

**CITY OF OWOSSO
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF AUGUST 30, 2021
7:30 P.M.**

PRESIDING OFFICER: MAYOR CHRISTOPHER T. EVELETH

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: COUNCILMEMBER JANA L. FEAR

PRESENT: Mayor Christopher T. Eveleth, Mayor Pro-Tem Susan J. Osika, Councilpersons Janae L. Fear, Jerome C. Haber, Daniel A. Law, Nicholas L. Pidek, and Robert J. Teich, Jr.

ABSENT: None.

CITIZEN COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Kirk Riley, Executive Director of the Friends of the Shiawassee River, relayed the Friends' concern regarding the continued sanitary sewer overflows into the river. While the organization appreciates the steps the City has taken to alleviate the problem they encouraged Council to consider using ARPA funds to take the next step, suggesting the organization and the City partner together to seek grant funding for educational efforts on the work that needs to be done.

Gary Burk, member of the Board of Directors for the Friends of the Shiawassee River, encouraged Council to utilize ARPA funding for the replacement of lead water service lines. He further encouraged Council to coordinate the replacement of sewer service lines along with the water lines. He also indicated the Friends support the rehabilitation of the Jerome Street area and went on to say he would like to see the project extend to the bus garage parcel with the goal of removing the structure and its operations out of the floodway.

Tom Manke, 2910 W. M-21, thanked the City for the improvements made to the Jerome Street area. He said people were enjoying the river once again and he was concerned that organizations like the Friends of the River would persuade the City to let the area return to nature.

Jamie Semans, Shiawassee District Library Board member, gave a brief update on all of the work the new library director has undertaken since her arrival in January. She went on to say that the library needs more critical work like replacement of the boiler lines and replacement of the current chair lift to make the Library ADA accessible and she encouraged the Council to consider setting aside ARPA funds to assist with those projects.

Dave Acton, present on behalf of the DDA and the Historical Commission, said the DDA would like to see ARPA funds dedicated to the replacement of the paver bricks downtown with stamped concrete as a part of the project to replace lead water service lines downtown. Changing hats, he said the Historical Commission would like to see the City consider replacing the Commission's COVID losses so they can pursue the goals they have laid out in their CIP plan.

Laura Archer, Chief Executive Officer of the Shiawassee Family YMCA, indicated that the Y had recently conducted a survey of local residents to gather information on needs and desires in the community. The Y would like to partner with the City, utilizing ARPA funds to address some of the issues raised by the survey. She went on to say that the YMCA hopes to become a community center for Owosso providing a whole host of programs to local families.

Mayor Eveleth said he really appreciated this forum and the attitude of all involved. He said he is looking forward to further discussion of this topic.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

ARPA Funding Discussion

City Manager Nathan R. Henne led off the discussion noting that the presentation slides were identical to those handed out at the August 2, 2021 meeting, except for information regarding lost revenue which is new. He indicated that based on the calculations the City could use approximately half of the \$1.5 million in ARPA funds it expects to receive for the replacement of revenues lost to COVID. This money could be used for non-water and sewer related projects. He said he had spoken to numerous stake holders and staff about what is needed and suggested the City conduct an online survey to get an idea what the public would like to see done with the money.

Mayor Eveleth said he was in support of doing a transformational project and suggested holding off on discussions about infrastructure because there is an infrastructure bill working its way through at the Federal level that may provide additional funding for infrastructure projects.

There was discussion among Councilmembers and the City Manager regarding the following: potential restrictions on using ARPA funds as matching funds for local projects; developing a fair, organized process to vet proposals; how to measure successful outcomes; recommending county-wide organizations approach the County for additional assistance with their projects; development of cost estimates for each proposal; and the desire to tackle some of the City's current infrastructure issues with the funds.

There was agreement among the group to conduct a resident survey, develop an application process and scoring criteria for proposals, and developing cost estimates for each proposal. The Council also suggested that ARPA funding be a continuing item on future agendas.

After the discussion concluded Councilmember Law announced that Russ ~~Wallace~~ ^{Wahl} had recently passed away.

Corrected by
action of Council
September 7, 2021

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, September 07, 2021

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS OPENINGS

- Brownfield Redevelopment Authority – term expires June 30, 2022
- Building Board of Appeals – Alternate - term expires June 30, 2022
- Building Board of Appeals – Alternate - term expires June 30, 2024
- Owosso Historical Commission – 2 terms expire December 31, 2021
- Owosso Historical Commission – term expires December 31, 2022
- Owosso Historical Commission – term expires December 31, 2023
- Parks & Recreation Commission-term expires June 30, 2022
- Parks & Recreation Commission-term expires June 30, 2023
- Zoning Board of Appeals – Alternate – term expires June 30, 2024
- Zoning Board of Appeals – term expires June 30, 2023

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilmember Fear for adjournment at 8:20 p.m.

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

Christopher T. Eveleth, Mayor

Amy K. Kirkland, City Clerk