

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

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

Council members present: Larry Dale Perry, Patty Sue Miller, Jill Dunavent, Leigh Hawkins, and James Abner. Also present: City Clerk Sherry Hamilton, Deputy Clerk Anita Sipple, City Attorney Mitzy Ford, Public Works Timmy DeZarn, Fire Chief Greg Estes, Asst Fire Chief Clay James, and Police Chief Clint Aldridge.

Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation: Mitzy Ford

Guests: David Lilly, Gayle Parsons, Laurel Stivers and Mario and Barb Pompeii.

Mayor Gaines recognized Laurel Stivers to address the council. Ms. Stivers came to speak to the council regarding the sidewalk in front of the Clerk's Office. The sidewalk is elevated from the street parking. An elderly lady took a fall off the sidewalk recently. Ms. Stivers asked that the city consider installing a railing along the outer edge to assist in preventing anyone from falling off the sidewalk. Ms. Stivers had called the office and expressed this concern earlier. The maintenance department had already contacted Steve Pettzinger to get an idea of the cost to install a rail along the sidewalk. He gave an estimate of \$2475.00. The council questioned the condition of the sidewalk and if instead of putting money into a railing, redo the sidewalk with a ramp to the clerk's office door. Mayor Gaines said he applied for a Grant when he first took office to redo the sidewalk but the grant was denied. Mayor Gaines asked council to get with him before the next meeting and let him know what they thought. Mr. DeZarn and Mr.Cobb will evaluate the condition of the sidewalk before the next council meeting and report to the council at that time. Ms. Dunavent asked if there were any grants available. Mayor Gaine said he was not aware of any grants.

February 13, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes Larry Dale Perry made a motion to approve the February minutes. Patty Sue Miller seconded. Motion Carried.

February 2025 Financial Statement. James Abner made a motion to approve the February financial statement. Larry Dale Perry seconded. Motion carried.

Police Report: Chief Aldridge presented the police report. Chief Aldridge reported to the council that they had gotten everything for the body cameras, and they were using them. The

batteries don't seem to last very long. Other than that, they are pleased with them. The new workout equipment has been delivered, and they were working on getting it all put together.

Fire Report: Chief Greg Estes presented the fire report. Chief Estes reported that the replacement generator for 9823 had been installed. They were able to get a generator from a different company than originally gave them a quote and it was about half the original quote. He also reported that they had purchased windsocks for the firetrucks to be put out when they do landing zones for helicopters. This is to assist the incoming helicopter in determining the direction of the wind.

Public Works: Mr. DeZarn presented the public works report. Mr. DeZarn reported that Jones Hill had been graveled. Mr. DeZarn worked in the front of City Hall cleaning up leaves and trimming back plants. The fence behind Smoker Friendly is being painted. He has painted the handicap parking places with the symbol and will stripe them as soon as he can get the proper paint. Mr. DeZarn drove through town and has made a list of potholes that need to be repaired.

Old Business:

1. Ordinance 797 was read for the second time. Mayor Gaines asked if there was any discussion or questions on the ordinance. James Abner voiced his concern on how this would affect residents. He felt like there are residents in the city that have a difficult time with paying bills and providing groceries. This would be another burden. Mayor Gaines acknowledged the concern but felt like there were properties in the city that were being allowed to deteriorate and the city needed to try to get property owners to maintain their properties. Patty Sue Miller made a motion to approve. Larry Dale Perry seconded. Mayor Gaines took a roll call vote on the motion from the council. Four members voted yay, one member voted nay. Motion Carried.
2. Ordinance 796, amending Ordinance 688 to reflect the increase of \$300.00 per month for the Fire Chief was read for the second time. Mayor Gaines informed council that there had been some research as to what a volunteer Fire Chief could make. 739KAR2:100 states to be a volunteer Fire Chief that individual either receives "no salary or a salary of less than \$8000.00 annually". Mayor Gaines thought the Fire Chief salary should be raised. City Clerk Ms. Hamilton reminded the mayor and the council they had to pass this ordinance to acknowledge the chief's current salary and then discussion could be held on an increase for the next fiscal year. Jill Dunavent made a motion to approve the ordinance. Larry Dale Perry seconded the motion. Motion carried.
3. Mayor Gaines did the first reading on Ordinance 798, amending Ordinance 795 Microbreweries. Ms. Ford discussed the changes on this Ordinance, section six and section seven of the ordinance were changed to establish the types of licenses and cost of licenses allowed for a microbrewery. There were some questions on the cost of the license that had not been put in the ordinance. There were also questions on section three regarding the language of Chapter 117 and if it should be in this ordinance. There

were enough questions that the mayor suggested tabling the ordinance until the next meeting to allow City Attorney Mitzy Ford time to clarify the concerns and questions the council had on the ordinance.

New Business:

1. Mayor Gaines brought to the council's attention the packet of pictures of the curbs on Kelly Court. There have been some complaints that the curbs are missing or not tall enough to direct the water to the drains at the end of the street causing flooding in basements. Mayor Gaines asked the council to consider bids to replace all the curbs or replace just the missing or not tall enough curbs. There are a couple of drains that need to have forms and covers put over them as well. Mayor Gaines said the city could ask for an engineer to come advise on the project, but it would be expensive. The mayor hated to spend the money for an engineer and realize the city could not afford to do it. The mayor said the city could advertise for bids to fix it or could bid for the project to be engineered. Ms. Dunavent asked if there was anybody from the road department that could come and advise on how to proceed. Mayor Gaines said he would reach out to someone. Larry Dale Perry made a motion to get bids to fix the curbs on Kelly Court. Patty Sue Miller seconded the motion. Ms. Hamilton asked to clarify the motion, whether it was to replace all of the curbs or just the broken and missing. The mayor asked to put it out both ways. Motion Carried.
2. Mayor Gaines asked for a motion to go into an executive Session to discuss a personnel issue. Patty Sue Miller made a motion at 6:19 to go into an executive session. James Abner seconded. James Abner made a motion to come out of the executive session at 6:25. Leigh Hawkins seconded. No action taken.

City Attorney Report: Ms. Ford restated she would continue to work on redrafting the Microbrewery ordinance.

City Clerk Report: Ms. Hamilton informed council that there were 65 property taxes for 2024 that were not paid. Ms. Sipple had sent out the second notices and will turn what is not paid over to the City Attorney to place liens on the remaining properties soon. The city has collected a little over \$200,000.00 in property taxes. Ms. Hamilton said she has started working on the 2025-2026 budget and would present that in May. She also reported that the mayor had met with Mr. Richardson on the repaving of the A.C. Sparrow lot. He will begin that work soon.

Council Member Comments:

Larry Dale Perry: Mr. Perry discussed with the council the Parks & Recreation lack of funds. Mr. Perry would like for the city to donate to the parks & recreation program. The mayor reminded the council that the city donated a considerable amount of money to repair the ball fields last year. Mr. Perry asked if the city had paid the amount the council voted to help with the port-a-potties. Ms. Hamilton said she had not gotten an invoice for that and would pay it as

soon as the invoice was turned in. Mr. Perry said the expenses to run the program was getting more and more every year. Ms. Dunavent asked if there was a fundraiser that they could do to offset the cost. Mr. Perry said that when events are held at the park the fair board receives the proceeds. Mr. Perry said there were several streetlights either out or intermittent on Adair and Ford Street. The mayor will ask maintenance to get a list for Kentucky Utilities.

Jimmy Marston: Absent

Leigh Hawkins: No Comments

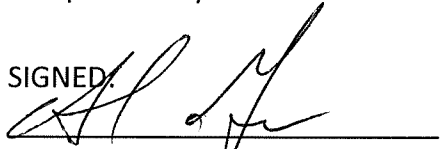
Jill Dunavent: Ms. Dunavent said the Food Truck Friday's had been set for this summer and they had some good trucks and bands lined up. The first one will be May 16, 2025. She informed the council that the Rebel Outreach would be on May 3, 2025. Mr. Wesselman will be asking for projects for the students. Ms. Hamilton asked if there was any progress on the Crosswalk project. She said that she and Ms. Hawkins had not been able to schedule a meeting

Patty Sue Miller: Ms. Miller asked about the fence at the cemetery. It appears that there are several panels missing and wanted to know if the city could ask if they could fix the fence. The mayor said we could look into it.

James Abner: Mr. Abner said there were several streetlights out on Beck St. The mayor asked if they were the metal poles or the wooden ones. Mr. Abner was not sure. The metal poles are the property owners' lights. The mayor said he would ask Mr. DeZarn to schedule an evening/night to check all the lights and get a list to Kentucky Utilities.

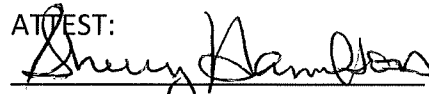
Having no further business, Mayor Gaines entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:42pm. Patty Sue Miller made the motion to adjourn. Jill Dunavent seconded.

SIGNED



Adam Gaines, Mayor

ATTEST:



Sherry Hamilton, City Clerk