

CITY OF OWEN COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Tuesday, September 23, 2025

LOCATION: City Hall

TIME: 6:00 pm

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT: Mayor Scott Jalling

Alderpersons: Jason Thornton(absent), Ken Martine(by phone), Pam Jaffke, Bob Wilczek(absent), John Mael, 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: Clerk/Treasurer, Tracy Rau, talked about Red Ribbon Week and she received an email from an Advisor at school for a donation to be given towards a speaker for the kids. It will be on the next Agenda to discuss.

Approve Council Meeting Minutes 9.9.25: A Jaffke/Kilty motion to approve. Motion carried

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

Council Decisions: At the Fire District meeting with the Council, Alderperson Jaffke felt lost/blind-sided by talking about a different land swap then discussed at council meetings in past and so did Alderperson Martine; talking about a different piece of property. More communication would have been nice; we have good people on board. Alderperson Mael said it is all contingent on the grant. Alderperson Martine asked why the change? It was thought that it had to do with the cost of road being put in, which the council would have made the final decision anyway. The mayor talked to Alderperson Thornton and Chief, Serocki and they thought the other land would be better, which was included in the Planning Meeting. The DPW Director stated the only thing Alderperson Thornton talked to him about was the County Land, a while ago.

Parks & Rec Meeting: The grant that was found was not all it was cracked up to be, it would have cost the city an extra \$40,000. Alderperson Kilty is completing the Evers grant and Hailey Wyro is completing other grants. The rock wall should be removed now before someone gets hurt. The new playground equipment is on hold for now.

Planning Meeting: Talked about the duplex swap or just purchase the lots. Alderperson Kilty has left a couple messages to get the ball rolling. Our DPW is looking into the way the garage door faces, currently they are built on the lots North/South the lots in question are different so can he build on them(looking into ordinance)? Start fresh with new agreement. Also talked about the Fire District land and the sprinkler system.

Joint Fire District Meeting: Covered

Police Meeting: Alderperson Jaffke reported the union contract amendment on hours they will be working need to be changed since a 3rd person was hired. The Chief wanted to recognize Officer Haugstad for his 6 years of service and Officer Scheffler for his "dog bite" response in July. The Budget was discussed, potentially a 5% increase;(going to three officers, overtime etc.) the officers wages are set(per union contract) so at the next meeting in October we will discuss the chiefs wage in closed session; the other item that was talked a lot about was the dog Jimi, should we have a line item for a canine, should we fund raise for the dog, his current life span to retire is just about up(per the breed), do we?, we need to plan for a replacement when the time comes; what kind of message are we sending to community? A spreadsheet was run off, where was the money spent.

Personnel Meeting: A Jaffke/Martine motion to give a 4% increase to everyone for the next year with the Deputy increase and Newest DPW hire. Motion carried

Alderperson Jaffke and Alderperson Martine stated they are happy with all the work the city employees are doing!

Nuisance Property: Mayor Jalling got in touch with the city attorney and the abatement will be filed and a court date set.

PFAS: We should be getting the second part of the settlement sometime in September. Our DPW, Director Chad Smith felt the money should go into a savings for PFAS in the future. The amount to be received should be around \$50,000. The money we received already is put in a line item for DPW. Regarding the possibility of opening a savings with the funds, Alderperson Mauel said it will have to be discussed by the board once all the money is received.

DPW Report: A big thank you was given to our clerk/treasurer for all the work done on the rate case. It has been given for review; Well #6 pump failed and Brunner well drilling came, and the pump bottom rotted off. They could have just fixed it, but it has been there since 2004 so our Director of DPW decided to just change it for \$2000. There was a water leak at the curb stop at 212 E 3rd Street that was fixed; we have been doing fire flow testing at the business park. The new jetting program that was implemented will allow us to see problems and fix them beforehand. The Phosphorus Minimization report was submitted to the DNR along with the PFOS/PFOA Minimization Plan Determination of Need Report. Everything is on schedule for the 2nd Street project, started submitting paperwork to the DOT for reimbursement the contractor shaping crews were in last week; to finish the restoration we were quoted a price for curb and gutter of \$20.00 per square foot and we can complete for \$28.00 per square foot. That includes the removal, form setting, pouring curb and restoration. The driveway at the City Hall has been replaced with concrete at the end of August. Quotes for the driveway were \$8-\$14 and we completed ourselves for \$4.98 per square foot. As stated, before we have been working with Green Grove to get the fire suppression needed. I had a phone meeting with the DNR; in regard to tank, which will probably not get approved(not likely by the PSC) Clark County Rehab(talking about water tower they have) and APEX(the flows are constantly different). It is a work in progress on both sides. We are working to replace the Welcome to Owen sign on Highway 29(worked out with Prodesign), and the Electric Company Easement(North side of X) needs to be signed by the mayor, and they will complete the lines that will aid in the lighting of the bike trail and eliminate a tree that we will be compensated for out front. We started to prepare for the Owen Jr. Fair 2026.

Mayor's Report: Affordable Homes contacted the mayor, and they will purchase a lot and once a house is built they will put a sign out to sell, and others as homes are built and sold. (The contract will be drawn up and signed) The DPW Director, Alderperson Kilty, and the mayor have been in contact with Green Grove. At the Mayors meeting they discussed the nuisance properties, and the police departments. They were all given a tour of the Clark County Health Care Facility.

Other Reports: None

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

Future Agenda Items: Nuisance Property, Police Meeting, Easement, Red Ribbon Week, Finance Meeting

Adjourn: A Martine/Jaffke motion at 7:20 pm. Motion carried

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