

Regular Meeting  
Owenton City Council  
February 13, 2025  
5:30pm at City Hall

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

Council members present: Larry Dale Perry, Jimmy Marston, Patty Sue Miller, Jill Dunavent, Leigh Hawkins, and James Abner. Also present: City Clerk Sherry Hamilton, Fire Chief Greg Estes, Asst Fire Chief Clay James, and Police Chief Clint Aldridge. City Attorney Mitzy Ford was absent.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Invocation:** Charlie Ellis

**Guests:** David Lilly, Ann Carter, Darrell Hearn, Teresa Perry, Joshua Rodamer, Carol Ellis, Charlie Ellis, Melanie Young, Steel Garnett, Mason Tindle, Renda Thomas, Mandy Davis, Steve Dengler, Mar Garnett, Brody Hearn, Ben Hearn, Bev Hearn, Kristin Hearn, Megan Hearn, Easton Baldwin, and Becky Shyrock.

Mayor Gaines opened the meeting by recognizing the guests in attendance. He then turned the meeting over to the Fire Department. The fire department along with Mayor Gaines presented Brody Hearn with the "Citizen Hero Award" for alerting the Ellis's that their house was on fire and risking his own safety to assist them in safely exiting the house. Well done, Brody!

The mayor then recognized Rinda Thomas from Bluegrass Care Navigators. Ms. Thomas presented information on Bluegrass Care Navigators. Most individuals think of them as end-of-life care, but she wanted everyone to know they are much more than that. They offer assistance with medications, travel to and from doctor's visits, pain management and much more. They also offer grief counseling for families. While Bluegrass Care Navigators has full-time employees, they rely on volunteers to fill in the gaps. Ms. Thomas encouraged anyone interested to get in touch with her or call the office.

**January 09, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes** Larry Dale Perry made a motion to approve the January minutes. Patty Sue Miller seconded. Motion Carried.

**January 2025 Financial Statement.** James Abner made a motion to approve the January financial statement. Leigh Hawkins seconded. Motion carried.

**Police Report:** Chief Aldridge presented the police report. He reported that citations were up for January. There are still some Nuisance complaints in the court. He reported that the fire department and Mark Garnett held a training on crime scene preservation. He believed it was the first time representatives from all departments had sat down and discussed what was good, what needed improvement and how to move forward and work together.

**Fire Report:** Chief Greg Estes presented the fire report. Chief Estes reported to the council that he was supposed to bring them three names for appointing the Fire Chief, however, the department chose to submit only one. Chief Estes will remain the Fire Chief, and he recommended the same assistants. Chief Estes reported that the generator on the fire truck was inoperable. He had received a quote to replace it. The quote was \$12,000.00. The department is looking into other options. Chief Estes referred to the class that Chief Aldridge had mentioned in his report. He said they were planning another class in April.

**Public Works:** Mr. DeZarn presented the January report. Since the weather has been so cold he has stayed busy cleaning up at City Hall. He straightened some signs on the square, put the business parking sign back up in front of Joy Arnold/Pottery shop, and picked up concrete chunks from the snow removal. Mr. DeZarn wasn't sure exactly how many hours Mr. Cobb spent on the snow removal, but he did know he worked Sunday, Monday and Tuesday of that week.

#### Old Business:

1. Mayor Gaines reported that he had a meeting with Katie Jo Kirkpatrick from NKADD just before the council meeting regarding RFP. This is the first step in updating the planning and zoning for the city. It is also necessary to update the Comprehensive Plan. Ms. Kirkpatrick is progressing with the groundwork.
2. At the last meeting, Chief Estes had asked the council to consider changing the fire chief appointment from calendar year to fiscal. Mayor Gaines said at that time he was not sure what the ordinance said on the Fire Chief appointment. Mayor Gaines instructed City Clerk, Ms. Hamilton, to research what the ordinance stated. Ms. Hamilton reported that the ordinance stated the chief was to be appointed every two years in January. She also found that while the Chief's salary had been increased to \$300.00 per month there had not been an ordinance passed to reflect this increase. In consultation with the City Attorney, it was the recommendation of the mayor and city clerk to not change the appointment from the calendar year to fiscal year but it was recommended amending the ordinance establishing the salary to reflect the increase of \$300.00 per month. The council discussed the option of raising the Fire Chief salary. Mayor Gaines was not sure how much a Volunteer Fire Chief could make but thought there was a KRS on it. In order to take the correct steps in establishing the salary, Ms. Hamilton asked the council to vote on Ordinance 796 acknowledging the \$300.00. She also said that as it is time to start discussions on the budget for the next fiscal year, the increase could be discussed

for the 2025-2026 budget. She would also research what/if the salary was addressed in a KRS.

3. Mayor Gaines read Ordinance 796, amending Ordinance 688 to reflect the increase of \$300.00 per month for the Fire Chief. Larry Dale Perry made a motion to approve the ordinance. Patty Sue Miller seconded the motion. Ordinance will be voted on at the second reading in March.
4. Mayor Gaines opened the bids for the Concrete Saw. Three bids were submitted. The highest bid was \$450.00 from Rodney Cobb. Jill Dunavant made a motion to accept the highest bid of \$450.00 for the saw. James Abner seconded. Motion Carried.

**New Business:**

1. Mayor Gaines read Ordinance 797 establishing a separate tax rate for blighted and abandoned properties in the city. Patty Sue Miller made a motion to approve the ordinance. Larry Dale Perry seconded. The ordinance will be voted on at the second reading in March.
2. Jill Dunavent (for Mayor Gaines) read Resolution 2025-02 in opposition of House Bill 253. The mayor explained that there is a bill before the legislature to centralize the collection of Business License/Payroll Tax that each city collects. This would mean instead of each city collecting their own fees, Frankfort would collect them and then distribute the fees to the cities. Jill Dunavent made a motion to approve the Resolution. Larry Dale Perry seconded. Mayor Gaines polled the council members. The Resolution passed 6-0.
3. Mayor Gaines reported to the council that the chain on the salt spreader broke during the big snow event. Mr. Cobb investigated repairing the unit. He was informed that because of the way the unit is made, it would have to be taken apart and then welded back together requiring a lot of time and money. Given the cost and the time involved to repair the spreader, it was determined purchasing a new unit would be the better option. The new spreader has been purchased, and the mayor asked the council to surplus the old unit to be sold for scrap. Larry Dale Perry made a motion to surplus the old spreader. Jill Dunavent seconded. Motion Carried.

**City Attorney Report:** Ms. Ford was absent.

**City Clerk Report:** No Comments

**Council Member Comments:**

**Larry Dale Perry:** No Comment

**Jimmy Marston:** No Comments

**Leigh Hawkins:** No Comments

**Jill Dunavent:** Ms. Dunavent gave an update on the Crosswalk Project. Unfortunately, the high school teacher that was organizing students to paint the crosswalk has resigned from the high school and has taken a job in Frankfort. She will not be able to assist with the project. Ms. Dunavent has reached out to Kelsey Davis to get ideas/thoughts on how to move forward but had not heard from Ms. Davis. Ms. Dunavent explained to the new council members that the project was to paint a mural on a crosswalk depicting the culture of Owenton/Owen County, and that the city had gotten a donation from Kentucky American Water to assist with the cost. Ms. Hawkins offered to assist Ms. Dunavent in brainstorming a plan to complete the project. The paint for the project has been purchased.

**Patty Sue Miller:** Ms. Miller asked if the parking at the Pottery Storel Dr. Arnold's Office could be enforced. Chief Aldridge said he was working on more patrols and as reported in the Public Works report, Mr. DeZarn was working on getting the signs put back.

**James Abner:** Mr. Abner asked about getting the Christmas Lights taken down. Mayor Gaines informed council that Chief Estes planned to take them down Sunday.

Having no further business, Mayor Gaines entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:35pm. Patty Sue Miller made the motion to adjourn. Jimmy Marston seconded.

SIGNED

  
Adam Gaines, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Sherry Hamilton, City Clerk