

Regular Meeting Minutes
Owenton City Council
March 12th, 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: City Attorney Mitzy Ford

Thursday February 12th, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes – Councilman James Abner motioned to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes. Councilwoman Jill Dunavent seconded, and the motion carried with all in approval.

February 2026 Financial Report Discussion:

Councilman James Abner motioned to approve the financial statements, and councilman Larry Dale Perry seconded this motion. Motion carried.

Reports:

Police—Chief Aldridge went over the police department’s monthly report for February. He explained that he has been undergoing 2 audits by the KLC (Kentucky League of Cities) which were regarding day-to-day practice and policy regulations. He has also been completing a KLEFPF (Kentucky Law Enforcement Foundation Program Fund) audit. The department also plans to attend the active aggressor demonstration at the middle school. He concluded by showing gratitude and recognition for Officer Cammack, and the Owen County Sheriff’s Office, for their efforts in one of the calls for service they had received earlier in the week that involved an individual with a firearm wanting to commit suicide. He stated that Officer Cammack talked to the individual for over 3 hours and then proceeded to drive them to get treatment.

Fire—Chief Greg Estes provided the monthly report for the fire department from February. He wanted to recognize the junior firefighters, and their willingness to complete training hours to

eventually volunteer when they are of age. He stated that they will be hosting their annual fish fry on April 3rd from 3-7PM, and he encourages everyone to come out. They will also be taking donations for the fire department at this time.

Public Works— Mr. DeZarn shared his activities around the city, and the City Hall building this past month. He explained that he has been putting up road signs, filling various potholes around the city, and starting to pull weeds for the beginning of warmer weather. The speed bump on Horizon Circle has been repaired. He also stated there will be more ‘no parking’ signs placed on Progress way near the landing zone to always ensure first responder access.

Old Business— The COPS Grant has been finalized, and there is no further action to take at this time.

New Business— Council spoke about downtown beautification. They agreed that they will be taking action to plant flowers in the flowerpots around town. Councilwoman Jill Dunavent mentioned that the Rebel’s Outreach program could assist in completing these tasks. Council advised they will come up with a project list for this program. Councilwoman Jill Dunavent and Councilman James Abner had recently attended City Day & Night conducted by KLC (Kentucky League of Cities) and had received a great number of ideas for the beautification of the city.

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

City Clerk— She advised that she and the deputy clerk have been entering deposits and expenses into QuickBooks along with continuing to digitize Accounts Payable records by scanning POs and invoices for all transactions. She mentioned that they have completed two meetings for potential software that would issue business licenses and permits, and it was mentioned to them the need to take credit card payments online and update our website. If new legislation passes it would be required to have access to property tax bills online. This would require us to have this completed by April of 2027.

Council Member Comments:

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

Larry Dale Perry: Mentioned there will be an easter egg hunt at the end of the month at the courthouse square.

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

Patty Sue Miller: Stated the parking situation near the old jail needs to be addressed, and this could possibly be remediated by painting new parking and directional lines there.

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

Logan Fields: Mentioned the curb project on Kelly Court and inquired about when it would take place. Mayor Hawkins advised this would take place when the weather gets warmer.

James Abner: Did not have any comments at this time.

Executive Session-- KRS 61.810(1)(c) - Mayor Hawkins moved to enter into Executive Session, per the agenda. The Executive Session was called under the following exception: Discussion of proposed or pending litigation against the city. Councilwoman Jill Dunavent made the motion to enter executive session, and Councilman Larry Dale Perry seconded.

Mayor Hawkins moved to make a motion to conclude executive session. Councilman James Abner made a motion to conclude executive session and Councilman Larry Dale Perry seconded. Executive session concluded at 6:50p.m.

Jill Dunavent made a motion to amend zoning ordinance section no. 43 to permit retail commercial sales in the industrial zone, Councilman Larry Dale Perry seconded.

James Abner made a motion to amend ordinance 795 & 798 regarding microbreweries to state that a microbrewery can be established within the city limits under certain requirements, Councilman Larry Dale Perry seconded.

Having no further business, Mayor Hawkins accepted a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:51p.m. Councilwoman Patty Sue Miller motioned to adjourn, and Jimmy Marston seconded.

SIGNED:

Leight Hawkins, Mayor

ATTEST:

Anna Kemper, City Clerk