

Regular Meeting
Owenton City Council
December 14, 2023
5:30pm at City Hall

Mayor Adam Gaines presiding.

Council members present: Larry Dale Perry, Jill Dunavent, Jimmy Marston, 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 and Council member Clark Roberts were absent.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation: Clay James

Guests: Gayle Parsons, Clay James, David Lilly, J O Powers, Dana Gill, Sue Roe, Sheila Stewart, and Chuck Gill.

Dana Gill spoke to the council regarding the motion council passed at the August 10, 2023 regular meeting to temporarily place two speed bumps on Kelly Court to see if they would help slow traffic for the safety of children. Mrs. Gill presented a petition to the council from residents on Kelly Court and Sunset Drive opposing the speed bumps. Mrs. Gill stated she was not sure that all the residents that signed the petition wanting the speed bumps live on Kelly Court. Mrs. Gill acknowledged that the main concern was to stop the children from playing in the street but that is not going to happen. She felt like speed bumps would not accomplish that goal. She felt like the speed bumps would be an inconvenience for traffic, snow removal and would create water runoff into yards. She presented some regulations on speed bumps to council referring to KRS91.12. She further stated vehicles that sat close to the road could be damaged by scraping on them. Speed bumps slow emergency vehicles as well. Further, Mrs. Gill felt that the speed bumps would not take care of the problem. Mayor Gaines thanked Mrs. Gill for her presentation.

The mayor next recognized J.O. Powers to address the council regarding the speed bumps. He stated that the issue was not handled in the right way, no notification was given to residents and the residents did not want speed bumps. He said that he was part of the fire department for many years and had never worked a vehicle vs. pedestrian accident. Mr. Power stated that there are very few children that play on the street those that do usually move over for vehicles. Mayor Gaines thanked Mr. Powers for his comments.

Mayor Gaines asked if there were any other comments on the speed bump. Council member Jill Dunavent added that she played in the street when she was growing up and was taught to go to the side of the street when vehicles were coming down the street. These children do not

do that. She went on to comment that the first option on West Adair was not a speed bump. A stop sign was installed. Ms. Dunavent asked if signs could not be installed such as "children at play". There is one at Sunset Dr but it is not as visible as should be. Possibly putting a stop sign at the beginning of the street. Mayor Gaines stated that the city could force parents to practice or teach safety. One thing the city could do was install speed bumps to slow down traffic. He asked if the residents at the meeting could deal with making no attempt to safeguard children and a child was hit by a car. Some of them responded that they could. He reminded those in attendance of the drowning that took place last year. The city has an ordinance on pool safety but was not as vigilant as they should have been in enforcing the ordinance. The city now makes every effort to make sure the ordinance is followed regardless of those who have pools not wanting to follow the regulations. He does not want to ever have to deal with another situation like that again.

He feels like the city has an obligation to do everything in their power to make sure children are safe. Jill Dunavent said that she too wants to make sure children are safe but wondered if there were other options to explore first such as the police speaking to parents. Chief Aldridge said he had spoken with parents and the Cabinet for Children and Families. This helped for a while. He said that with two officers for the police department it is difficult to cover more than they already do but they would try to drive down the streets more often.

Mayor Gaines said while he felt very strongly that the speed bumps were needed, both sides had presented their side he would take a motion from council to not put speed bumps on Kelly Court. Larry Dale Perry made a motion to not to put speed bumps on Kelly Court. Jill Dunavent seconded. Mayor Gaines asked for a roll call vote from council members.

Larry Dale Perry-Yes

Jimmy Marson-Yes

Jill Dunavent-Yes

Patty Sue Miller-Yes

Joyce New-Absent

Clark Roberts-Absent

Motion Carried

Jill Dunavent asked if they could continue the conversation on what could be done on Kelly Court. She asked if speed limit signs could be moved to be more visible on Kelly Court. He would investigate the regulation of signage. Ms. Dunavent asked if a sign that flashes what your speed is could be installed temporarily so people could see how fast they were going. Mayor Gaines said power to the sign could be an issue and most of them were solar powered. The lack of sun on the street could be an issue and he thought it was very expensive.

Mayor Gaines said before moving on to the rest of the business he wanted to put it on the record that he was very disappointed in his council in this decision and did not support the decision.

November 09, 2023 Minutes. Larry Dale Perry made a motion to approve the November minutes. Seconded by Patty Sue Miller. Motion carried.

November 2023 Financial Statement Patty Sue Miller made a motion to approve the November financial statement. Larry Dale Perry seconded. Motion carried.

Police Report: Chief Clint Aldridge presented the Police Report. November was a slow month due to the Cruiser situation and Chief Aldridge being sick. In addition to the monthly report, he informed council that the new owners of Hometown Pizza had finally gotten their LR100 Alcohol License replacing the traditional one. He also mentioned that Troy Bramblett had demolished the house on East Perry and cleaned up the debris.

Fire Report: Chief Greg Estes gave the Fire Report. Chief Estes reported that the department had investigated changing the deductions on the yearly insurance but discovered it did not make a significant difference in cost. He reported that Fire Truck 9822 gear box is leaking and would need to be repaired. The annual Fire Department Christmas Dinner was well attended. Several fire department members along with the police department aided in traffic control for the Christmas parade and there were no issues. The fire department gave the payment for their time to Parks and Recreation to aid in updating the ball fields.

Public Works: Mayor Gaines gave a brief report on public works. The Christmas lights have been hung thanks to John Lilly, Seth Kincaid, Owen Electric and the city's own employees. While some of the lights on Main Street do not appear to be working, they come on when the streetlights come on at dark. Mayor Gaines and Timmy DeZarn hung the new banners the Friday after Thanksgiving. It has been reported that some of the curbs on Robin Dr have crumbling concrete. The city is making plans to replace the damage.

Old Business:

1. Mayor Gaines gave an update on the Police Cruisers. An F150 has been ordered to replace the black Tahoe (501). It could be up to 8 months before that is available but ordering now holds the price for the vehicle.
The wheel came off the 2014 Dodge Charger while Officer McIntosh was responding to a nonemergency call. The insurance approved the estimate of \$9686.94 for repairs and towing invoices but did not total the vehicle. The consensus of the mayor and council was that if repaired the vehicle would not bring that much from auction. Larry Dale Perry made a motion to surplus the vehicle as is. Jimmy Marston seconded. Motion carried.
2. Mayor Gaines reported that the Silverado 2006 Public Works truck has been sold on GovDeals.com for \$1702.00. The city is just waiting for the high bidder to send payment to GovDeals and pick up the truck.

New Business:

1. Held the first reading on Ordinance 787-changing the building permit charges. Larry Dale Perry made a motion to approve the ordinance. Jill Dunavent seconded. Vote will be taken at second reading in January.
2. Mayor Gaines reported that only one bid was turned in the repairs to the maintenance building. Since that bid was under what he could approve, he met with the contractor and gave approval to do the repairs.
3. Mayor Gaines asked for a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue. Larry Dale Perry made the motion at 6:06. Patty Sue Miller seconded. Motion carried.
4. Larry Dale Perry made a motion at 6:24 to exit Executive Session. Jill Dunavent seconded. Motion carried. No Action taken.

City Attorney Report: None

City Clerk Report: City Clerk reported \$174,000.00 has been collected from property taxes. She asked council members to please complete the survey that the auditor had emailed to them. That is the final piece to be completed to finalize the audit. She also informed council that American Legal had completed the update on the Codification of Ordinances. Mayor Gaines asked the City Clerk to inform council about the possible funds available for NKADD to help cities with projects. NKADD have grant funds that they have transferred to their account, and they will be seeking applications from members to help with a project the member might need funds for. The project must be at least \$20,000.00. If the member is rewarded the assistance it could mean up to \$7000.00. One project that the mayor and city clerk had discussed was replacing a section of sidewalks.

Council Member Comments:

Larry Dale Perry: Mr. Perry said the streetlight by his house was still intermittently going off. Mayor Gaines said that Mr. DeZarn had made a list for KU of problems and Ms. Sipple had turned that list in to KU.

Mr. Perry also commented on how well the parade went. Everyone agreed.

Jimmy Marston: No Comments

Joyce New: Ms. New was absent.

Jill Dunavent: Ms. Dunavent asked if there had been any updates on the lake property. Mayor Gaines said when he last spoke with the owners in September there was a dispute with neighboring properties on the property lines.

Ms. Dunavent asked about the Small Business Grant that is given in the spring. She was asking that the wording be changed to give a timeline for using the Grant and a contract be made with

the award winner that if the funds are not used the funds be repaid to the city. City Attorney Mitzy Evans said she would look at the form that has been used and give suggestions.

Ms. Dunavent commented that she felt as strongly about the traffic island as the mayor did about Kelly Court not being safe for children. She said she was very disappointed in the mayor for not pursuing having someone from the state to come give suggestions on how to make it safer. The mayor assured her he would contact someone. She felt like the local businesses should have input on the triangle. The mayor said he was not a voting member but would entertain a motion from council to have the triangle removed. No council member made a motion. Larry Dale Perry suggested closing the left lane.

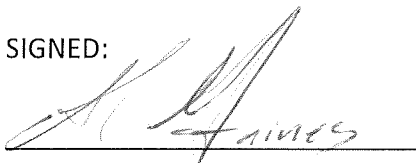
Patty Sue Miller: Ms. Miller asked again about the dumpster behind the building belonging to Pat Beverly. There is a couch sitting beside the dumpster. Mayor Gaines asked the City Clerk to have the public works department take it to the dump. Mayor Gaines also said there is couch on the back porch of the house next to the Dollar Store. He asked for pictures to be taken and a letter to be sent to them with the ordinance.

Clark Roberts: Mr. Roberts was absent.

Mayor Gaines said he had spoken with Ashley Young from the state regarding the complaint about motorist using the right side of Seminary at the stoplight as a turn lane. He was informed that the state is going to repave that street and will install barriers there to prevent the use of that space.

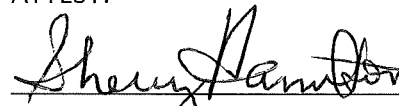
Having no further business, Mayor Adam Gaines entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:43pm. Larry Dale Perry made the motion to adjourn. Patty Sue Miller Seconded. Motion Carried.

SIGNED:



Adam Gaines
Mayor

ATTEST:



Sherry Hamilton
City Clerk