

CITY OF OWEN COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Tuesday, July 8, 2025

LOCATION: City Hall

TIME: 6:00 pm

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT: Mayor Scott Jalling

Alderpersons: Ray Kilty, John Mauel, Ken Martine, Jason Thornton, Bob Wilczek, and Pam Jaffke

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

COMMUNITY ATTENDANCE: Cindy Cardinal/ES-Enterprise Sentinel, Kelly Booth, Tim Swiggum, Rocky Lehr, and Hailee Wyro

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Jalling at 6:00 pm & the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Comment: Hailee Wyro discussed her concern for the playground equipment and gave each member of the board a packet.

Approve Council Meeting Minutes 6.24.25: A Martine/Kilty motion to approve. Motion carried.

Chicken Ordinance: After last meeting and talking to the Chief, the mayor didn't realize there wasn't an ordinance allowing chickens. The City of Medford allows four, the City of Abbotsford allows five, and the Village of Withee says NO. Where is Owen at with this ordinance? Farmers have strict guidelines they must follow in having chickens; anyone having chickens in the State of Wisconsin must register them through DATCAP. The residents started to complain about the neighbors' chickens, and that is when we started looking at the ordinance. The council was trying to allow them to have chickens when the residents started posting on social media. Alderperson Mauel recommended four chickens. Alderperson Martine recommended a \$15 annual charge instead of per chicken. To clarify, this includes all foul, any egg laying birds. This ordinance should be sent back to the ordinance committee and then to our Attorney for review, once complete it can be voted on by the council.

Fire District: Alderperson Thornton said the Fire District would like to know the price per acre? How to design a road and to make sure it works because it is going to be a drive through building. The fire department needs to put down payment on the property for 13.5 approx. acres. The road to put in is \$230,000 or have them go in and use the existing driveway. How would the city be paying for this road? Where is the money going to come from? The fire department would like to know if the city would pay to have the soil tested, which is approximately \$6500? We did not pay for this for anyone else, so no. The new building going up in the business park paid \$1500/acre. If you have a fire district right here it might be a selling point for future businesses. Does the council commit to selling the land? If we commit, then we put in the road? The back is all wetland, and it will be land locked for the future. Alderperson Kilty suggested that the fire district make an offer to purchase, pending the soil sample.

Concession Stand: At the Parks meeting Aaron Ruggles wants to install a hood in the concession stand to sell cheese curds; the Woodgrove 4H will pay for it and do all the work. A Kilty/Wilczek motion to approve the renovation. Motion carried.

Playground Equipment: There are grants from Clark County and others but the package without a grant to add possibly equipment, to be ADA compliant, is \$94,000. We can put up a donation box and fund raise for it; this will take time to complete, we are also trying to redo the bike trail. Dennis Looker, OW Lions member has fixed the grills through donations from Midway Steel, and some of the playground equipment has been replaced/washed. We thank Hailee Wyro for coming and doing the correct thing and presenting to the city. If you do not bring it to the council's attention, we probably won't know. The money donated for Crowley Park was earmarked by the donor; the money needed to be spent where it was (the pavilion, bathroom, and dog park). More park disability equipment would be great; the playground equipment will be power washed.

Police Agreement: Tabled

Special Event Permit-Woodland Hotel, LLC: It is scheduled for July 12th from 7 pm – 11 pm; it is Kevin Henke's band, the parking stalls are where the picnic tables will go. A Kilty/Jaffke motion to approve. Motion carried.

Approve Operators License: A Martine/Mauel motion to approve Laken Potocnik and Nicole Hoyt for Red Daisy Girl. Motion carried

LRIP Bid Approval: A Wilczek/Kilty motion to approve American Asphalt bid for \$43,701.90. Motion carried.

Willow Road: The road was completed in 2006; we have been patching it ever since. There have been conversations about the quality of the road on social media. The DPW provided a map of the streets in the city and the quality. It turns out there are some roads worse than Willow Road. The trees currently shade/cover the top of the road, and these trees need to be removed for light to get in. The DPW knows these trees are in the road right away and will be removed. We will fix as much as we can and keep the cost down until an overhaul can be completed; this is not in the budget for this year. We are aware of the road (Willow) and it can be fixed.

DPW Report: There was a water leak by the hydrant on Badger that we fixed; a resident called with water by the curb all the time, after we looked at it the leak was on our side, so we also fixed that. We have completed the second quarter meter reads, as well as sending out letters to residents on what to do if lead/copper was found. We received the first settlement check from the attorneys for 3M PFAS and we should get another sometime in September of this year. The money will be put in the water maintenance for the time being and fix much needed items. We had a meeting with Staab Construction to fix the Standpipe; also working with August /Winters trying to get the cost down, will have another Sewer Meeting at some point. On June 14-15 we had a lot of rain, so the WWTP needed to be monitored and diverted to the EQ basin. The SCADA system, which is very old, needed a few parts recently, to replace the whole thing. It will cost around \$240,000. This is our communication system for our lift stations so at some point this will need to be replaced. Our new employee, Carter Sapinski, is doing very well; it is like no one left, he has stepped in and is not afraid to work. Xcel will be taking the tree down in front of City Hall when they put their lines through. They will replace this tree with a smaller tree. The streetlights will illuminate the bike trail eventually. The crew has been hard at it fixing the potholes in alley ways, on the streets; as well as painting the curbs and doing some crack sealing. The depot roof has been completed. There have been some stumps removed from Crowley Park and filled in with dirt and seeded. They also sprayed the camper pads & cleaned the fire rings.

Mayor's Report: Nothing at this time, would like the City Internet page updated with quarterly reports as to how it is going.

Other Reports: None

Treasurer's Report: A Martine/Mauel motion to approve. Motion carried

Disbursements/Accounts Payable: A Wilczek/Martine motion to approve. Motion carried

Future Agenda Items: Police Agreement, Chicken Ordinance, and Fire District

Adjourn: A Wilczek/Jaffke motion at 7:30 pm; Motion carried

Respectfully given to the best of my ability, Kelly Booth, Deputy Clerk