

CITY OF OWEN COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Tuesday, August 12, 2025

LOCATION: City Hall

TIME: 6:00 pm

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT: Mayor Scott Jalling

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

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

COMMUNITY ATTENDANCE: Cindy Cardinal/ES-Enterprise Sentinel, Rick Nelson, Kelly Booth

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

Public Comment: Mr. Nelson talked about the chicken ordinance

Approve Council Meeting Minutes 7.22.25: A Thornton/Wilczek motion to approve. Motion carried.

Operator License-Young: A Wilczek/Jaffke motion to approve. Motion carried.

Fire District Update: The thought was to propose to the city to buy up all the property; this would allow for the trucks to enter in and out, and expansion for training (since the tech schools are doing it different) The past Engineer, MSA, map shows a driveway(which everyone was questioning) along with parceling it off. The Map that was done by MSA was found by the Clerk. The District went ahead and will have the building appraised to see what the value is, it is thought that they will not need the full acreage amount as the current buildings are not that big. Alderperson Thornton thought it was best to have a joint meeting with the Fire District, so he was not relaying the message. A meeting was arranged for Monday, August 25th, 6:00 pm at the Fire Hall; If this does not work for the Fire District it can be the next night prior to the City Council Meeting.

Police Agreement: Tabled

Update Nuisance Property: The City Attorney has everything from the Chief and is working on it. We will keep it on the Agenda.

Playground Grant: The Clerk/Treasurer gave a report on the Grant; we would still be on the hook to make sure the ground was ADA compliant. A Wilczek/Kilty motion to approve playground equipment application. Motion carried

Spectrum Insurance Renewal: A Jaffke/Martine motion to accept Spectrum's renewal for 2026. Motion carried

Mutual Assistance Agreement: An example given was a tornado in a neighboring town, we would help them clean up and they in turn would help us down the line. You scratch our back, and we will scratch yours, concept. A Wilczek/Martine motion to show support; revisit when it gets more established. Motion carried

Finance Meeting Report: Alderperson Jaffke said the DPW Director, Chad Smith is doing great on his budget; he has only spent 40%. The library budget was the main topic of discussion; example is the roof needs to be replaced; how; how much will it cost; who will pay, the library or the city? We have plenty of meetings on the calendar for September into October.

DPW Report: The water rate case study is going good; kudos to our Clerk/Treasurer, Tracy Rau, for working so hard. We found out we will have to change our billing to all residents being on a quarterly bill cycle, more to come, this will occur January 1, 2026. We will keep the large meter testing going monthly; an example would be Kerry Ingredients. The sewer commission met to approve Staab Construction to redo our Standpipe, which needs replacing. More to be relayed on how this will all work with the Sewer plant being shut down for a few days to repair. Our curbs and the cross walks have been painted; we mowed the ditches, cleaned the rain gutters, replaced some curbs where there was a water main break prior, and the 2nd Street project has begun. In the parks area we painted and re-carpeted the band stand area, along

with washing the floor, we prepped the pulling track for the horse pull, along with Dennis Lulloff's assistance we have sanded and varnished the picnic table.

Mayor's Report: Just a reminder of the Lumberjack Show, also that day is the DRC Car Show, and One Shot is having a pool tournament. A thank you goes out to all that is helping! Some people have been complaining about the trees behind Pikes which our DPW has been compensated to take care of. Also, a special quilt was accepted by Alderperson Jaffke on behalf of the Centennial Committee, thank you Curtiss Quilters.

Other Reports: The Farmers Market has been going very well; 6-10 vendors each week. The train needed new batteries which were the heavy-duty kind versus the marine batteries that were in it. Alderperson Kilty attended the mayor's meeting and there is concern out there about the future of libraries due to funding; he also talked briefly about the police commission and how another town runs theirs.

Treasurer's Report: A Wilczek/Jaffke motion to approve. Motion carried

Disbursements/Accounts Payable: A Mauel/Kilty motion to approve. Motion carried

Future Agenda Items: Police Agreement, Nuisance Property, Fire District, Planning and Parks

Adjourn: A Wilczek/Kilty motion at 7:23 pm. Motion carried

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