

CITY OF OWEN COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Tuesday, April 22, 2025

LOCATION: City Hall

TIME: 6:00pm

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT: Mayor Scott Jalling

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

ATTENDANCE LIST: Clerk/Treasurer Tracy Rau, DPW Director, Chad Smith, Deputy Clerk Kelly Booth, Chief of Police Fehlman, and OWPD Officer Haugstad,

COMMUNITY ATTENDANCE: Cindy Cardinal/O-W Enterprise, John Hansen

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

Public Comment: Two things were commented on by Clerk/Treasurer, Tracy Rau(not on Agenda), the BOR is in the packet and Jim Bohl called and would like to trade two single lots for two duplex lots.

Approve 03.25.25 Council and 4.15.25 Organizational Minutes: Martine/Wilczek motion to approve minutes with correction; Motion carried.

Bike Trail: What you see now from Withee to the grocery store. The cost with the 80/20 grant is \$684,953.00 part of this cost will be shared with Withee. The DPW Director had Beahr Electric look at the lights, and they will be replaced but will not need to replace all the wiring. Our share is approximately \$137,000 as time goes on this amount will increase(Approximately \$29,000 per year). Alderperson Wilczek asked about the water main in conjunction to the trail, and if there are any plans to fix? If this breaks, we will have to fix it. The Design will begin in 2027 (this is where monies will have to be put down) 2028 it will go out on bids, with construction to begin and completion by 2029; everything needs to be complete by June 30, 2031. The DOT recommends completing the grant so future grants can be awarded. We will have to start budgeting for this but have a couple years of the budget cycle to do so. A Wilczek/Jaffke motion to move to the Finance Committee; Motion carried.

CBU/Cluster Box Unit: A Kilty/Thornton motion to send to the city attorney for review; Motion carried.

Developers Agreement: The changes were made by the city attorney; currently the company interested in purchasing the land has the agreement to go over. If everything is good with the contract the Mayor and Clerk/Treasurer would sign the agreement A Mauel/Wilczek motion to give the Mayor Scott Jalling and Alderperson Kilty approval to make changes with the city attorney; Motion carried.

Fee Schedule Amendment: A Thornton/Martine motion to approve amendments on fee schedule; Motion carried.

Land Lease Agreement: The current lease agreement is up; he was notified of this fact and has not responded. He has not paid the 2nd ½ payment for last year, so a letter was sent to him. The city has approximately 125 plus acres of land to crop. After much discussion by the board, we are looking at leasing the available land to Berry Farms. If the land is sold the person purchasing the land will either pay the crop price in addition or wait until the lessor can get the crops off at harvest time. A question came up about bidding the land out? A Kilty/Mauel motion to move to city attorney(to look over leaving it a three-year lease agreement and if the land needs to be bid out) if all is okay rent the land for three years to Berry Farms at \$195/acre; Motion carried.

Refuse Increase: We are currently under a contract with GFL; we need to cover our costs as a city to reflect the increase from them. A Kilty/Wilczek motion to increase to \$2.00 or \$.46; Motion Carried.

DPW Report: Our Director of DPW, Chad Smith along with DPW, Brandon Wilson attended the WRWA Conference. Not only did they get a lot of knowledge, but they also received CEC. The areas they hit were Supervisors' Safety & Health Duties-hard hats, safety vests, & confined spacing; Well Rehab Strategies-getting more out of what we have; WAMS to My Wisconsin ID-switching staff over; USDA Rural Development Updates-looking at the grants; and WI DNR Updates-inventory that we completed (lead/copper) and PFAS. They have had a couple water main breaks; one on Melbinger St. and the other in Meadowview Ct. which have been take care of. The DPW did a hard reset on Well 7 after it failed which is now working. Well 13 had a communications failure and low temp alarm, this was an issue with Scada a lift station in Withee, we put an antenna on the tower instead of Radio Tower which it is now. They removed chemicals to clean chemical barrels. We are getting quotes on the bearings for the booster pumps, these motors are getting bad! Also, water main flushing will be May 5-14. Withee is doing there flushing a week prior. The sewer pump fail alarm went off early Monday morning, and the electrician was called, we had several inches of rain, burn out. Currently working with August/Winter to get a quote for fixing the Standpipe; this needs to be done now. They are currently working on getting the upstairs apartment to the Senior Center fixed while the renter is away. The clean sweep was helpful and well attended; we will have to look at increasing charges and charging for mattresses(as well) as we are charged to dispose of them. It needs more planning as it is not a moneymaker for the city(we lose money every year), possibly asking other townships to participate or see what others are doing.

Discuss Date for Combine Meeting with Withee: Mayor, Scott Jalling talked to the Clerk/Treasurer, Ellen Niemi and she stated that he is supposed to get a couple of dates to meet (Owen Council and Withee Trustees). The dates picked were May 6, or May 20 at 6:30 p.m. at the City Hall. Mayor, Scott Jalling will give to Village President Larry Klabon; it may have to go on the Withee Agenda for discussion.

Mayor's Report: After two years of planning the tree planting is this weekend along with opening the time capsule from the 75th Anniversary, followed by cake and "special" ice cream served by past Miss Owen.

Other Reports: A Personnel Meeting was held to accept the letter of resignation of Austin Aull; he is not leaving on bad terms. A copy of the letter was put in his file by the DPW Director, Chad Smith. Also, there was an Ordinance Meeting scheduled that needed to be postponed to a later date.

Treasurer's Report: A Wilczek/Jaffke motion to accept as presented. Motion carried.

Disbursements/Accounts Payable: A Jaffke/Kilty motion to accept as presented. Motion carried.

Future Agenda Items: Lot Trading/Bohl, Update on CBU/Clusters, Combined meeting with Withee Trustees, Fire District, Update from Finance Committee on Bike Trail

Adjourn: A Wilczek/Martine motion to adjourn at 7:40 pm. Motion carried.

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