

CITY OF OWOSSO
REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES SYNOPSIS
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2026

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

CDBG Housing Grant Application. Conducted a public hearing to receive citizen comment regarding the proposed application to the Michigan State Housing Development Authority for a grant to assist in the improvement of owner-occupied, single-family homes of low- to moderate-income residents, consider authorizing said application, and approval of the related authorizing resolution, procurement procedure, and determination of level of environmental review. There were no citizen comments made prior to, or during the meeting in regard to the application. The Council moved to approve the grant application, authorizing resolution, procurement procedure, and determination of level of environmental review as proposed.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Kimberly White, Shiawassee District Library Director, was on hand to answer any questions about the potential relocation of the Owosso location. She went on to present the 2025 Year in Review noting how much the library has grown over the course of the last year.

Tom Manke thanked Building & Planning Director Buckelew for all of her work in obtaining grants to help people fix up their homes. He was also pleased to hear that the Fifth Third building project would be starting shortly. Lastly, he encouraged the City to keep the Christmas lights up and on in the downtown year-round as they add a nice atmosphere.

Margaret Robbins relayed her objections to being billed for service when paramedics from the City were unable to help her daughter when they came to her home recently. City Manager Henne indicated this was an administrative matter and he and Public Safety Director Lenkart will look into things and report back.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Olson suggested the City consider dedicating a small portion of the upcoming budget to a participatory budget measure to allow citizens to have a direct say in how a portion of the budget is allocated, allowing citizens to buy in and feel more connected to the budget.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda was approved as follows:

Amend Purchase Order No. 47475 – CDW.G. Approved amending Purchase Order No. 47475 to include \$4,690.00 for the CrowdStrike Falcon Spotlight module and associated support for an 18-month term for a total amount of \$72,040.00 to be fully funded by the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program and further approved payment to the vendor upon satisfactory installation of the equipment.

Contract Approval - Owosso Time Traveler Project. Rescinded Resolution No 158-2025 and approved the contract with Michigan Technological University in the amount of \$6,859 for the Owosso Time Traveler Project to build a website that will allow the cataloging and sharing of historic documents, places, and photos with the public.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

FOIA Policy Update. Approved adoption of a new FOIA Policy reflecting recent changes in the Michigan Freedom of Information Act, to take effect February 18, 2026.

City Budget Amendment. Adopted Amendment No.1 to the 2025-2026 Budget.

Single Audit Act Compliance. Approved resolution accepting and placing on file the City of Owosso Federal Single Audit for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Tom Manke inquired when the dilapidated house near the football stadium will be demolished. He inquired what the City plans to do for the Country's 250th anniversary later this year. Lastly, he said he was said to report that the Argus Press will no longer be reporting national and international news. City Attorney Gould indicated that the City is now in receipt of an order from the Court to demolish the home in question. He said its just a matter of putting the job out to bid.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Olson said she didn't realize that the Christmas lights in the downtown had been turned off, she thought they were still on. She also thanked Public Safety Director Lenkart for the parking citation report that was added to the annual monthly reports.

COMMUNICATIONS

Tanya S. Buckelew, Planning & Building Director. January 2026 Building Department Report.
Tanya S. Buckelew, Planning & Building Director. January 2026 Code Violations Report.
Tanya S. Buckelew, Planning & Building Director. January 2026 Inspections Report.
Tanya S. Buckelew, Planning & Building Director. January 2026 Rental Report.
Tanya S. Buckelew, Planning & Building Director. January 2026 Certificates Issued Report.
Kevin D. Lenkart, Public Safety Director. January 2026 Police Report.
Kevin D. Lenkart, Public Safety Director. July 1, 2025 - February 10, 2026 Parking Citation Report.
Kevin D. Lenkart, Public Safety Director. January 2026 Fire Report
Parks & Recreation Commission. Minutes of January 28, 2026.
Planning Commission. Minutes of January 26, 2026.
Downtown Development Authority. Minutes of February 04, 2026.

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, February 26, 2026 6:30 p.m. – Goal Setting Session
Monday, March 2, 2026 6:30 p.m. – Regular Meeting

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS OPENINGS

Building Board of Appeals – Alternate - term expires June 30, 2026
Building Board of Appeals – Alternate - term expires June 30, 2027
Historical Commission – term expires 12-31-2026
Zoning Board of Appeals – Alternate – term expires June 30, 2027
Zoning Board of Appeals – Alternate – term expires June 30, 2028

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Robert J. Teich, Jr., Mayor
Amy K. Kohagen, 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.