of the Council provided that members of the Council have been given the floor by the Mayor to pose such questions.*
7. *Each citizen comment and question period described in paragraph 6 excluding public hearings shall last up to thirty minutes. If time expires for the comment and question period and additional time appears necessary to accommodate citizens wishing to address city officials, the council may vote to extend the period for a specific length of time. Only one such extension of each comment and question period shall be permitted during a Council meeting.*

Rule of Civility

1. *Council members, City staff, and members of the public will communicate respectfully with each other in their conversations, reports, debates, and testimony. All present will listen attentively to others when they are speaking, not interrupt others or carry on side conversations; and when given the floor will speak to the issues at hand, not engage in personal attacks or use derogatory language, and will honor the right of all to contribute to public policy deliberation.*

Motion supported by Mayor Pro-Tem Osika.

Roll Call Vote.

AYES: Mayor Pro-Tem Osika, Councilmembers Bailey, Law, and Mayor Eveleth.

NAYS: Councilmembers Fox, Greenway, and Teich.

MEETING SCHEDULE

Councilmember Fox asked that a meeting be scheduled on each of the four occasions in 2017 in which there is a 5th Monday in a month.

*Motion by Councilmember Fox to continue to hold City Council meetings on the first and third Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. as proposed, with the addition of further meetings scheduled for the 5th Monday of each month in which they occur.

Motion supported by Councilmember Greenway.

Roll Call Vote.

AYES: Mayor Pro-Tem Osika, Councilmembers Bailey, Fox, Greenway, Law, Teich, and Mayor Eveleth.

NAYS: None.

*It bears noting that there are five Mondays in the months of January, May, July, and October of 2017. The fifth Monday in May falls on Memorial Day, and as the official observance of a Federal holiday no meeting will be scheduled.

CITIZEN COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Outgoing Mayor Benjamin Frederick congratulated the new Council and wished all the members well, saying they were an outstanding group of people.

Mayor Eveleth thanked outgoing Mayor Frederick for his 9 years of service to the City.

County Commissioner Jeremy Root congratulated the newly elected Councilmembers on behalf of the County Commission.

Eddie Urban, 601 Glenwood Avenue, congratulated Mayor Pro-Tem Osika on her recent win for Ice Queen. He also thanked everyone the put on a meal for veterans over Veteran's Day.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilmember Fox for adjournment at 7:59 p.m.

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

Christopher T. Eveleth, Mayor

Amy K. Kirkland, City Clerk