

Minutes for Owenton City Council

June 08, 2023

5:30pm at City Hall

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Adam Gaines at 5:30pm.

Council members present were Larry Dale Perry, Patty Sue Miller, Jill Dunavent, Jimmy Marston, Joyce New and Clark Roberts, creating a Quorum.

Also present: City Clerk Sherry Hamilton, Deputy Clerk Anita Sipple, Fire Chief Greg Estes, Assistant Fire Chief Clay James, Police Chief Clint Aldridge, Public Works Timmy DeZarn, and City Attorney Mitzy Ford.

Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation: Sherry Hamilton

Guests: David Lilly, Gayle Parsons, and Sharon James

May 11, 2023 Minutes- Motion made by Larry Dale Perry to approve minutes. Seconded by Jimmy Marston. Motion carried.

May Financial Statement- Motion made Patty Sue Miller to approve financial statement. Seconded by Jill Dunavent. Motion carried.

Police Report- Chief Aldridge gave the May police report. Officers had driven several miles in May, partly because they had to transport individuals that they had arrested to the detention center in Carrollton. Officers patrolled during Food Truck Friday and the Rebel Outreach that was held in May. Chief Aldridge had met with KLC to discuss the police audit. KLC suggested taking model policies that they had already written and adapting them to fit the city's police department. Chief Aldridge is in the process of going through the policies. Officer Downey has taken and passed the 1st test at the academy.

Fire Report- Chief Estes and Assistant Chief James gave the May Fire report. They showed the council the AED monitor that they had received through a grant and a gas meter that detects gas odor. They also had with them a Jaws of Life that the county had received through a grant. Chief Estes and Assistant Chief James presented to the council a loan application for the fire department to purchase 8 SCBA units. The loan would be at 3% interest. They explained that

the current units are not safe to use, and they needed units now. They explained that they were working with Adam Fuller to write a grant for the units but would not know until late this year or even early next year if they would get approved.

Mayor Gaines asked if they knew the terms of the loan or the length of the loan. They were unsure. Mayor Gaines expressed the opinion that before the council agrees to the loan, they should understand the terms and length of the loan. He suggested looking into cashing a CD before taking the loan. Chief Estes asked the council to consider implementing a fire fee on the yearly tax bills to assist the department with expenses.

City Clerk Sherry Hamilton asked them to set up a meeting with her to discuss the budget that council had passed for the 2023-2024 fiscal year before council decided to take out a loan or cash a CD.

Public Works-Timmy DeZarn gave the May Public Works report. The section in the middle of Progress way where the Industrial sign had been was blacktopped. They used a new cold patch that is supposed to hold up to traffic better. Mr. DeZarn had assisted the water department at the section of 127 and Roland Ave in directing traffic while they repaired the road where there had been a water line break. Mr. DeZarn worked one evening driving through town and marking streetlights that were out. The city reported 12 to KU and they have already taken care of the issue. Mr. DeZarn was busy during May weed eating and assisting Ms. Sipple with Nuisance complaints. There are plans to paint arrows on the roads around the courthouse square as soon as the city can obtain a stencil. The city is also trying to get one-way signs erected to direct traffic one the proper direction on one-way streets. There has been some issues with acquiring the holders for the posts.

Old Business:

1. Second Reading of Ordinance 780-Replacing Ordinance 751-Salary Guideline. Larry Dale Perry made a motion to approve the guideline. Seconded by Patty Sue Miller. Motion carried.
2. Second Reading of Ordinance 781-2023-2024 Budget. Larry Dale Perry made a motion to approve the budget. Seconded by Jill Dunavent. Motion carried.
3. Jill Dunavent presented artwork to the council for the crosswalk project. She had met with Kelsey Davis and Jenny Urie to discuss ideas on painting the city crosswalks. One design was presented to council along with a design for a mural to be placed on a building. Ms. Dunavent said this was just one idea. They were working on others. The council discussed holding community meetings after the designs were completed to get input from the community and possibly giving the community 2 or 3 choices to vote on.

Ms Urie said she had some very talented students that could do the work once the design was approved but felt like the amount of work to be done would warrant compensation. Ms. Davis was also working on submitting a grant through CEDIK for Owenton/Owen County to assist with the cost of the project.

4. City Attorney, Mitzy Ford presented a franchise agreement that she had received from Spectrum. Ms. Ford had several questions about the agreement. The county has already signed the agreement with Spectrum. Ms. Ford submitted an open records request and had received a copy of the agreement from the county to see if it was the same agreement. Ms. Ford informed the council she still felt there were questions to be answered before the mayor signed the agreement. Ms. Ford suggested that she correspond with the Spectrum agent with the questions and revisit the issue at the next meeting. Council agreed.

New Business:

1. Council received a copy of the 2022-2023 yearly financial audit from Maddox and Associates. Since they had not had ample time to review the audit, the mayor requested it be put on the June agenda to review at that time.

City Attorney Report: Ms. Ford requested the council go into Executive Session to discuss possible legal action involving the city. The mayor suggested they complete council comments so that visitors would not have to stay and wait until council came out of executive session unless they chose to stay. Council members agreed.

City Clerk Report: No Additional Report

Council Member Comments:

Larry Dale Perry: Mr. Perry inquired if Kentucky American Water had finished repaving West Adair where it had been torn up to repair the sewage lines. Mayor Gaines said they had reached out to him that day and informed him they finished the work.

Jimmy Marston: No Comments

Joyce New: Ms. New informed the council that she had been approached regarding the traffic island at the courthouse square. This individual felt it was unsafe, trouble seeing in the left turn lane. Mayor Gaines pointed out that there had been no traffic accidents there since the triangle had been installed. Ms. New felt like the complaints needed to be addressed. Mr.

Perry suggested that the left lane be blocked off and direct traffic to turn left or go straight in the lane closest to the triangle and turn right from the lane closest to the old jail.

Ms Dunavent suggested that the transportation department be contacted to come do a study on the safety of the triangle. Mayor Gaines reminded the council that the triangle was paid for with a Safety Grant from the state. They had already performed a study and reported it was safe. Ms. Dunavent would like them to come do another study. Mayor Gaines said he would see about having them come again. The mayor also reminded the council if they voted to remove the triangle, the city would have to pay back the grant funds used to do the project. Ms. New informed council that the flowers had been planted in the planters in the city and that the died trees had been removed, new trees had been ordered. No flowers have been planted at the city limit signs. Ms. New was seeking directions on if there should be flowers there. Council members suggested waiting since it was extremely dry, and the flowers might not do too well.

Ms. New asked about the progress of the development of Thomas Lake. Mayor Gaines said they were in the process of doing some surveys on boundary lines.

Jill Dunavent: Ms. Dunavent informed the council that she was working with Molly Haines, Public Information Officer for the county, to start a Facebook page for the city. Once established, access to respond or comment would be restricted to one or two individuals. The primary focus of the page would be positive events happening in the city.

Patty Sue Miller: No Comments

Clark Roberts: Mr. Roberts commented he had noticed weeds were growing in some of the sidewalks. Mayor Gaines said that Mr. Miller had recently sprayed and they should be dying back. Mr. Roberts wondered if flowers were not going to be planted around the city signs could they be sprayed for weeds. Mr. Roberts said he had also noticed that some of the sidewalks were very uneven. Mayor Gaines said that the city has been looking for grants to repair and widen the sidewalks.

Mr. Roberts asked about the repairs on Rose Court. It seems the concrete is sinking away from the black top. Mayor Gaines said he had reached out to Mr. O'Banion, who did the repairs, but had not heard back from him yet.

Mr. Roberts reported that people were parking on the road close to pool hall. He asked if no parking signs could be put up. Mayor Gaines said we would investigate getting them.

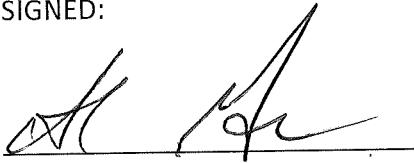
A motion to go into Executive Session was made by Clark Roberts at 6:51. Seconded by Joyce New.

Clark Roberts made a motion at 7:16pm to exit Executive Session. Seconded by Joyce New.

No Action Taken.

Having no further business, Mayor Adam Gaines entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Clark Roberts made a motion to adjourn at 7:17pm. Joyce New seconded.

SIGNED:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Adam Gaines', written over a horizontal line.

Adam Gaines

Mayor

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Sherry Hamilton', written over a horizontal line.

Sherry Hamilton