

Regular Meeting
Owenton City Council
August 08, 2024
5:30pm at City Hall

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

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation: Sherry Hamilton

Guests: Gayle Parsons, David Lilly, Jeremy Rumpke, Stacie Rockaway, Brian Cobbler, Allen Greene, and James Abner.

Mayor Gaines recognized Stacie Rockaway from Thomas Massie's office to speak to the council. She said she wanted to check in and remind everyone she is available and willing to assist in any way she could. Mr. Massie likes to hear from his constituents on what is important to those he represents. Ms. Rockaway introduced Brian Cobbler, a law student working with Congressman Massie this summer. Mayor Gaines asked if there was anything the Congressman could do to stop the legislation that OSHA is trying to pass regarding Volunteer Fire Departments. If passed this legislation would make it impossible for small departments such as Owenton and Owen County to operate. Ms. Dunavent asked if there was a bill regarding the Windfall Act. Ms. Rockaway said there is, and she believes there are enough sponsors to pass it. She said she would be available after the meeting to discuss any issues.

Mayor Gaines then recognized Allan Greene who addressed the council on the issue of engine braking in the city limits. He said big trucks are coming through the city at too high a speed and then braking causing quite a noise and sometimes rattling the windows on Main Street. He would like to see signs placed at city limits stating, "No Engine Braking". Mayor Gaines said the city had signs at one time saying "No Jake Braking" but had to take them down because jake brake is a licensed company. The council saw no reason why "No Engine Braking" could not be placed on the streets coming into the city.

July 11, 2024 Minutes. Clark Roberts made a motion to approve the July minutes. Patty Sue Miller seconded. Motion Carried.

July 2024 Financial Statement. Patty Sue Miller made a motion to approve the July financial statement. Larry Dale Perry seconded. Motion carried.

Police Report: Chief Aldridge presented the July report. Chief Aldridge reported that with Officer McIntosh leaving the numbers were down. Chief Aldridge reported that they opened one case. Officers had assisted with County Fair and for the most part everything went well. Chief Aldridge worked a juvenile runaway case. He reported that the Brotherhood ride came through Owenton in July. The Brotherhood is an organization of motorcyclist that ride through places and choose to honor one person in the city/county from fire departments, police agencies, etc. This year they honored Larry House, former Constable and Fire Chief in Monterey.

Fire Report: Chief Greg Estes presented the fire report. The department had not had any more calls from the ARC regarding gas smells. Hopefully that means they have repaired their system. Chief Estes reported that he had no heard if the grant for the SCBA equipment had been approved. The City Clerk informed the Chief the check for the gear had been deposited. Chief Estes also reported that on September 7, 2024, there will be a service honoring the 9/11/2001 victims and families. Chief Estes reported that the department did a walk through at Conenance in July.

Public Works: In the absence of Timmy DeZarn, Public Works, Mayor Gaines reported that Mr. DeZarn had: watered flowers, trimmed the hedges at city hall, removed 10 tires from Progress Way that someone had dumped, pulled weeds at the city signs and city hall, trimmed tree limbs at the city signs, Forsee Alley, and Ford Street. He and Mr. Cobb painted arrows on North Madison by Family Billiards to reinforce that the street is a one way.

Old Business:

1. Jill Dunavent reported that there is no news on the sidewalk project.
2. Ordinance 780-Payscale Guideline was given a second reading. Jill Dunavent made a motion to approve the Ordinance. Clark Roberts seconded. Motion carried.
3. Mayor Gaines read Ordinance 791-Swimming Pools that City Attorney Mitzy Ford had drafted from discussions in July. Jill Dunavent had concerns about the language of item 3 that stated the pool could only be placed in the back yard. Patty Sue Miller commented that in item 5, it did not state the fence, whether on the pool or around the yard had to have a lock on the gate. Mayor Gaines suggested the Ordinance be tabled to allow revisions to be made. Council agreed.
4. Discussions regarding the legislation on Medical Cannabis was held. The council felt like they had not had enough input from the residence of the city to make an informed decision. Mayor Gaines charged the council members to speak to their constituents to get a feel for what the residence of the city wanted the council to do and then schedule a special meeting to decide what the city should do. A special meeting was scheduled for August 20, 2024 at 5:30pm.

July 2024 Financial Statement. Patty Sue Miller made a motion to approve the July financial statement. Larry Dale Perry seconded. Motion carried.

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New Business:

1. The first reading of Ordinance 792-2024 Tax Rate. Larry Dale Perry made a motion to approve the Ordinance. Patty Sue Miller seconded. The Ordinance will be voted on at the second reading, at the special meeting on August 20 2024.
2. Mayor Gaines reported that the Variance Board had met regarding a request from First Baptist Church to place a pavilion next to the property line of 201 North Main Street. The church had presented to the board the document that the owners of the property signed agreeing to allow the pavilion to be placed that close to their property. The Variance Board voted to allow the variance. Larry Dale Perry made a motion to accept the variance board's recommendation. Jill Dunavent seconded. Motion Carried.
3. Mayor Gaines opened the sealed bid for trash pickup in the city. The city received only one bid. Rumpke turned in a bid for a two-year contract. They quoted a rate of \$16.73 per month for household pick up for the first year, \$3.50 for a trash cart. The second year the rate will go up to \$17.40 per month, no increase for trash cart. Commercial services will start at the same rate as household and increase depending on the volume of trash. Mr. Perry asked if it would be unlimited bags. Mr. Rumpke clarified that it would be unlimited household trash. Larry Dale Perry made a motion to approve the bid. Joyce New Seconded. Motion Carried.
4. Mayor Gaines opened the sealed bid for the 2024-2025 Snow Removal/ Maintenance Contract. The city received only one bid for the contract. Cobb's Lawncare and Snow Removal placed a bid of \$44,500.00, no increase from 2023-2024. Clark Roberts made a motion to approve the bid. Jill Dunavent Seconded. Motion Carried.
5. Mayor Gaines opened the sealed bid for Lawn Care for 2024-2025. The city received only one bid. Jack Miller Lawn Service placed a bid of \$300.00 per mowing and \$250.00 for spraying weeds (3 times/year). Clark Roberts made a motion to approve the bid. Jimmy Marston Seconded. Motion Carried.
6. Chief Aldridge texted the Mayor that he had intended to mention the Dodge Cruiser. The Dodge needs a new motor or a rebuild. The dealer is still waiting for the cooperate office to advise on what needs to be done to repair the vehicle.

Mayor Gaines suggested to move the Executive Session to after comments so the guests in attendance did not have to wait.

City Attorney Report: Ms. Ford reported that she had been working on the swimming pool ordinance.

City Clerk Report: No Comment

Council Member Comments:

Larry Dale Perry: Mr. Perry commented that there was still a lot of items in yards from the 127-yard sale. He wanted to know how long they were going to be allowed to leave them there. Mayor Gaines said he would have Chief Aldridge address the issue. Mr. Perry asked if Kentucky Utilities had responded to the request to dim the streetlight on East Adair. Mayor Gaines said the city had not heard from them.

Jimmy Marston: No Comment

Joyce New: Ms. New reminded everyone that Food Truck Friday was the next night. A great band and several food trucks are scheduled.

Jill Dunavent: Ms. Dunavent reported that she had been to the Rural America Summit and met an individual from Owen County, Indiana. They had great conversations comparing the two Owen Counties. It was suggested that the two become sister counties. Ms. Dunavent reported that there was a house on Kelly Court that it appeared the front porch has no supports, and she was concerned it would fall and someone would get seriously injured. Mayor Gaines asked Chief Aldridge to look and see if the building inspector needed to inspect it.

Patty Sue Miller: Ms. Miller commented on the new sign at Ziggy's Physical Therapy looked neat. He used the Spring Grant he was awarded to help pay for the sign.

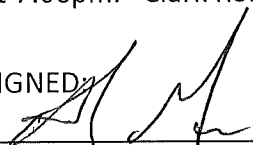
Clark Roberts: Mr. Roberts commented that the weeds at the Old Saveway Building were very tall. Ms. Sipple reported the owner had already been contacted and was going to take care of them. Mr. Roberts asked if the curbs in town could be painted, they were getting very faded. Mr. Roberts asked when the property on Gayle Ave was scheduled to be sold. City Attorney Ford responded it would be sold August 16th at noon on the courthouse steps. Mr. Roberts reported that the house two doors from the Dollar Store had weeds that were pretty tall. Mr. Roberts said he had some complaints about dogs on Beck St. Mayor Gaines asked Chief Aldridge to investigate that.

At 6:36pm Mayor Gaines asked for a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss property. Clark Roberts made the motion. Patty Sue Miller seconded.

Clark Roberts made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 7:04pm. Larry Dale Perry Seconded. Upon coming out of Executive Session, Clark Roberts made a motion to allow Mayor Gaines to negotiate a contract to sale the 102 North Main Street. Jimmy Marston Seconded. Motion Carried.

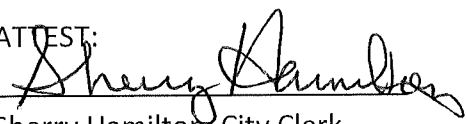
Having no further business, Mayor Adam Gaines entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:06pm. Clark Roberts made the motion to adjourn. Patty Sue Miller Seconded.

SIGNED:



Adam Gaines, Mayor

ATTEST:



Sherry Hamilton, City Clerk