

CITY OF OWEN COMMON COUNCIL MEETING AND BUDGET HEARING MINUTES **Approved 12/17/24**

DATE: Tuesday, November 19th, 2024

LOCATION: Owen City Hall

TIME: 5:30 pm

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT: Mayor Scott Jalling

Alderpersons: Ray Kilty, Ken Martine, Jason Thornton, Bob Wilczek (Absent), Pam Jaffke, John Mauel

ATTENDANCE LIST: Clerk/Treasurer Tracy Rau, DPW Chad Smith

COMMUNITY ATTENDANCE: Cindy Cardinal/ES-Enterprise Sentinel

The Budget Hearing was called to order by Mayor Jalling at 5:30 pm.

Roll call was taken absent Alderman Bob Wilczek.

The meeting was open for discussion on the budget, there was no public at the meeting therefore no discussion was made, and the hearing was closed at 5:35pm. The budget hearing was adjourned motion by Martine and seconded by Thornton, motion carried.

The regular council meeting started.

A roll call was taken- absent alderman Bob Wilczek.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

There was no public comment.

Approve 10.22.24 Meeting Minutes: A Thornton/Kilty motion to approve minutes as written. Motion carried.

Closed Session: Jaffke/Martine motion. Roll call vote was taken all in favor.

Convene into Closed Session Under WI S.S. 19.85(g) Conferring with legal

counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice

concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it

is or is likely to become involved. To-wit:

a. Business Park Property/Countryside Estates Property/1st Street
Apartment Property

b. 2nd Street Nuisance Property

Reconvene to Open Session: Thornton/Jaffke motion. Roll call vote was taken all in favor.

Announced that no action was taken.

Operator Licenses: Mauel/Martine motion to approve. Massmann (One Shot), Humphreys, Steinhilber (Woodland) motions carried.

Cigarette/Vape License Approval: Jaffke/Mauel motioned to approve Cosmic Vape LLC licensing. Motion passed.

2025 Budget Approval: Martine/Kilty motioned to approve the 2025 Budget with the Levy \$416,543.00 and all Expenditures. Motion carried.

Hunting in City Limits: Jaffke/Mauel approved the goose hunting for the parties involved in the letter that was written to the city if the parties get written permission from all landowners Elbow River, River Country Coop, City of Owen and Tyznik's property as they own all the property around the pond. This is a one-time deal. Also, something should be put in the paper stating that you cannot hunt in City limits even if you own property in the city without a permit from the City. Motion was approved if all parties involved follow with written permission and bring it back to the city.

Simplified Rate Case: Martine/Mauel approved going ahead with the 4.1% water increase for 2025 starting in January. Motion carried.

Depot: Smith reported that there are about twelve soft spots on the roof on the depot, he is thinking of sheeting the whole thing and then putting tin on it also their time to do it is going to cost around \$8,000.00. Smith said the other option would be to sell it as is or fix it and sell it. Alderman Kilty said we would just be putting a band aid on something we could sell and get tax money from, then Smith could use the money to build a cold storage by the city shop for winter storage. This is the only original remaining train depot on this line, this is a major historical building. Smith will put it in his budget for January to redo the roof for next year. Martine/Mauel made a motion to fix the roof of the train depot as of next year's budget and Martine will see if the DRC can help with the cost and maybe the chamber. Motion carried.

Cedar Corporation/Bike Trail: Total cost of the bike trail was a little over 1M it is now down to \$684,953.00 the city's 20% would be \$137, 000 to produce in 2027 some of this would be Withee's portion also. We have not put any of this money aside, so I am not sure where we are going to get the money in 2027. This would cover Martins grocery store to Withee and a path to the school. It was discussed that when J. Jalling was on council the school was asked if they would help pay for the bike trail going to the school and their answer was no. So, the city is going to look to see how much extra

money it is for the trail to school and possibly just take that out of the plans. It was suggested that the Mayor and Smith go back to the school and ask again.

Public Works Report: Flushing mains, Water tower is completed, been winterizing the buildings, need to fix the standpipe its leaking but its contained and not leaking on the ground if we redid the whole standpipe, it would cost \$900,000.00. Mill pond bathrooms are closed for the winter we will reopen them in the spring thanks to all the vandalism that has been going on.

Ordinance Fee Schedule Approval: A Jaffke/Martine motion to approve the new ordinance fees that will take effect January 2025. Motion carried.

Clerk Report: Finishing up on the 2023 Audit, we made it through the BIG election with 462 voters with only 500 registered voters on our poll list and a big thank you to all our poll workers and Chief Inspectors, Rau helped Chad apply for the simplified rate case, finished up on the 2025 budget, tax rolled the delinquent water bills, getting ready for the joint review board which is Dec 11th at 5:30 pm, and trying to get ready for the end of the year. Kelly is on vacation this week, so I am flying solo.

Mayor Report: “Congratulations to the Blackhawks on behalf of the city.” Need Dog Park Signage because people are already using the park, and we are getting a lot of honest good reviews. Wilczek was taking care of the signs we would check with him. The Centennial Committee would like a picture of the council on Dec 17th.

Other Report(s): None

Treasurer’s Report: Martine/Thornton motion to approve. Motion carried.

Disbursements/Accounts Payable: Martine/Thornton motion. Motion carried.

Future Agenda Items: Dog Park Signage

Adjourn: 8:27 pm A motion by Mauel seconded by Kilty. Motion passed.

Respectfully,

Tracy Rau, Clerk/Treasurer