

Regular Meeting Minutes
Owenton City Council
February 12, 2026
5:30 pm at City Hall

Mayor Leigh Hawkins called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Council members present: Larry Dale Perry, Jimmy Marston, Patty Sue Miller, Jill Dunavent, Logan Fields, James Abner, City Attorney Mitzy Ford, and Mayor Leigh Hawkins. Also present: City Clerk, Anna Kemper and Deputy Clerk, Mallory McClure.

Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation: Councilwoman Patty Sue Miller

Thursday January 8, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes – Councilwoman Patty Sue Miller motioned to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes. Councilman James Abner seconded, and the motion carried with all in approval.

Guests

January 2026 Financial Report Discussion:

Councilman James Abner motioned to approve the financial statements, and councilman Logan Fields seconded this motion. Motion carried.

Reports:

Police—Chief Aldridge went over the police department’s monthly report for January. He stated he felt there was plenty of first-responder coverage during the recent winter storms. He also noted that the collaboration with other law enforcement agencies has led to the arrest of a high-profile individual who has recently been evading law enforcement. The PD has been present at the local schools this month by conducting walkthroughs. There have also been donations from a few businesses and individuals, such as German American Bank, and Chief Aldridge would like to express his gratitude for these generous contributions to the PD. To conclude, he mentioned that as we approach warmer weather, the issuance of nuisance letters will begin, and the department will start preparing for this.

Fire—Chief Greg Estes provided the monthly report for the fire department from January. He stated his assistant Chief, Clay James, has been working on the AFG (Assistance to Firefighters) grant. He also brought the SCBA (Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus) and oxygen tanks from his recent grant award to show council. He demonstrated how the department uses these masks and tanks. He also mentioned he would like to donate the old equipment to a smaller fire department in the state, rather than selling them. He is asking council to consider a donation in the near future to the fair board for their wanting to place a chain-link fence near the arena at the fairgrounds.

Public Works— Mr. DeZarn shared his activities around the city, and the City Hall building this past month. He has been working on removing the damaged speed bumps on Horizon Circle and West Adair Street due to the recent snow plowing. He mentioned the need for new city street signs, and that will be putting them up soon. He will also be placing a 'no parking' sign near the Progress Way landing zone to prohibit vehicles from being parked there during an emergency situation.

Old Business— There being no old business to discuss, council moved on to new business.

New Business—Chief Greg Estes had requested to remove the old lift/ from the City Hall building for use at the Fire department. Councilman Larry Dale Perry made a motion to approve, and councilwoman Patty Sue Miller seconded this motion. Motion approved. Mayor Hawkins along with City Clerk Anna Kemper reviewed the COPS (Community Oriented Policing Services) grant. The U.S Department of Justice had requested a payment of \$24,000 (?) due to the non-approval of documents sent in previously. Councilwoman Jill Dunavent made a motion to approve this payment, and councilman Larry Dale Perry seconded. Motion carried.

City Attorney— Did not have any comments at this time.

City Clerk— Stated she has been working with the DOJ on the COPS grant this past month and has been finalizing things for the payment. She also noted the transition to new accounting software (QuickBooks) this week. She stated our tax associates at Maddox & Associates has been very helpful during this transition.

Council Member Comments:

Mayor Hawkins: Did not have any comments at this time.

Larry Dale Perry: Mentioned he has been getting calls from concerned citizens about the accumulation of snow on city sidewalks. He also brought up a need to revise the zoning code for the city, and possibly the need to conduct a re-zoning project soon.

Jimmy Marston: Did not have any comments at this time.

Patty Sue Miller: Did not have any comments at this time.

Jill Dunavent: Did not have any comments at this time.

Logan Fields: Did not have any comments at this time.

James Abner: Also mentioned the zoning code needs to be revised. He inquired about looking into the wording of the micro-brewery ordinance, as he has been contacted many times about this recently.

Having no further business, Mayor Hawkins accepted a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:23p.m. Councilman Larry Dale Perry motioned to adjourn, and Councilwoman Patty Sue Miller seconded.

SIGNED:

Leight Hawkins, Mayor

ATTEST:

Anna Kemper, City Clerk