

Regular Meeting Minutes  
Owenton City Council  
April 9th, 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, 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:** Councilman Logan Fields

**Thursday March 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.

**March 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 March. He stated Officer Blackwell had hit a deer several months back, and it has since been turned into insurance. With assistance from the city clerk, they had started to take bids for service for the damage. Three bids were attempted to repair the damage, however only two bids were submitted. Being the most cost effective, Pryor’s Collision was chosen for this job. Chief Aldridge has also been completing mandatory training which entails pursuits and various policies for law enforcement and the handling of domestic violence. He stated that the KLEFPF audit has been finalized and went well so the police department will continue getting the KLEFPF funds. He participated in the SADD (Students Against Drunk Driving) Program at the high school. He always enjoys getting to connect with the juniors and seniors that attend the meetings. Owenton Police Department, as well as Mayor Hawkins attended the Active Aggressor Training on March 14<sup>th</sup> that was hosted by Tim Cammack at Maurice Bowling Middle

School. He was very impressed with the detail and information of this training, and he believes it got everyone on the same page for those types of emergency situations. He also mentioned the community easter egg hunt on March 28<sup>th</sup> went well, and there was a good turnout of families. It was a positive community event for all. He also informed council that he will be traveling to San Diego in the coming weeks to attend a conference on human trafficking and drug addiction which is being sponsored by the Owen County Drug Coalition May 10<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>.

**Fire**— Chief Estes started by going over the fire department’s activity and calls for service in March. The fire department collected over \$5,700 from the annual fish fry on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Funds raised will go towards the SCBA (Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus) Grant payment, and that half will go to the county fire department to cut costs. He concluded by stating there will be an upcoming fundraising event on Saturday, August 15<sup>th</sup> at the fairgrounds. There will be live music and a car show from 12pm-10pm, which will be concluded by a fireworks show. The next DES meeting will be the third Tuesday at 6:30 at the fire house.

**Public Works**— Mr. DeZarn shared his various activities around the city, and the City Hall building this past month. He stated that all signs have been purchased for a total of \$1,510 from the Boone County Road Department. The parking lot by The Flour Lady has been striped. He has been placing signs throughout the city, noting a ‘no parking’ sign on Progress Way to prevent blockage of emergency vehicles. Most potholes have been filled around the city. To conclude, he stated that the drainage issue on Kelly Court has been remedied. He will need to purchase brackets for some street sign installations.

**Old Business**— Rebel’s Outreach Program – Will take place on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. The students will assist in various jobs around the city at this time.

**New Business**— First reading of Ordinance 804 amending the zoning code for retail sales in industrial zones. Councilman Larry Dale Perry made a motion to approve this first reading, and Councilman James Abner seconded.

First reading of Ordinance 805 amending Ordinance 795 & 798 pertaining to microbreweries allowing microbreweries to be established anywhere within the city limits under the following conditions: Shall not be established within 1,000 feet of a school, pre-school, or daycare. Shall not be established within 500 feet of a church or any other religious organization. Councilman James Abner made a motion to approve this first reading, and Councilman Logan Fields seconded.

City Sidewalks— Council discussed sidewalks around the city, and if they were business owner or property owner’s responsibility. They concluded that the sidewalks have always been maintained by the property owner, as this would be difficult to maintain otherwise.

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

**City Clerk**— Working on customizing accounting reports for accurate budget information and has started preparing for the budget for next fiscal year. Mailed out applications for the \$1,000 Spring Improvement Grant, which will be awarded in May. Confirmed purchase for all street signs.

LESO (Law Enforcement Support Office) Account has been updated and the LESO Audit is scheduled for June 4<sup>th</sup>.

Deputy Clerk, Mallory and I have been researching local government software to be able to carry out various functions for the office. We have been working with the NKADD (Northern Kentucky Area Development District) for updating zoning, maps and boundaries. We have also been attending online clerk’s training, which are very informative. Transformed Excavating has started the project on Kelly Court to be finished soon.

**Council Member Comments:**

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

**Larry Dale Perry:** He stated that restroom issue at the fairgrounds has been resolved by 3 Porta Potty units being delivered recently.

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

**Jill Dunavent:** She mentioned that Food Truck Friday dates have been posted. There will be 4 dates this year as follows: May 29<sup>th</sup>, June 26<sup>th</sup>, August 21<sup>st</sup>, September 25<sup>th</sup>. There is also a curb on Sunset Drive that she believes should be addressed soon, possibly when it is resurfaced.

**Logan Fields:** He advised council that he believes some committees or boards should be founded or reinstated. He mentioned the need for a planning and zoning committee, ethics committee, and board of adjustments. Ms. Evans volunteered to research this matter and get information about the previous committees. She also commented that it may be difficult to find individuals to serve on these committees.

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

Having no further business, Mayor Hawkins accepted a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:20p.m. Councilwoman Patty Sue Miller motioned to adjourn, and Councilman Logan Fields seconded.

SIGNED:

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Leight Hawkins, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Anna Kemper, City Clerk