

Regular Meeting
Owenton City Council
November 09, 2023
5:30pm at City Hall

Mayor Adam Gaines presiding.

Council members present: Larry Dale Perry, Jill Dunavent, Jimmy Marston, Clark Roberts, and Patty Sue Miller. Also present: City Clerk Sherry Hamilton, Deputy Clerk Anita Sipple, City Attorney Mitzy Ford, Chief of Police Clint Aldridge and Fire Chief Greg Estes. Council member Joyce New was absent.

Mayor Adam Gaines called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation: Adam Gaines

Guests: Gayle Parsons, Kendall Staton, Clay James, David Lilly, and Matt Dunaway.

October 12, 2023 Minutes. Larry Dale Perry made a motion to approve the October minutes. Seconded by Patty Sue Miller. Motion carried.

October 2023 Financial Statement Jimmy Marston made a motion to approve the October financial statement. Patty Sue Miller seconded. Motion carried.

Police Report: Chief Clint Aldridge presented the Police Report. Arrests are down some for the month of October, but officers were still busy with complaints and citations. Chief Aldridge went to the story walk held at the park, gave out candy and showed the participants some features of the cruiser. Both officers assisted with trick-or-treat night. Other than being cold the event went smoothly.

Fire Report: Chief Greg Estes gave the Fire Report. Chief Estes said he wanted the police officers to know that the SEEK cameras the fire department purchased are available to them anytime they needed to assist in finding missing persons. Mayor Gaines asked Chief Estes his thoughts on the fee that Kentucky American wants to impose on the city for the fire hydrants. He said the fire department does not use fire hydrants. They fill their trucks at the fire station. Currently the hydrants are not IPO rated, meaning they don't pump high enough pressure to use in a fire. Kentucky American water is seeking \$33,000.00 from the city to use the hydrants. Mayor Gaines stated it was his understanding that the Public Service Commission did not ask for this fee to be imposed. That Kentucky American went to the Commission and asked if they could charge the fee. Mayor Gaines stated that as long as he was Mayor, he would fight to not pay this fee.

Public Works: Timmy DeZarn gave the Public Works report. He has installed new EXIT signs at City Hall as the old ones were not working. An electrician came and installed an Exit sign downstairs at the back exit door to bring the building into compliance. The lines at the triangle have been completed and the lower part of the sidewalk on West Seminary has been repaired. The one-way sign and the no left turn sign has been placed at the corner of West Bryan and Thomas Street. Larry Dale Perry asked if No Parking Signs could be placed on West Perry by Family Billard's parking lot. He also wants to see an arrow painted on the road coming up Madison by Family Billiards.

Old Business:

1. Matt Dunaway presented a proposal to council on updating the building permit charges. That was postponed from last months meeting. The charges had not been updated since 1990. He gave them each a document with new rates that are in line with surrounding counties/cities. He explained that these rates were not the highest or the lowest being charged by our surrounding counties/cities. Council agreed the rates needed to be updated. City Attorney Mitzy Ford will draft a new ordinance to amend the current one. Council discussed having a special meeting for the first reading of the ordinance. A Special meeting will be held December 7, 2023, at 5:30pm for the first reading. The second reading will be at the regular December meeting.

2. Mayor Gaines gave an update on the Police Cruisers. The Durango came back from the shop after the engine replacement. Officer McIntosh drove the vehicle for a couple of days and decided to check for any leaking around the new motor. He discovered that there was oil in the radiator. Rather than take the vehicle back to the same shop, he contacted another Dodge dealer. They said to bring it and they would look at it. Officer McIntosh also contacted Dodge regarding being told there was no warranty on the vehicle now. They said that was not the case, the warranty would just continue from where the milage was on the engine that had been replaced, not reset. The Dodge dealer that has the vehicle is flushing the lines and making sure it is running as it should before returning it to the city. Since new vehicles are 4 to 6 months out on being available and this one has a warranty, the mayor said we should keep it for now.

The mayor then gave an update on the black cruiser. It is still having issues with the transmission. The vehicle is currently at the Chevrolet Dealership. The mayor asked if it was still under warranty. Officer Aldridge said he wasn't sure but would ask. New Cruisers are currently \$50,000.00 to \$70,000.00, so if it is warranted maybe keep it a while longer. Council asked if the warranty could be extended and how much that would cost. Officer Aldridge will ask if it can be extended.

New Business:

1. Mayor Gaines asked council for a vote to surplus the old Chevrolet 1500 city truck. The city purchased a Chevrolet 2017 2500 to replace the truck. Clark Roberts made a

motion to surplus the truck and sell it either on GovDeals or locally. Larry Dale Perry seconded. Motion carried.

2. Mayor Gaines suggested that the council hold council comments before voting to go into executive session so the guests did not have to wait if they didn't choose to.

Council Member Comments:

Larry Dale Perry: No Comments

Jimmy Marston: No Comments

Joyce New: Ms. New was absent.

Jill Dunavent: Ms. Dunavent said she had gotten concerns from her neighbors regarding the speed bumps on Kelly Court. Since she understood that the issue would be brought to council in December she would wait to comment.

Patty Sue Miller: Ms. Miller asked if anything could be done regarding the dumpster behind the apartment building close to her house. People who do not live in the apartment building are coming there and dumping their trash in it. The mayor said he would ask the police to patrol the area more often.

Clark Roberts: Mr. Roberts said he had not gotten in touch with anyone about the lights on West Seminary yet. Ms. Hamilton said she had contacted Integrity Electric, and they were interested in the project. The person she spoke to is going to let her know when he can come to look at what the city has in mind to do with the lights. Jill Dunavent asked if the city proceeds with the project can the lights that are there now be donated to the park. The mayor said that could be a possibility. Mr. Roberts asked when the Christmas lights were going to be hung. John Lilly, Owen Electric is coming on the 17th to hang the lights. He said there were several potholes on North Madison. Public Works will look. Mr. Roberts asked about the Spring Grant and if it could be reworded to include a stipulation to require receipts and repayment if it was not spent. Mr. Roberts inquired if Parks and Recreation had received enough funds to complete the renovation of the ball fields. Larry Dale Perry said he believed they had.

Mayor Gaines reported that he had been approached by a community member regarding placing an "In Need" box somewhere in the city. The box is designed to leave items in the box and take items from the box. Travis Green has already constructed the box. The box would have to be placed on city owned property. The mayor suggested the parking lot behind city hall. Council members thought it needed to be somewhere more visible. Fire Chief Greg Estes suggested putting it at the firehouse by the mailboxes. It was agreed that was a better place.

Mayor Gaines reported that the streetlights on East Adair were very dim and the street was not very well illuminated. He suggested contacting KU for some possible solutions. A couple of council members said there are lights in other areas of the city that are out. Mr. DeZarn said he would come out one evening and get a list for KU. They want several out before they come to repair them.

After council comments, Larry Dale Perry made a motion at 6:07pm to go into executive session. Patty Sue Miller seconded. Motion carried.

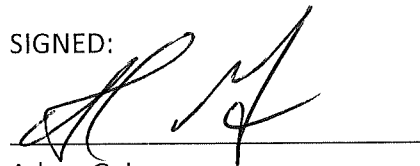
Larry Dale Perry made a motion to exit executive session at 6:30pm. Clark Roberts seconded. Motion carried. Coming out of executive session Patty Sue Miller made a motion to advertise to hire a police officer. Larry Dale Perry Seconded. Motion carried.

City Attorney Report: None

City Clerk Report: City Clerk reported that the liability insurance denied the claim on the Maintenance building. Repairs must be made before the floor in the back cracks and falls. Bids are being taken for the repairs.

Having no further business, Mayor Adam Gaines entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:44pm. Larry Dale Perry made the motion to adjourn. Patty Sue Miller Seconded. Motion Carried.

SIGNED:



Adam Gaines
Mayor

ATTEST:



Sherry Hamilton
City Clerk