

**CITY OF OWOSSO
REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES SYNOPSIS
MONDAY, MARCH 03, 2025**

PRESENT: Mayor Robert J. Teich, Jr., Mayor Pro-Tem Jerome C. Haber, Councilmembers Janae L. Fear, Carl C. Ludington, Emily S. Olson, Rachel M. Osmer, and Christopher D. Owens.

ABSENT: None.

PROCLAMATIONS/SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

None.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Tom Manke said he was very happy to hear that the downtown will be holding a Shamrock Shuffle this year involving 30 different businesses. He also noted that there are many events planned for the summer in surrounding communities, but Owosso doesn't seem to have any. Patrice Martin said she was grateful that Council was taking their time with the decision on the utility rates. She said this is a huge topic for the community and suggested that Council consider holding a town-hall type meeting to educate the public and provide an opportunity for questions from the public.

Bruce Noble noted that Summer Praise will be hosting six concerts this summer at the amphitheater.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

There was discussion regarding whether to structure the 5th Monday meeting proposed for March 31, 2025 as a town-hall style meeting. City Manager Henne indicated that Council would be able to decide the matter after this evening's presentation and discussion.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda was approved as follows:

Professional Services Agreement - Private Credit Assessment Services. Approved professional services agreement with S&P Global Ratings for the provision of private credit assessment services in the amount of \$18,900.00 for DWSRF Project No. 7880-01 and further approved payment to the firm upon satisfactory completion of the contracted tasks.

Change Order- MI-HOPE Grant Project. Approved Change Order No. 5 to the contract with Merkel & Kenney, Inc. for the MI-HOPE Grant Project, adding \$8,000.00 for the completion of 16 energy audits and further approved payment to the contractor up to the adjusted contract amount of \$354,126.00 upon satisfactory completion of the work or portion thereof.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

Notice of Pecuniary Interest. Entered notice of pecuniary interest on the record for Councilmember Carl Ludington as it relates to proposed contracts with Ludington Electric, Inc. in the amount of \$1,584.29 for the period of February, 2025.

Work Group Charter Adoption. Approved adoption of the proposed charter for the Shiawassee Recycling Community Work Group.

Utility Rate Discussion (continued...). The Utilities Director and Utilities Superintendents gave a detailed presentation covering the history of utility improvements since 2020 and the necessity of moving forward with the plans proposed for the next five years. The situation is critical, and significant improvements must be made to all components of the water and wastewater systems to prevent a catastrophic failure. It was clearly pointed out that the City is at risk of receiving hefty fines if it does not continue to make forward progress on the overall condition of its utilities, and individual Council members could be held liable if they decide not to follow the recommendations of the state, staff, and engineers. The discussion concluded with the scheduling of Council tours for both plants and the distribution/collection systems.

Fifth Monday Meeting. Set a 5th Monday meeting for Monday, March 31, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. to hold a town-hall style meeting on the necessity of the proposed utility rates. Location to be announced.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Tom Manke said it would be great if Councilmembers joined the crew for a water main break. He went on to say that the proposed utility rates will be a huge issue for the community, and something needs to be done to educate the public about why they're necessary.

Jael Harrington implored Council to do the right thing and make the necessary utility improvements. She said she had lived in a community with failing utilities and had seen the loss and damage to both public and private property that occurred. She said Michigan is a beautiful state and we need to make the right choices to keep it that way. The cost is small in comparison to what you could lose.

Patrice Martin thanked Council for moving forward with the town-hall meeting. She asked that Council take the time in the next couple of weeks to think about what information the public will be looking for and how to best deliver that information.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Osmer noted that there is another meeting regarding the warming centers on Friday at 2:00pm. They are looking for volunteers to help with meals and an overnight location. She also noted that the Cook Family Foundation will be hosting virtual and live listening sessions on recycling in the coming weeks for those that are interested in the topic.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Nathan R. Henne, City Manager. City Manager Report – February 2025.

COMMUNICATIONS

Brad A. Barrett, Finance Director. Financial Report – January 2025.

Owosso Historical Commission. Minutes of February 11, 2025.

Downtown Historic District Commission. Minutes of February 19, 2025.

NEXT MEETING

Monday, March 17, 2025, Regular Meeting

Monday, March 31, 2025, 5th Monday Meeting

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS OPENINGS

Building Board of Appeals – Alternate - term expires June 30, 2026

Building Board of Appeals – Alternate - term expires June 30, 2025

DDA/OMS Board x 2 – terms expire June 30, 2028

Zoning Board of Appeals – Alternate – term expires June 30, 2027

Zoning Board of Appeals – Alternate – term expires June 30, 2025

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:54 p.m.

Robert J. Teich, Jr., Mayor

Amy K. Kirkland, City Clerk

Note: Complete printed copies of the minutes and any ordinances contained therein are available to the public at the Office of the City Clerk and the Shiawassee District Library – Owosso Branch during regular business hours or on the Internet at www.ci.owosso.mi.us.