

**CITY OF OWOSSO
REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES SYNOPSIS
MONDAY, MAY 04, 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

Buddy Poppy Sale Kickoff. 2026 Poppy Queen Mylah Morris was on hand to sell the ceremonial first Buddy Poppy to Mayor Robert J. Teich, Jr., marking the start of the annual Buddy Poppy Sale in Owosso.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Shelly Ochodnicki said she felt that Pride events are not appropriate for children and she was disheartened to find the event is once again taking place. She asked that Council enhance the Adult Entertainment ordinance to prohibit such events.

Rick Ross said he is concerned about how Pride events may negatively affect children and could make them more susceptible to abuse. He also said that drag shows are not appropriate for public venues.

Laura Day said she has a 10-year old son and is strongly opposed to the Pride event. She said that Council's approval of the event is endorsing that lifestyle and asked that they reconsider their decision.

Don Fields said he sent a video to Councilmembers last year that showed Pride participants violating decency laws. He said approval of the event allows lewd action in public view and asked the City to enforce its ordinance.

Geno Phillips said no one cares more for children than Jesus Christ and that sexual content has no place in public spaces. He directed Council to fear God and restrain evil and degeneracy.

Sarah Elliott, pastor at First United Methodist Church, commented that each of us was created by God and sexual preference is not a choice. She said the Pride event was people celebrating who they are and the children of the community would be no more or less safe if the event goes on or not.

Joseph Moore said he was seeking Council's support for his plan to combine the properties at 304 and 306 Michigan Avenue then split the new parcel to allow him to build a rental home on the lot. He also commented on the Pride event, saying we need to protect our kids and asked how far things have to go before something is done.

Galen Ponder said he supports Mr. Fields and Mr. Phillips. He said there has been an agenda to forcing things like this on children and it will only get worse. He asked Council to take action now before it's too late.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Owens said he agrees with most of the comments he heard that children should not be involved in drag shows. He asked why the City is not enforcing the ordinance. City Attorney Gould indicated that legally drag shows, dress, and theatrics are free speech. He also noted that the event hasn't yet taken place, and no one can forecast something that hasn't happened yet.

Councilmember Osmer challenged everyone that is concerned with the welfare of children to step up, house them, feed them, read to them, etc. She also noted that it is not wrong to speak about other people with compassion.

Mayor Pro-Tem Haber said drag shows are wrong for kids.

Councilmember Olson noted that a lot of the comments seem to be based on religion. She said that one’s relationship with their god should not affect one’s neighbor. This community is for everyone, not just certain people.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda was approved as follows:

Amend Public Hearing Date - 2026-2027 City Budget. Amended the date for the 2026-2027 Proposed Budget public hearing to Monday, May 18 at 6:30p.m. in Council Chambers at City Hall, 301 West Main Street, to receive citizen comment pursuant to Chapter 8 of the City Charter.

First Reading & Set Public Hearing – Rezoning of 1000 Bradley Street. Conducted first reading and set a public hearing for Monday, May 18, 2026, to receive citizen comment regarding the request from NB Concepts, LLC to rezone the property at 1000 Bradely Street from I-1, Light Industrial, to RM, Multiple Family Residential.

Traffic Control Order - Owosso Pride. Approved application from Owosso Pride for the closure of Curwood Castle Drive from Bradley Street to N. Shiawassee Street for the Owosso Pride event on Saturday, May 30, 2026 from 10:00am until 6:00pm and authorized Traffic Control Order No. 1556 formalizing the action.

CDBG Round 1 Contractors Quotes - Grant Contractors. Approved CDBG Grant Contractors’ quotes in the amount of \$157,901.42 for work performed as a part of a CDBG housing grant and further approved payment to the contractor(s) upon satisfactory completion of the project(s) or portion thereof.

Contract Amendment - Lead Assessments Contract. Amended contract with Environmental Testing and Consulting, Inc. for lead assessments as part of a CDBG housing grant adding \$6,750 for follow-up inspections following lead abatement with a new total of \$19,675.00 and authorized payment to the contractor upon satisfactory completion of the project or portion thereof.

Purchase Authorization – Dell PowerEdge Server Equipment. Waived competitive bidding requirements and approved the purchase of Dell PowerEdge server equipment in an amount not to exceed \$13,105.70 via MiDEAL Contract # 071B6600111, to be paid using the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant.

AP Check Register – April 2026. Affirmed Accounts Payable check disbursements totaling \$1,605,904.08 for April 1, 2026, to April 30, 2026.

Payroll Check Register – April 2026. Affirmed Payroll check disbursements totaling \$879,774.37 for the period from April 1, 2026, to April 28, 2026.

Warrant No. 666. Authorized Warrant No. 666 as follows:

Vendor	Description	Fund	Amount
Waste Management	Landfill Services	WWTP	\$10,299.34
		Total	\$10,299.34

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

Notice of Pecuniary Interest. Entered the notice of pecuniary interest on the record for Councilmember Carl Ludington as it relates to proposed contracts with Ludington Electric, Inc. for the month of April 2026.

Bid Award – Curwood Castle Restoration. Approved a contract with Perrin Construction in the amount of \$163,505 with a contingency of \$32,000 for partial roof replacement, stucco work, plaster repair, electrical improvements, window restoration, replacement of missing slate shingles, gutter repair, and installation of new gutters and authorized payment to the contractor up to the amount of \$195,505.

Capital Improvement Plan Adoption. Approved adoption of the 2026-2032 Capital Improvement Plan as adopted and recommended by the Planning Commission.

Notice of Intent to Issue Revenue Bonds and Right to Referendum - CWSRF Project No. 6034-01. Adopted resolution of Notice of Intent to Issue Revenue Bonds and Right to Referendum thereof for the proposed issuance of bonds to finance 2026 CWSRF Project No. 6034-01 for Wastewater Treatment Plant towers replacement, sewer collection system analysis (smoke testing), and future capacity and flow management (flow metering and sediment analysis).

Notice of Intent to Issue Revenue Bonds and Right to Referendum - DWSRF Project No. 7920-01. Adopted revised resolution of Notice of Intent to Issue Revenue Bonds and Right to

Referendum thereof for the proposed issuance of bonds to finance 2026 DWSRF Project No. 7920-01 for watermain replacements, lead service line replacements, Gute Hill Booster Station rehabilitation, Water Treatment Plant chemistry and Osburn Well rehabilitation.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mike Moore said his religion obliges him to spread the word of God. He asked if Pride is allowed to use the park would a Christian concert be excluded from the same park?

Don Fields stated that the actions at the event that he captured on video last year clearly violate the law. He asked that Council look into the matter and at least stop the drag event.

Pam Morris said drag shows and strip shows are for adults only.

Joseph Moore asked about city-wide recycling.

Bill Moull said he echoed Councilmember Osmer's comments regarding the Historical Commission. He went on to thank Assistant City Manager Amy Fuller and City Manager Nathan Henne for their support for the OHC and its mission. Lastly, he said there will be a prayer at noon on Thursday on the front steps of City Hall, all are invited.

Cynthia Moore wondered if Councilmembers would bring their own children to an event like Pride. She said we need to protect the moral compass of our children and asked if Council wanted Owosso to be known as a perverted community.

Sarah Elliott praised the Public Safety Department saying one of her parishioners had recently had a heart attack while mowing his front lawn. She said the entire Public Safety Department did an amazing job caring for him, but what the man's wife kept talking about was that the officer that responded to the incident took the time to finish mowing the lawn.

Frank Day said it takes a village to raise a child, and it is all of our responsibility to keep kids safe. He said no benefit could come from an event like Pride.

Geno Phillips said he recently opened his home to a toddler that needed a place to stay. He went on to note that he will be present during the Pride event to protest and that people need to remember the word of the Lord.

Alex Ebe told Council they were celebrating sexual degeneracy, and charges should have been filed against participants last year. He said God's law will reign and it is up to Council to keep the city safe.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Osmer said that summer concerts at the amphitheater are coming back working in coordination with the Moonlight Market. She also noted that the City is working on recycling, with listening sessions taking place this week. Lastly she said there will be a mobile food pantry at the Baker College Welcome Center on May 12th.

Councilmember indicated that the Planning Commission will be conducting its annual review of the Master Plan at their next meeting. She encouraged anyone with input on the matter to contact her.

Mayor Pro-Tem Haber noted that the county-wide curbside recycling group had their second meeting recently and are working to help the City meet the curbside recycling requirement. He also thanked the Public Safety Director for a job well done.

Councilmember Olson asked about the ordinance that limits residents to three pets, saying that it bears review if it was last considered in the 1970's. She suggested the use of the City's new communication portal to gather feedback from citizens on the topic. City Manager Henne agreed and asked her for help in developing the options that could be offered.

Councilmember Owens said the comments regarding the Council's moral compass were out of line and no one had any right to judge him. He said they closed the street to keep people safe; it had nothing to do with event itself. He went on to encourage the use of the amphitheater by all organizations, saying it's your amphitheater too.

Councilmember Ludington inquired if an adult entertainment license would be required for the Pride event. City Manager Henne indicated there seemed to be a misunderstanding as to how events like this get approved. He is required to approve or deny applications to use the amphitheater. He is obligated to approve the request of anyone that meets the requirements, it has nothing to do with the subject of the event.

Councilmember Osmer read aloud an email from the City Manager to Council regarding the necessity of remaining neutral in decision making.

City Manager Henne gave an update on the water portal. He said that they have run into some difficulty in getting the portal software to work with the water system software, but this was anticipated and the project is still running on time.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Nathan R. Henne, City Manager. City Manager Report – April 2026.

Lizzie L. Fredrick, Executive Director, Downtown Development Authority - DDA Market Report 2026.

COMMUNICATIONS

Ryan E. Suchanek, Utilities Director. 2025 Water Quality Report.

Stephen Schlaack, Planning Commission. Letter of resignation.

Brad A. Barrett, Finance Director. Revenues & Expenditures Report – April 2026.

Owosso Historical Commission. Minutes of April 13, 2026.

Parks and Recreation Commission. Minutes of April 22, 2026.

Planning Commission. Minutes of April 27, 2026.

Owosso Historical Commission. Special Meeting Minutes of April 24, 2026.

Carnegie Library Property Committee. Minutes of April 23, 2026.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, May 6, 2026 at 6:00 Special Meeting – Budget Workshop

Monday, May 18, 2026

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS OPENINGS

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

Building Board of Appeals – Alternate - term expires June 30, 2027

Downtown Historic District Commission – term expires June 30, 2027

Planning Commission – 2 terms expire June 30, 2027

Planning Commission – term expires June 30, 2028

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 8:17 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.