

**CITY OF OWOSSO
REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MARCH 16, 2026
6:30 P.M.
VIRGINIA TEICH CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

PRESIDING OFFICER: MAYOR ROBERT J. TEICH, JR.

OPENING PRAYER: PASTOR BILL MOULL
OWOSSO FREE METHODIST CHURCH

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: JEFFREY FERWEDA

PRESENT: Mayor Robert J. Teich, Jr., Mayor Pro-Tem Jerome C. Haber,
Councilmembers Janae L. Fear, Carl C. Ludington, and Christopher D.
Owens.

ABSENT: Councilmembers Emily S. Olson and Rachel M. Osmer.

APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Mayor Pro-Tem Haber to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion supported by Councilmember Ludington and concurred in by unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF FEBRUARY 26, 2026

Motion by Councilmember Owens to approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of February 26, 2026 as presented.

Motion supported by Councilmember Fear and concurred in by unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 2, 2026

Motion by Councilmember Owens to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 2, 2026 as presented.

Motion supported by Mayor Pro-Tem Haber and concurred in by unanimous vote.

PROCLAMATIONS / SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

None.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

DWSRF Project Plan Amendment

Master Plan Implementation Goals: 3.4

Utilities Director Ryan E. Suchanek briefly described the proposed amendments to the 2024 DWSRF Project Plan, noting that the original plan called for the rehabilitation of the Gute Hill booster station and

subsequent examination has discovered that a brand new booster station could be constructed for the same amount of money.

Fishbeck Senior Engineer Brian Van Zee gave a presentation detailing the amendments to the plan and the reasoning behind them.

A public hearing was conducted to receive citizen comment regarding the proposed amendments to the Drinking Water State Revolving fund (DWSRF) Project Plan for the 2026 fiscal year.

There were no citizen comments received prior to, or during the hearing.

Whereas, the Council, after due and legal notice, has met and there being no one to be heard, motion by Mayor Pro-Tem Haber that the following amendment to the 2024 DWSRF Project Plan be approved:

RESOLUTION NO. 34-2026

**ADOPTING A FINAL PROJECT PLANNING DOCUMENT AMENDMENT
FOR THE BOOSTER STATION PROJECT AND
DESIGNATING AN AUTHORIZED PROJECT REPRESENTATIVE**

WHEREAS, the City of Owosso recognizes the need to make Booster Station improvements; and

WHEREAS, the City of Owosso authorized Fishbeck to prepare a Project Planning Document Amendment, which recommends the above improvements; and

WHEREAS, said Project Planning Document Amendment (Booster Station Improvements) was presented at a public meeting held on March 16, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. and all public comments have been considered and addressed.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Owosso formally adopts said Project Planning Document Amendment and agrees to implement the improvements (Booster Station Selected Alternative-Construction Alternative).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Director of Public Services and Utilities, a position currently held by Ryan Suchanek, is designated as the authorized representative for all activities associated with the project referenced above, including the submittal of said Project Planning Document Amendment as the first step in applying to the State of Michigan for a revolving fund loan to assist in the implementation of the selected alternative.

Motion supported by Councilmember Owens.

Roll Call Vote.

AYES: Councilmembers Ludington, Fear, Mayor Pro-Tem Haber, Councilmember Owens, and Mayor Teich.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilmembers Olson and Osmer.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Tom Manke, 2910 W. M-21, said the lights downtown looked beautiful and thanked Council for keeping them on. He went on to comment about the performance of a particular staff member.

Kim White, Shiawassee District Library Director, expressed her excitement and gave an update on the library's plan to move saying they had purchased the property at 621 W. Oliver Street and would soon begin an education and fund-raising campaign for the move.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

There was discussion among Councilmembers regarding the performance of the aforementioned staff member. City Manager Henne questioned whether this was the proper venue to air such grievances.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Councilmember Owens to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

First Reading & Set Public Hearing – Ordinance Amendment. Conduct first reading and set a public hearing for Monday, April 6, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. to receive citizen comment regarding the proposed amendment to Sections 2-343 and 2-344 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Owosso to increase the price thresholds that govern all purchases as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 35-2026

SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING TO AMEND CHAPTER 2, ADMINISTRATION, ARTICLE VI, PROCUREMENT AND DISPOSITION TO REVISE PURCHASING AND CONTRACT LIMITS

WHEREAS, the City of Owosso has abided by the Purchase or Contracts Ordinance since it was last amended in the year 2017: and

WHEREAS, the City of Owosso has experienced a significant increase in the costs and expenses of its daily operations, consistent with inflationary trends across the Nation; and

WHEREAS, amending the purchase and contract limits to modern costs will align the City's purchasing authority with the contemporary market ensuring that staff can procure items without the delay associated with formal seal-bid process for mid-tier costs.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY OF OWOSSO ORDAINS:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 2-343 of the Code of Ordinances is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 2-343. - Purchases or contracts \$4,000.00 to \$20,000.00.

Purchases of services, supplies, materials or equipment, the cost of which is equal to or greater than four thousand dollars (**\$4,000.00**) but not more than twenty thousand dollars (**\$20,000.00**) may be made in the open market but such purchases shall, where practicable, be based on at least three (3) competitive bids and shall be awarded to the lowest qualified bidder. The purchasing agent may solicit bids verbally, in writing, or through other means. A record shall be kept of all open market orders and the bids submitted thereon, which records shall be available for public inspection. Any or all bids may be rejected. Purchases made pursuant to this section may be made without prior approval of the council.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT. Section 2-344 of the Code of Ordinances is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 2-344. - Purchases or contracts over \$20,000.00.

Any expenditure for services, supplies, materials or equipment obligating the city, where the amount of the city's obligation is in excess of twenty thousand dollars (**\$20,000.00**), shall be governed by the provisions of this section, except as provided in section 2-345.

(Subsections (1) through (8) of Section 2-344 remain in full force and effect, with the threshold of \$20,000.00 applied to the procedural requirements therein.)

SECTION 3. PUBLIC HEARING. A public hearing is set for Monday, April 6, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. for the purpose of hearing citizen comment regarding the proposed amendments to Chapter 2, Administration, of the Code of the City of Owosso.

SECTION 4. SEVERABILITY. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance is, for any reason, held to be unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance.

SECTION 5. AVAILABILITY. This ordinance may be purchased or inspected in the city clerk's office, Monday through Friday between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE. This ordinance shall take effect twenty (20) days after its adoption and publication.

Boards and Commissions Appointment. Approve the following Mayoral Boards and Commissions appointment:

Name	Board/Commission	Term Expires
Jeff Ferweda	Downtown Historic District Commission filling unexpired term of M. Van Epps	06-30-2026

***Bid Award – Downtown Landscaping Services.** Approve bid award to Woodbury Lawn Snow, LLC for the 2026 Downtown Landscaping Services contract in the amount of \$16,155.00, and authorize payment to the contractor upon satisfactory completion of the service or portion thereof as follows:

1RESOLUTION NO. 36-2026

**AUTHORIZING AWARD OF THE 2026 DOWNTOWN LANDSCAPING SERVICES BID
TO WOODBURY LAWN SNOW, LLC**

WHEREAS, the City of Owosso, Shiawassee County, Michigan, has identified the need for landscaping services including mowing, pruning, and weed control in Downtown Owosso; and

WHEREAS, the City of Owosso, in collaboration with Owosso Main Street & Downtown Development Authority, sought bids for the necessary maintenance to be completed as outlined in the 2026 Downtown Landscaping Services Bid, and the lowest responsive bid was received from Woodbury Lawn Snow, LLC in the amount of \$16,155.00; and

WHEREAS, Woodbury Lawn Snow, LLC is hereby determined to be qualified to provide such services.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Owosso, Shiawassee County, Michigan that:

FIRST: The City of Owosso has heretofore determined that it is advisable, necessary and in the public's best interest to employ Woodbury Lawn Snow, LLC to complete the work as outlined in the 2026 Downtown Landscaping Services Bid.

SECOND: The Mayor and City Clerk are instructed and authorized to sign the necessary documents to execute the services contract with Woodbury Lawn Snow, LLC in the amount of \$16,155.00.

THIRD: The Accounts Payable Department is authorized to pay Woodbury Lawn Snow, LLC for work satisfactorily completed up to the initial contract amount of \$16,155.00.

FOURTH: The above expenses shall be paid from the Owosso Main Street & Downtown Development Authority Fund Account No. 248-200-818.000.

Master Plan Implementation Goals: 3.17, 4.5, 5.17, 5.20

***Bid Award - 2026 Sidewalk Program.** Approve bid award to SA Smith Paving for the 2026 Sidewalk Program in the amount of \$139,250.00, plus a contingency of \$20,000.00 for additional restoration and replacement services required during the fiscal year, and further approve payment to the contractor up to \$159,250.00 upon satisfactory completion of project or portion thereof as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 37-2026

AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF THE 2026 SIDEWALK PROGRAM TO SA SMITH PAVING OF OWOSSO, MICHIGAN

WHEREAS, the City of Owosso, Shiawassee County, Michigan, has determined sections of the sidewalk on various streets in the City have become misaligned, deteriorated, or damaged and that replacement is advisable, necessary and in the public interest; and

WHEREAS, the City of Owosso sought bids for the replacement of these sections of sidewalk as part of the 2026 Sidewalk Program, and the low responsive and responsible bid was received from SA Smith Paving in the amount of \$139,250.00; and

WHEREAS, SA Smith Paving is hereby determined to be qualified to provide such services.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Owosso, Shiawassee County, Michigan that:

FIRST: The City of Owosso has heretofore determined that it is advisable, necessary and in the public interest to employ T J Smith Sand & Gravel, Inc. dba SA Smith Paving to replace sections of damaged or misaligned sidewalk as part of the 2026 Sidewalk Program.

SECOND: The Mayor and City Clerk are instructed and authorized to sign the necessary documents to execute the services contract with SA Smith Paving in the amount of \$139,250.00 plus additional restoration and replacement services required as contingency during the year, in the amount of \$20,000.00, for a total of \$159,250.00.

THIRD: The accounts payable department is authorized to pay SA Smith Paving for work satisfactorily completed on the project up to the initial contact amount of \$139,250.00 plus contingency in the amount of \$20,000.00 for a total of \$159,250.00.

FOURTH: The above expenses shall be paid from the Major and Local Street Maintenance Funds accounts 202-463-818.000 and 203-463-818.000.

***Contract Authorization – Lead Assessments.** Authorize contract with Environmental Testing and Consulting, Inc. for lead assessments for 10 houses as a part of a CDBG housing grant in the amount of

\$11,750.00 and further authorize payment to the contractor upon satisfactory completion of the project or portion thereof as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 38-2026

APPROVING LEAD ASSESSMENTS WITH ENVIRONMENTAL TESTING AND CONSULTING, INC.

WHEREAS, the City of Owosso has been awarded a CDBG Grant for \$926,300 to assist low- to moderate-income residents, owning and occupying permanent single-family homes in funding interior and exterior home improvements to meet code requirements such as roof replacement, windows, plumbing, electrical, mechanical and insulation; and

WHEREAS, according to the HUD guidelines, lead assessments are required for various reasons depending on the scope of the projects; and

WHEREAS, each household can receive up to \$40,000 for improvements and the cost for lead assessments will be deducted from the \$40,000 available for each home.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Owosso, Shiawassee County, Michigan that:

FIRST: it has heretofore determined that it is advisable, necessary and in the public interest to approve the lead assessment quote with Environmental Testing and Consulting, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$11,750.00 for lead assessments required by CDBG grant #NDD-2023-37-MIN.

SECOND: if lead abatements and lead clearance are required, further quotes will be obtained.

Warrant No. 663. Authorize Warrant No. 663 as follows:

Vendor	Description	Fund	Amount
Waste Management	WWTP Refuge Disposal Services	WWTP	\$10,559.48

Motion supported by Councilmember Fear.

Roll Call Vote.

AYES: Councilmembers Fear, Ludington, Owens, Mayor Pro-Tem Haber, and Mayor Teich.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilmembers Olson and Osmer.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

Act 51 Street Decertification

Motion by Councilmember Ludington to authorize decertifying portions of Rain Street and adjoining Ash Street from the listing of streets eligible for Act 51 monies as requested by the State as follows:

1RESOLUTION NO. 39-2026

AUTHORIZING THE DECERTIFICATION/VACATION OF

**PORTIONS OF RAIN STREET AND ASH STREET
FOR THE PURPOSE OF UPDATING THE LOCAL STREET INVENTORY
UNDER PUBLIC ACT 51 OF 1951**

WHEREAS, Rain Street and Ash Street are platted streets within the City of Owosso, Shiawassee County, Michigan; and

WHEREAS, portions of said streets were never fully developed and do not meet the requirement of public street access for automobile traffic; and

WHEREAS, the undeveloped portions of said streets need to be removed from the list of City streets receiving Act 51 monies.

WHEREAS, it is necessary to furnish certain information to the State of Michigan to remove these streets from the local street inventory as required under Act 51, P.A. 1951 as amended; and

WHEREAS, the City does not intend to abandon any street rights-of-way that are decertified for Act 51 purposes, all such rights-of-way shall remain public unless and until they are formally abandoned pursuant to MCL 224.18.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Owosso, Shiawassee County, Michigan that:

FIRST: that portion of Rain Street extending west 149 feet from the west right-of-way of Coventry Court and extending east 294 feet from the east right-of-way of Coventry Court to the point of intersection with Ash Street be decertified for Act 51 purposes.

SECOND: that portion of Ash Street running 214 feet south of the centerline of Rain Street be decertified for Act 51 purposes.

Motion supported by Councilmember Owens.

Roll Call Vote.

AYES: Councilmembers Fear, Owens, Ludington, Mayor Pro-Tem Haber, and Mayor Teich.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilmembers Olson and Osmer.

Rules of Order Amendment

Due to the absence to two Councilmembers Mayor Teich suggested postponing this item until the April 6th meeting.

Motion by Councilmember Owens to postpone the item Rules of Order Amendment until the April 6, 2026 meeting.

Motion supported by Councilmember Fear.

Roll Call Vote.

AYES: Mayor Pro-Tem Haber, Councilmembers Fear, Ludington, Owens, and Mayor Teich.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilmembers Olson and Osmer.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Pastor Bill Moull, Owosso Free Methodist Church, noted that St. Patrick’s Day is tomorrow. He encouraged everyone to look into who St. Patrick was and to mark the day as a day of forgiveness.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

None.

COMMUNICATIONS

- Tanya S. Buckelew, Planning & Building Director. February 2026 Building Department Report.
- Tanya S. Buckelew, Planning & Building Director. February 2026 Code Violations Report.
- Tanya S. Buckelew, Planning & Building Director. February 2026 Inspections Report.
- Tanya S. Buckelew, Planning & Building Director. February 2026 Rental Report.
- Tanya S. Buckelew, Planning & Building Director. February 2026 Certificates Issued Report.
- Kevin D. Lenkart, Public Safety Director. February 2026 Police Report.
- Kevin D. Lenkart, Public Safety Director. February 2026 Fire Report.
- Kevin D. Lenkart, Public Safety Director. February 2026 Parking Citation Report.
- Parks and Recreation Commission. Minutes of February 25, 2026.
- Downtown Development Authority. Minutes of March 4, 2026.

NEXT MEETING

Monday, April 6, 2026

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS OPENINGS

- Building Board of Appeals – Alternate - term expires June 30, 2026
- Building Board of Appeals – Alternate - term expires June 30, 2027
- Historical Commission – term expires December 31, 2026
- Zoning Board of Appeals – Alternate – term expires June 30, 2027
- Zoning Board of Appeals – Alternate – term expires June 30, 2028

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilmember Owens for adjournment at 7:12 p.m.

Motion supported by Councilmember Ludington and concurred in by unanimous vote.

Robert J. Teich, Jr., Mayor

Amy K. Kohagen, City Clerk

*Due to their length, text of marked items is not included in the minutes. Full text of these documents is on file in the Clerk's Office.