

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

Curwood Festival Donation. Curwood Royalty presented the City with a \$1,000.00 donation from the Curwood Festival for the maintenance of Curwood Castle.

Promotional Ceremony – Police Department Employee. A ceremony was held recognizing the promotion of Amber Curry to Owosso Police Department Sergeant.

Proclamation – National Friends of Libraries Week. Mayor Teich read aloud a proclamation of the Mayor's Office declaring October 17-23, 2026 as National Friends of Library Week in the City of Owosso.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Special Assessment District No. 2026-102 - Hazards & Nuisances. A public hearing was conducted to receive citizen comment regarding proposed Special Assessment District No. 2026-102, Hazards & Nuisances, as it relates to unpaid costs incurred in the altering, repairing, tearing down, abating or removing of hazards and nuisances. There were no citizen comments received prior to or during the hearing. The Council moved to approve the special assessment roll as proposed.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Diana Hayes said the City is doing nothing to help seniors, and she would like to view the City's financial documentation.

Mike Cline said he felt that Councilmember Osmer had a conflict of interest in voting to approve the firm hired to assist the City in obtaining community reaction to the new recycling requirement. He asked how this could happen.

Galen Ponder said the recent candidate forum went really well and was a good thing for Owosso.

Julie Pickell said she is concerned with the feral cat problem and would like the City to partner with Community Cats of Owosso by providing funding for medical supplies and infrastructure.

Tom Manke asked that an investigation into Councilmember Osmer's actions be conducted to determine if she violated the City Charter. He said he felt that the whole issue was pushed by the Cook family.

Kerry Tyler said she has two cat colonies located near her house and Community Cats of Owosso had been able to assist them in the past but no longer has the funds. She asked that the City partner with Community Cats to try and improve the situation.

Lori Bailey, co-founder of Community Cats of Owosso, said her organization fixes approximately 1,000 cats per year, but they are strained financially. She said she is hoping the City can help to reach even more cat owners.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Osmer said it is true she works for the Cook Family Foundation and that the Cook Family Foundation gave the City a grant to assist in obtaining citizen comment on the new recycling requirement. She said that at no time did she financially benefit from the Cook's donation to the City.

Mayor Teich announced that interested parties can now register for the Glow Parade, go to downtownowosso.org for more information.

He went on to indicate that Council will meet in January to develop goals for the coming year and that may be the best time to consider partnering with Community Cats.

Councilmember Olson offered that the City will make payment arrangements for your water bill as long as you contact them before the bill is due.

Mayor Teich said there is no quick answer to giving seniors a break, there are many infrastructure needs throughout the City. He commended the Council for taking action on the water rates when other Councils had not. He said it is the responsibility of Council to work for the betterment of the community, and they are doing the best they can.

Councilmember Fear pointed out that all budgets and audits are available on the City website at www.ci.owosso.mi.us.

Councilmember Osmer gave a shout out to Community Cats of Owosso for all of the good work that they do for the community.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda was approved as follows:

Traffic Control Order Request - Glow Owosso Parade, 5K and Tree Lighting. Approved request from Lizzie Fredrick, Owosso Main Street Director, for the street and lot closures for the annual Glow Owosso Parade, 5K, and Tree Lighting on Friday, November 27, 2026 beginning at 12:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. and further approved Traffic Control Order No. 1569 formalizing the action.

Traffic Control Order– Michigan Ave at the railroad tracks. Approved Traffic Control Order No. 1570 for the permanent closure of Michigan Avenue at the railroad tracks south of Cass Street.

Sole Source Purchase – Legal Printing Services. Waived competitive bidding requirements, approved the sole source purchase of legal printing services from Owosso Newsmedia LLC aka The Argus-Press for the period from October 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027, and authorized payment based on unit prices for actual services rendered.

Warrant No. 669. Authorized Warrant No. 669 as follows:

Vendor	Description	Fund	Amount
Shiawassee Economic Development Partnership	Annual Dues	General	\$40,000.00
Caledonia Charter Township	Quarterly Payment per Water District Agreement	Water	\$89,924.22
Owosso Charter Township	Quarterly Payment per Water Agreement	Water	\$32,609.93
		TOTAL	\$162,534.15

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

None.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mike Cline asked if the City's financial records were open to the public if they wanted to come to City Hall and sit down to look at them.

Julie Pickell said she had lots of visions as to what could be done in recruiting volunteers and educating the public.

Tom Manke said he did not believe Ms. Osmer's statement of innocence and said the matter should be investigated. He went on to note that Councilmember Ludington makes a disclosure every time he performs work for the City.

Lori Bailey thanked the Councilmembers for being brave and for loving the City. She said she knew from experience that they were not making easy decisions.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Osmer clarified that Councilmember Ludington gets paid for his work for the City, she does not.

Councilmember Owens said Council is well aware of who she works for.

Councilmember Olson announced that she would like to hold an Owosso Repair Day on November 14th from 10:00am – 4:00pm at her shop next to Taphouse Specialty Meat. Her desire is to have people good at fixing things volunteer to repair various items other citizens bring in.

There was a discussion among Council if they could "nip this in the bud" before Mr. Manke goes home and writes a story that is inaccurate. It was ultimately agreed there was nothing they could do.

Councilmember Fear noted that Council worked a long time to narrow the options on recycling and the single hauler option was chosen by a unanimous vote. She said that Councilmembers

work to be mindful of the whole city and that Ms. Osmer had no conflict of interest when she voted on recycling.

COMMUNICATIONS

Nathan Henne, City Manager. September 2026 Financial Report.
Tanya S. Buckelew, Planning & Building Director. September 2026 Building Department Report.
Tanya S. Buckelew, Planning & Building Director. September 2026 Code Violations Report.
Tanya S. Buckelew, Planning & Building Director. September 2026 Inspections Report.
Tanya S. Buckelew, Planning & Building Director. September 2026 Rental Report.
Tanya S. Buckelew, Planning & Building Director. September 2026 Certificates Issued Report.
Kevin D. Lenkart, Public Safety Director. September 2026 Police Report.
Kevin D. Lenkart, Public Safety Director. September 2026 Parking Citation Report
Kevin D. Lenkart, Public Safety Director. September 2026 Fire Report.
Downtown Development Authority. Minutes of October 14, 2026.

NEXT MEETING

Monday, November 2, 2026

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS OPENINGS

Building Board of Appeals – Alternate - term expires June 30, 2028
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, 2029
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 7:36 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.