

CITY OF OWEN COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Tuesday, October 14, 2025

LOCATION: City Hall

TIME: 6:00 pm

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT: Mayor Scott Jalling

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

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

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

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

Public Comment: Alderperson Jaffke mentioned that the Community Garden has good apples that the Community can enjoy versus the deer.

Approve Council Meeting Minutes 9.23.25: A Jaffke/Martine motion to approve. Motion carried

Operator License: A Martine/Kilty motion to approve both. Motion carried

Owen Sign: Mr. Hodnett would like the old Owen sign for the Historical Society. A Wilczek/Martine motion to approve giving the sign to the Historical Society. Motion carried

Red Ribbon Week: It was discussed what others have given. A Wilczek/Jaffke motion of at will donation of the common council body. Motion carried

Easement: Excel Power Company Easement. A Kilty/Martine motion. Motion carried

Finance Meeting: Per Alderperson Wilczek the committee met last evening, the water/sewer budget was gone through some changes need to be adjusted. The municipality or the general fund was started but not completed, adjustments need to be made here as well.

Police Meeting: Alderperson Jaffke and Alderperson Wilczek gave input on the meeting. Alderperson Kilty asked if the savings is divided, they can still leave enough in the account for a squad car but we could do the garage little by little and charge rent. He is not in favor of having a savings account to purchase a new car with no place to park it out of the elements. We can't afford not to do a thing, leaving a new car (squad) outside in the elements does not make financial sense. We need to get the garage taken care of so the police can park the cars in it. We can get bids prior to the next council meeting and then get a police meeting together to discuss the matter of savings. The committee went into closed session to discuss the chief's wage which was increased by \$1.25 the same as the other officers beginning 1/1/26. The Police Budget for 2026 was gone over and approved by the committee. Some things went up and some things went down. The budget saw a 2.875 increase.

Nuisance Property: An abatement was filed with the court; we will have to see what the judge has to say as far as timing and cost. If this city does nothing after the court speaks the city could be in violation. We will have to save for this as well in the budget.

Street Closure: The library will be doing trunk/treat from 4:30 – 6:30 closing the street from the post office to the library. A Wilczek/Kilty motion to approve the closure. Motion carried

Equipment For Sale: Our DPW Director, Chad Smith would like to sell two trailers and the chipper. He will then be purchasing a trailer with a tilt deck; an equipment trailer up to 14,000 lb. A Mauel/Martine motion to approve sale using the Auction firm in Wausau. Motion carried

DPW Report: We have been flushing water mains, rebuilding fire hydrants, and finishing the Wellhead protection. The next step is to get it to the DNR for approval. The jetting of sewer mains has started. We have split the city in three sections, good thing we started doing this maintenance; so far, we have come against rocks and baby wipes which have built up over the years or projects. I am looking to get reimbursement for the 2nd Street Project since it is complete, and we have been billed. I have also been rating the roads and getting the construction forms completed. In the business park Green Grove is set to break ground. They saw some equipment today headed that way, so they are on the way. We will be closing the parks and winterizing in the next couple of weeks.

Mayor's Report: Nothing to report

Other Reports: No reports

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

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

Future Agenda Items: Garage, Police Meeting, Police Budget, Abatement Information, Evers Grant, and Library Roof

Adjourn: A Kilty/Jaffke motion at 7:12 pm; motion carried

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