

Regular Meeting
Owenton City Council
January 11, 2024
5:30pm at City Hall

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

Council members present: Larry Dale Perry, Jill Dunavent, Joyce New, 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, Fire Chief Greg Estes, Assistant Fire Chiefs Clay James, and Darrell Hearn. Council member Jimmy Marston was absent. Council Member Larry Dale Perry left the meeting at 6:00pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation: Clark Roberts

Guests: Gayle Parsons, David Lilly, Jenny Urie and Kelsey Davis (Later)

December 14, 2023 Minutes. Larry Dale Perry made a motion to approve the December minutes. Seconded by Patty Sue Miller. Motion carried.

December 2023 Financial Statement. Larry Dale Perry made a motion to approve the December financial statement. Jill Dunavent seconded. Motion carried.

Police Report: Chief Clint Aldridge presented the December Police Report. He reported the Christmas Parade went well. There were no incidents, it was very cold. He and Officer McIntosh were out on New's Eve. He reported it was a very quiet night. Mr. Roberts asked if the businesses in the city with Alcohol License had been informed of the new percentage for the regulatory fee. City Clerk, Sherry Hamilton reported they had received the new Ordinance. Ms. Miller asked if Chief Aldridge had reviewed food/alcohol sales that were reported for accuracy. He said he had not but that was something he could look into. He did report that he had attended an ABC training in Frankfort and there were a few changes that Mitzy Ford, City Attorney was investigating to see if they affected the city policies. Chief Aldridge reported that he had several applications for the police position. He and the mayor were looking at scheduling interviews very soon.

Fire Report: Chief Greg Estes gave the Fire Report. Chief Estes reported that 9822 had been repaired, waiting on the invoice to pay for it. Grants are now opened to apply for, they are applying to get the SCBA equipment as well as new Cascade System, the one they currently have cannot fill to the pressure they need. There are currently 26 personnel on the fire department and 30 on Search and Rescue. They worked a house fire close to New Liberty and they were able to get it put out quickly. Chief Estes reported the department had worked 2

house fires on 607 in December. One of which was a total loss. Mr. Roberts asked about the status on the hydrant fee that Kentucky American had asked for. Mayor Gaines reported that he had met with them. He told them that if they could identify 5 or 6 hydrants that they have updated, he would be ok with paying the fee for those otherwise they would have to get a court order for the city to pay the fee. Mr. Roberts asked if the fire department tracked the water usage for a fire. They do. Mr. Roberts wondered if Kentucky American could bill for the water used. Mayor Gaines further stated that the list of hydrants given to him included ones that were not in the city.

Public Works: Timmy DeZarn gave the December report on public works. Since he was on vacation and city hall was closed for holidays in December there was not a lot to report. Mr. DeZarn had tried to get some of the dead flowers out of the flowerpots on the square. He did succeed on some, but others were frozen to the dirt. He reported that he and Mr. Cobb had cleaned the maintenance building, and it looked a lot better and had a lot more useable space. Mr. DeZarn reported he and Mr. Cobb had completed shelving downstairs in city hall to store boxes of materials that have to be kept. Mr. DeZarn removed the decals on the Dodge Cruiser since it was listed for sale, lights will also be removed. He reported that the 15 mile and hour and the children at play signs were ready to be placed on Kelly Court, he was waiting for the ground to thaw.

Old Business:

1. Held the second reading on Ordinance 787-changing the building permit charges. Jill Dunavent made a motion to approve the ordinance. Joyce New seconded. Motion Carried.
2. Mayor Gaines gave an update on the Police Cruisers. The Durango was back in action and seems to be running well. The Dodge 2014 Charger has been listed on GovDeals for sale.
3. Mayor Gaines reported that a bid to repair the upstairs electric at the old city hall building had been awarded and work should start soon.
4. Mayor Gaines informed the council he had been in contact with Linzy Brefield at the transportation department on doing a safety assessment on the triangle. She had agreed to schedule safety inspection and traffic survey, but the mayor was not sure when that would happen.

New Business:

1. Mayor Gaines presented a revised Spring Grant Application to the council. City Attorney, Mitzy Ford added a paragraph regarding a timeline and proof of how the grant is spent. Mr. Roberts commented that the funds were taxpayers' money and felt that it was only reasonable to expect proof of expenditure. Ms. Ford asked if this was something the city had to do or chose to do. Th city chooses to do this as an incentive for businesses. Ms. Ford commented that if this was not being used by businesses maybe the city consider not offering the grant

and do city sponsored projects. Jill Dunavent made a motion to approve the changes to the spring grant. Clark Roberts seconded. Motion Carried.

At this time Mayor Gaines recognized Kelsey Davis and Jenny Urie to give an update to the council on the crosswalk project that had been discussed at an earlier council meeting. They, along with council member Jill Dunavent had met earlier in the month and had a design to present. They presented a design consisting of pictures that reflect the community, such as a barn, sunflower, barn, etc. It is in the shape of a hopscotch board.

They discussed with the council where the first crosswalk should be located. They were also seeking answers to some questions on how to proceed. Ms. Urie reported that she had started an National Art Honor Society at the high school. The students are required to do community service and felt this would be a good way for them to complete that requirement. She also has an Art Club that could help with the project. Ms. Urie has been considering the logistics on where to put, closing street, dry time for paint, etc. Ms. Urie said she had done some research into grants to help with the cost. She would continue to see if anything such as safety grants, because they would be creating a crosswalk, to offset the cost. Since the main streets, Seminary and Main Street, are state highways, the mural could not be placed there. It was the consensus of the council to place it on South Madison at Slippery Rock and the Courthouse. Ms. Davis asked about where the city purchased the paint for striping. City Clerk, Ms. Hamilton said she would get the name of the company for them. She also informed them that the only colors they could get were white, yellow, blue and red. Ms. Urie felt like she could make those work by blending them together. Discussion was then held on who would be responsible for maintaining the crosswalk. Ms. Urie said that depending on how much maintenance was required it could be part of the community service for her students. Mr. Roberts suggested asking the Art's Council if they might want to be a part of the project.

Ms. Davis and Ms. Urie asked the council what their thoughts were about a timeline to complete this first crosswalk. There was discussion on some different dates, but the consensus was to see how soon supplies could be obtained and then come back with a date. Ms. Davis and Ms. Urie would do a cost analysis (cost of paint, printing the design, etc) and bring it back to council and then determine how to pay for the project.

There had been earlier discussions on painting murals on business walls. They put a mural on the Clerk's office wall at Sweet Owen Day and it was very well received. Ms. Davis has a design for that but thought starting with the crosswalk would be a good first step.

City Attorney Report: Ms. Ford reported she had been working on a rough draft for the new police contract.

City Clerk Report: No Comments

Council Member Comments:

Larry Dale Perry: Left the meeting at 6:00pm

Jimmy Marston: Absent

Joyce New: Ms. New reported that a house on Madison Street was looking bad with trash piled up on the front porch. Mayor Gaines asked Mr. DeZarn to get pictures and send a letter along with the nuisance ordinance asking the owner to clean up the property.

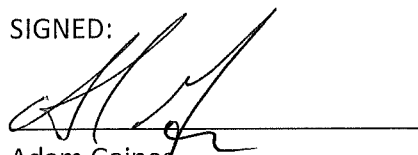
Jill Dunavent: Ms. Dunavent asked if there had been any progress on establishing the ownership of the property that council had talked about putting a "pocket park" on the land next to the laundry mat. Mayor Gaines reported that a surveyor had been contacted but his schedule was very full, and he would put it on his schedule. The reason she inquired was the remaining trees in the pots would need to be replanted soon. An earlier discussion had been to put them there. Council discussed other options such as, at the welcome signs and/or the fire station. Ms. Dunavent asked to clarify what weeds Mr. DeZarn was pulling out of the pots. It was the dead mums and petunias. Mr. Roberts thought the trees needed to be replanted by the end of February. Mayor Gaines did not think the "pocket park" would be surveyed before then and probably needed to come up with another place for the trees. Discussion was held on other options such as land owned by the city at the Fire Department.

Patty Sue Miller: No Comments

Clark Roberts: Mr. Roberts said he had investigated planting small evergreens in the flowerpots on the square as they would not get as big and would not outgrow the pots as fast the trees had. Mr. Roberts asked if the issue on property on North Adams, that he had called about had been addressed. Deputy Clerk, Anita Sipple informed him that a letter had been sent and the owner was given seven days. Mr. Roberts asked if council needed to do an ordinance addressing the issue. Ms. Sipple said there was already an ordinance and a copy was sent with the letter.

Having no further business, Mayor Adam Gaines entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:37pm. Clark Roberts made the motion to adjourn. Patty Sue Miller Seconded. Motion Carried.

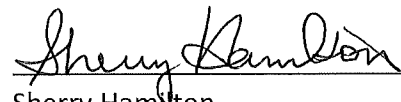
SIGNED:



Adam Gaines

Mayor

ATTEST:



Sherry Hamilton

City Clerk