

Special Meeting
Owenton City Council
August 27, 2024
5:30pm at City Hall

NOTE: The special meeting for August 20, 2024, was cancelled. This meeting was the rescheduled meeting.

Mayor Adam Gaines presiding.

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

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation: Deb Lewellyn

Guest: Deb Lewellyn, Stacey Long, Sarah Young, Allan Greene, Leigh Hawkins, David Lilly

Mayor Gaines recognized Sarah Young, Community Health Strategist for Triad Health Systems. She updated the council on the work that was being done in the community. They do a story book walk at the fairgrounds where the community can walk around the track, stopping at stations to read a story. They also held a Longest Day of Play at the fairground that was well attended. They are having the Halloween Story Walk on October 15th but since the Haunted Trail is going to be at the Fairgrounds they are looking at having the event at the Courthouse Square. The program sets up at the Farmers Market each year and they give out vouchers for people to purchase food from the vendors. They awarded a grant to Food for the Heart last year that enabled them to purchase a strap to assist in loading and unloading food, making the job easier. The grant is available this year but so far no one has applied. Ms. Young accompanied a group of middle school students to the capital where the students were able to have conversations with the congressmen about their take on food nutrition, e-cigarettes, etc.

Old Business:

1. Council opened a discussion concerning the Medical Cannabis dispensaries in the city. Mayor Gaines gave the community present an opportunity to speak to the council on the subject. Ms. Deb Lewellyn addressed the council on her opposition to having dispensaries in the city. She felt that it would be the beginning of activities that would cause issues for the residents and the police officers that would be responsible for enforcing the regulations. Council member Jill Dunavent said she reached out to her neighbors and got mixed results. Facebook posts seemed to be in favor of having

dispensaries in the city. Mayor Gaines again explained the city had three options. They could Opt-In, Opt-Out or do nothing. Mayor Gaines said he had spoken with several residences, and he too had mixed results. Mr. Roberts said he had heard from individuals in the medical field that were in favor of opt-in. Mayor Gaines said it was up to the council to decide. They still had the option to do nothing.

Guest Alan Greene asked to speak to council on the issue. He said he had searched the issue and spoke about the lottery system that the state was going to use to choose which applicants received the license. He said since it was a cash business there would be a lot of cash at the dispensaries requiring 24/7 surveillance and security. Mr. Greene felt that the potential for revenue for the city could be a good thing for the city. Mayor Gaines spoke about the chances of Owenton even getting a license was probably slim but given the location of the city it might be exactly where they were looking to give a license. Mayor Gaines emphasized that he felt the city needed to do something so that the city had a say in what happens in the city. Joyce New asked if recreational became legal could the city still have an ordinance that only allows medical. Mayor Gaines was not completely sure, but he felt like an ordinance regulating the city would take precedence. Ms. New felt she this was needed.


Patty Sue Miller made a motion to opt-out. There was not a second to the motion, so motion failed.

Joyce New made a motion to opt-in. Clark Roberts seconded. The motion passed 4 to 1.

2. First reading of Ordinance 793 to opt-in to allow Medical Cannabis to be sold/cultivated in the city was read. Joyce New made a motion to approve the ordinance. Jill Dunavent Seconded. Ordinance will be voted on at the September 12th regular meeting.
3. Second reading of Ordinance 792-2024 Tax Rate was read. Larry Dale Perry made a motion to approve the ordinance. Joyce New seconded. Motion Carried.
4. First reading of Ordinance 791-Swimming Pools was read. The changes that council requested was in cooperated in this ordinance. Patty Sue Miller made a motion to approve the ordinance. Clark Roberts seconded. Ordinance will be voted on at the September 12th regular meeting.

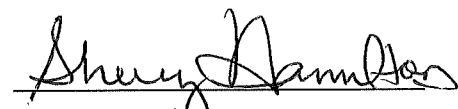
Having no further business, Mayor Adam Gaines entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:10pm. Jill Dunavent made the motion to adjourn. Larry Dale Perry Seconded. Motion Carried.

SIGNED:



Adam Gaines
Mayor

ATTEST:



Sherry Hamilton
City Clerk