

**CITY OF OWOSSO  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES SYNOPSIS  
MONDAY, MAY 19, 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**

Proclamation - Mental Health Awareness Month. Mayor Teich read aloud a proclamation of the Mayor's Office declaring May 2025 as Mental Health Awareness Month in the City of Owosso.  
Airport Board Presentation. Council heard a presentation by representatives of the Owosso Community Airport detailing their latest Annual Report, including their promotion to regional airport by the FAA.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

2025-2026 City Budget. A public hearing was conducted pursuant to Chapter 8 of the City Charter to receive citizen comment regarding the 2025-2026 Proposed City Budget. There were no citizen comments received regarding the proposed budget. The budget will be considered for approval at the June 2, 2025 Council meeting.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Ted Rogge asked if the residents of Corunna will be seeing an increase in their water rates alongside residents of Owosso, inquiring when the water contract with Corunna will be open to negotiation. He also noted that it doesn't seem wise to expand the splash pad if water is going to be so expensive.

Tom Manke said the alley off of Gould Street is in very poor shape and wondered why it hasn't been fixed.

Elizabeth Byrne said she recognized the water meetings were difficult for Councilmembers and would hate to see anyone leave the community because they can no longer afford water service. She also said that communication of the needs of the utilities systems should have been handled better and asked that Council communicate more effectively with the community.

Kelsey Dibeau thanked Council for their efforts in working on the water issue, saying she appreciated the fact that they educated themselves and didn't neglect the problem.

Russel Thompson has a problem with mini-bikes and go-carts using the streets. He said you cannot see them from a vehicle, and many have no safety mechanisms or lights.

Staff and the Mayor responded to the questions explaining how the water contract with Corunna works, that expanding the splash pad was recommended by the Parks & Recreation Commission in light of the fact that Owosso no longer has a pool, and that mini-bikes and go-carts are illegal on the streets.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilmember Olson asked when Council would be discussing establishing a safety net for those that will have difficulty affording their water bill. Council moved to discuss the following items over the course of the next two meetings: switching to monthly billing and a shut-off moratorium. They further moved to request the City Attorney prepare a legal opinion on whether the establishment of a voluntary assistance fund to aid water customers would violate the City's laws. Lastly, they moved to direct staff to explore and report back to Council how much it would cost to bring back the ACE Portal for water users.

Councilmember Osmer inquired whether any Councilmembers are able to help with the YMCA's upcoming Open Street event.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

The Consent Agenda was approved as follows:

Boards and Commissions Appointments. Approved the following Mayoral Boards and Commissions appointments:

Name	Board/Commission	Term Expires
Rachel Osmer	SATA Board	10-01-2028
Daylen Howard*	DDA / Main Street Board	06-30-2029
Lance Omer*	DDA / Main Street Board	06-30-2029

\* Indicates reappointment

Purchase Order Amendment - Sodium Hypochlorite. Authorized amendment to Purchase Order Nos. 45808 & 45809 with JCI Jones Chemicals, Inc. for bulk Sodium Hypochlorite, increasing the unit price from \$1.8443/gallon to \$1.8633/gallon, raising the total estimated cost for the FY 2024-2025 to \$110,000.00, and further authorized payment to the supplier up to the increased amount based on unit prices for actual quantities required.

Purchase Authorization - Ferric Chloride. Authorized a purchase agreement with PVS Technologies, Inc. for Ferric Chloride utilizing the Lansing Board of Water & Light's joint purchasing consortium Competitive Bidding Program in the amount of \$1,142.00 per dry ton, with an estimated annual contract of \$97,641.00, and further authorized payment based on unit prices for actual quantities required for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026.

Purchase Authorization - Sodium Hypochlorite. Authorized a purchase agreement with JCI Jones Chemicals, Inc. for Sodium Hypochlorite utilizing the Lansing Board of Water & Light's joint purchasing consortium Competitive Bidding Program in the amount of \$2.20 per gallon, with an estimated annual contract of \$41,460.00 and further authorized payment based on unit prices for actual quantities required for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026.

Purchase Authorization - Bulk Lime. Authorized a purchase agreement with Graymont Western Lime Inc. for the purchase of bulk lime for the Filtration Plant and Wastewater Plant, utilizing the Lansing Board of Water & Light's joint purchasing consortium Competitive Bidding Program in the amount of \$200.00 per dry ton, with an estimated annual contract of \$168,000.00 and further authorized payment based on unit prices for actual quantities required for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026.

Purchase Authorization - DPW Parts Inventory. Authorized a purchase agreement with ETNA Supply Co. for the 2025-26 DPW parts inventory bid and further authorized payment in accordance with unit prices not to exceed \$25,087.75.

Bid Award - Water Service Line Identification Project. Approved bid award to M.L. Chartier Excavating, Inc. for the 2025 Water Service Line Identification Project in the amount of \$899,789.50, and authorized payment to the contractor upon satisfactory completion of the work or portion thereof, with reimbursement up to \$600,000 from an EGLE Technical, Managerial and Financial grant awarded in 2024.

Warrant No. 656. Authorized Warrant No. 656 as follows:

Vendor	Description	Fund	Amount
Gould Law PC	Services April 15 – May 12 2025	Varies	\$14,798.16

### **ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

Contract Approvals – Ludington Electric, Inc. Reiterated acknowledgement of the pecuniary interest of Councilmember Ludington in regard to the contract(s) in question and approved \$120.00 in contracts with Ludington Electric, Inc. for the period of April 2025 (Ludington abstained).

Closed Session. Authorized holding a closed session at the conclusion of the second session of Council Comments to conduct the City Manager's annual evaluation at the request of the employee and in compliance with MCL 15.268(a).

### **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Tom Manke asked how much the City contributes to the airport each year. He also thanked Council for their work on the utilities issue and pointed out they cannot forget that the water plant still needs an additional \$60 million in improvements in addition to the improvements already included in the scope of the water rate hike.

Ted Rogge thanked Council for all of the work they've done in the last couple of months. Russell Thompson asked how long the lead service line replacement program would be stretched out in light of the fact that Council adopted rates that will only pay for a portion of the work necessary. Mayor Teich noted that there is a 20-year mandate from the State of Michigan to replace all lead and galvanized water service lines and that nothing has changed in those plans.

### **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilmember Osmer noted that the Downtown Clean-up will be taking place May 30-31 with crews starting at 8:00am and 10:30am each day. Volunteers are still needed.

**The Council adjourned to closed session at 8:17 p.m.**

**The Council returned from closed session at 9:39 p.m.**

The Council moved to approve an addendum to the City Manager's employment contract adding a monthly car stipend and changing his severance package to a lump sum check rather than individual payments.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:42 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](http://www.ci.owosso.mi.us).