

CITY OF OWEN COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Tuesday, September 10, 2024

LOCATION: Owen City Hall

TIME: 6:00 pm

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT: Mayor Scott Jalling

Alderpersons: Ray Kilty(absent), Ken Martine, Jason Thornton; Bob Wilczek, Pam Jaffke, John Mael

ATTENDANCE LIST: Clerk/Treasurer Tracy Rau, DPW Chad Smith, Deputy Kelly Booth, and Chief Fehlman

COMMUNITY ATTENDANCE: Cindy Cardinal/ES-Enterprise Sentinel

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

Public Comment: None

Approve 08.27.24 Meeting Minutes: A Wilczek/Martine motion to approve minutes as written. Motion carried.

Red Daisy Girl Special Event Block Party Permit: A Wilczek/Jaffke motion to approve. Motion carried.

Medication Disposal Box: The Grant Funding needs to be approved yet. It was felt that it should not be placed outdoors, looking into stipulations. A Jaffke/Wilczek motion to approve Medication Disposal Box. Motion carried.

Central States/Health Insurance: A packet was given to Alderperson Jaffke to review; the increase in insurance is \$25.00 per employee per week; same wording as last year. It is the lowest increase out there. A Mael/Martine motion to renew the health insurance contract. Motion carried.

Mutual Insurance: This is our Liability/Workman's Comp. Insurance which declined a little. A Jaffke/Wilczek to approve. Motion carried.

Delinquent Water Bill/Inactive Accounts: Notices were sent in the mail; moving ahead with hanging tags on Monday, September 16 with water shut-off the next day unless a DPA is filed, or payment is made. The DPW checked with the PSC to make sure we were complying. The Clerk/Treasurer and Deputy Clerk are working on the inactive accounts.

Municode: Chief Fehlman received a quote of \$20,950.00 for two years; we were also in contact with Stanley/Boyd and Greenwood as they both use Municode as to the cost/start up cost etc. The Chief and Clerk/Treasurer were in contact with Lexipol and the League of Municipalities for reimbursement to the city if we go ahead and they had never heard of this but would investigate it further and keep in contact by email.

Review Policy Related Contracts: Alderperson Wilczek felt, as well as others felt, that we should send all contracts to the City's Attorney so the legal aspects could be looked at or changed if needed. This is a State Statute and our DPW thought that we would be covered by Cedar Corp. if something happened to the streets(legally). He is not sure so he will investigate this for the next meeting. A Wilczek/Martine motion to rescind first motion until more information is gathered. Motion carried.

Trees by Martins: Alderperson Mael was approached by Earl Martin about taking some trees out of the water by the city owned pond. It was stated that Mr. Martin should contact the DNR to see if he could remove the trees and bring his findings back to the board. No action was taken.

Veterans Park: Our DPW, Mr. Chad Smith, was asked by Mr. Herrington while they were helping with the flags if the trees could be trimmed, and he said sure go ahead. So, they contacted Mr. Milliren. Our DPW received a text from Mr. Milliren stating he was going to start trimming the trees. Mr. Wilczek, who was working, contacted Chief Fehlman about a semi having to go into another lane to avoid a branch in the roadway. Upon Chief Fehlman meeting our DPW at the scene there was not a tree trimmer in sight. There were no permits given, cones in the road, or any caution tape for safety.

The Mayor, Mr. Jalling, was called in the meantime to meet our DPW and Chief of Police on the scene. Mr. Milliren did show up in the meantime and wondered if he should stop topping the trees and he was told yes as our DPW guys would clean up the mess. The mayor contacted OW Vets Club member Dennis Henke who thought Mr. Milliren was just trimming the trees back per the conversation he had with him. The City does have ordinances in place for tree topping, needing of permits, and need to prove the business along with proper insurance in place for the business. At this point a lot of things were said and possibly miscommunication.

Approval for Water Inspection: A Wilczek/Jaffke motion to approve. Motion carried.

Public Works Report: The Lead and Copper Survey is almost complete; he was commended by Mr. Pietz. This gentleman was also on hand for the water inspection which we did well on. The report was given and can be seen down at the city garage. Along with looking ahead it was also noted that our sandpipe needs to be fixed or replaced. Our DPW has been in contact with the rep from the DNR and she is working with us to replace the sandpipe when we can with grant monies; they are helping us because we have always been upfront and honest with them. The DPW has been filling many street cracks and cleaning storm drains. Along with this they have replaced some of the ramps in the city with safety grant money. The black dirt has been hauled in and leveled for our dog park. The water flowing when it rains has been fixed by the county shop and diverted properly now.

Police Meeting: Minutes of the meeting were attached; Alderperson Jaffke went over what was discussed at the meeting and approved. A Martine/Wilczek motion to approve Officer Haugstads wage increase. Motion carried. A Wilczek/Thornton motion to approve moving forward with 3rd Officer. Motion carried.

Clerk Report: The Deputy Clerk attended the 2024 WMCA in Madison August 28 – August 30. The first day was new clerk training, the second day was break out sessions with some vendor interactions. The last day was based on the upcoming Election. It was a lot of information to absorb, a thank you for allowing me to attend to the board and to the Clerk/Treasurer.

Mayors Report: A lady was in contact about the dog park availability; rain amounts have delayed the installation of the fence.

Other Reports: Minutes were given in the packets; the Clerk/Treasurer reminded everyone of a Police Meeting on 9/16, a Personnel Meeting on 9/18, and a Finance Meeting on 9/19.

Treasurers Report: A Wilczek/Martine motion to approve. Motion carried.

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

Future Agenda Items: Municode, Police

Adjourn: A Wilczek/Jaffke motion at 8:00 pm. Motion carried.

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