

Owatonna City Council Minutes

February 4, 2025

On Tuesday, February 4, 2025, at 7:00 p.m., Council President Raney called the regular session of the Owatonna City Council to order in the Chambers of the Charles S. Crandall Center. Present were Council Members Voss, Dotson, Burbank, Boeke, McCann, Svenby and Raney; Mayor Jessop; City Attorney Walbran; Public Works Director Murphy; Finance Director Burns; Police Chief Mundale; Sergeant Matejcek; Park Director Dieckmann; Assistant City Administrator Tuma, IT Technology Specialist Inz; City Administrator Busse and Administrative Coordinator Clawson.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Council President Raney welcomed everyone. Council Member Boeke made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, Council Member Svenby seconded the motion, all members voted aye in approval.

Consent Agenda Items

Council President Raney explained council members review the Consent Agenda items prior to the meeting for approval in one motion. Consent Agenda items for this meeting include:

- Minutes – Council Meeting – January 17, 2025

- Planning Commission Minutes - December 10, 2024

- EDA Minutes - December 18, 2024

- Airport Commission Minutes - December 19, 2024

- OPU Commission Minutes - November 26, 2024

- Event Permit - BobFest - Foremost Brewery - February 22, 2025

- Exempt Permit - Mn Pheasants Inc Raffle - March 1, 2025

- Temporary Liquor License - Steele Co Historical Society - April 22, 2025

- Revoke On-Sale with Sunday Sales Liquor License - Lacey's at Brooktree

 - Lacey's at Brooktree closed during November. The Minnesota Department of Revenue requested the current liquor license be revoked by the City of Owatonna to assist in issuance of future licenses

- Joint Powers Agreement for Human Resource Background Checks – BCA

 - JPA for our Human Resources Department to use the BCA for background checks.

 - There is a cost for the BCA to perform a background check when needed, current cost is \$33.25 each.

Council Member Boeke made a motion to approve these Consent Agenda items, Council Member Voss seconded the motion; all members voted aye for approval.

Finance Report

Council Member Voss recapped payments made for amounts greater than \$20,000 during this period.

- \$ 52,039.65 Crysteel Truck Equipment - dump truck box for sludge truck
- 50,616.00 Karl Chevrolet Inc - 2024 Tahoe - fire department
- 64,076.31 MTI Distributing Inc
 - reel grinder - golf course - \$62,244.00
 - misc parts - \$1,832.31

863,885.11	Rice Lake Construction Group - WWTP Expansion pay est #31
148,809.86	Southeast Service Cooperative - January 2025 health ins premiums
<u>362,800.96</u>	Other Expenditures
\$1,542,227.89	Subtotal
<u>110,499.06</u>	HRA Housing Assistance Payments
\$1,635,254.75	Total Expenditures Presented for Approval

Council Member Dotson made a motion to approve payment of all bills presented, Council Member Boeke seconded the motion, all members voted aye in approval.

Second Reading Proposed Ordinance 25-03: Adjust Sanitary Sewer Rates

Public Works Director Murphy requested approval of Proposed Ordinance 25-03 to change the rates for sanitary sewer rates. Chapter 35 of the 2015 Ordinance Code of the City of Owatonna related to Appendix A Fee Schedule, (C) Sewer Rates, charges, and fees, (2) Industrial sewer rates and charges established, (3) Domestic sewer rates and charges established will be amended. Rates will be adjusted effective March 1, 2025, to maintain a solvent fund balance in the Sanitary Sewer Budget. The council approved the first reading of this proposed ordinance during their February 4, 2025, meeting and there have been no changes since. Council Member Burbank made a motion for approval, Council Member McCann seconded the motion. With a roll call vote, voting aye were Council Members Voss, Dotson, Burbank, Boeke, McCann, Svenby and Raney; No Nays; the motion carried. This will be known as Ordinance 1668 to be effective upon publication.

First Reading Proposed Ordinance 25-01: Amend Section 93.029 - Noise in Public Parks and Ordinance 25-02: Amend Chapter 95, Noise Control

City Attorney Walbran commented that the City Code includes ordinances regarding noise control which were adopted in 1976. During 1992, regulation regarding noise in the city's parks was approved. These proposed ordinances updates with reference to modern-day audio devices and amend the list of the city's parks to include those added since 1992. City Administrator Busse, Assistant City Administrator Tuma and Chief Mundale assisted in preparing these proposed changes to Chapter 95, Noise Control and addition of the MPCA Standards of noise area clarifications and additional restrictions to public nuisance noises prohibited for law enforcement compliance.

Council Member Boeke made a motion to approved Proposed Ordinance 25-01 to amend Section 93.025 regarding noise in public parks, Council Member Burbank seconded the motion. With a roll call vote, voting aye were Council Members Svenby, Voss, Burbank, Boeke, and Raney; No Nays; the motion carried. The second/final reading will be heard during the next Council Meeting on February 4, 2025.

Council Member Svenby made a motion to approved Proposed Ordinance 25-02 to amend Chapter 95 regarding Noise Control, Council Member McCann seconded the motion. With a roll call vote, voting aye were Council Members Svenby, Voss, Burbank, Boeke, and

Raney; No Nays; the motion carried. The second/final reading of this proposed ordinance will also be heard during the next Council Meeting on February 4, 2025.

Resolution 7-25 Premises Permit to Conduct Lawful Gambling at Mineral Springs Brewery - Owatonna Youth Hockey

City Administrator Busse requested approval of Resolution 7-25 to approve an application received from Owatonna Youth Hockey (OYH) to conduct lawful gambling (pull tabs) under a lease agreement with Mineral Springs Brewery at 210 N Oak, Suite 1. Council Member Voss made a motion for approval, Council Member Boeke seconded the motion, all members present voted aye for approval.

Amendment #4 - Professional Services Agreement for Staff Augmentation - WHKS & Co.

Public Works Director Murphy requested approval Amendment #4 to the Professional Services Agreement with WHKS & Co. for Staff Augmentation. WHKS has provided staff augmentation services to assist with engineering projects and training since November 15, 2022. Services include design oversight, design direction, establishing design schedules, assessing staff's design skills and needs, and State/Federal Aid Project compliance assistance. Staff and WHKS typically meet via Microsoft Teams for check-ins. Additional services are necessary due to the vacancy of the Civil Engineer position, effective January 1, and various assistance is now needed for the upcoming construction season's projects. Services will be billed hourly, this agreement amendment will not exceed \$20,000 without additional authorization. The total contract amount to date, including amendments 1, 2 and 3, and 4 is \$130,000. Council Member Boeke made a motion for approval, Council Member Voss seconded the motion, and all members voted aye in approval.

Consulting Services - Asset Development Consulting for Renewable Natural Gas – EcoEngineers

Public Works Director Murphy presented the Asset Development Consulting Proposal received from EcoEngineers. Consulting services will be provided to assess Owatonna's revenue producing options for biogas conversion to renewable natural gas and providing recommendations. The City of Owatonna is operating a wastewater treatment plant with the intention of upgrading biogas to renewable natural gas (RNG). The attached proposal includes consulting services to engage EcoEngineers consulting services to provide feedstock and process market analysis to help aid determining participation in a regulated or non-related market for the best short- and long-term facility revenue plan. EcoEngineers will also prepare a list of recommendations for market entry as well as general guidance on commercial agreement structures. A MSA and NDA are also included within the agreement; cost of the initial Compliance Consultation will be \$25,000. Council Member Boeke made a motion for approval, Council Member McCann seconded the motion, all members present voted aye for approval.

STAFF COMMENTS

Park Director Dieckmann commented that park staff have been busy with equipment maintenance and trimming trees. and the wheel grinder at the golf course. Training is scheduled for the new mower, the wheel grinder will operate at a reduced noise level, create less dust, and can be programmed for safety operations.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Melissa Zimmerman, 2525 Stony Creek Drive, commented she was making comments regarding the proposed East Side Corridor. She has learned a lot about noise levels within the last several months and is thankful for the proposed updates to the city's noise ordinance which will protect us all. How will noise impact the North Country subdivision if the east-side corridor is built on East 29th? Our community is preparing to vote yes to a noise wall, WSB staff advised a noise wall would be built if 29th Avenue is the final route chosen for the east-side corridor project and an e-mail message from the Steele County Engineer also says this. This will add additional expenses to this project, do we need this increased expense?

Gary Jones, 995 Ridge Road commented he has done a little research to question if other cities allow deer stands above disc golf courses. Rochester has two disc golf courses but deer stands are not allowed near them. Faribault, Northfield and Winonna do not allow deer stands near any of their parks. Owatonna is the only city that allows deer management on public property and there are deer stands close to the city's disc golf course. P&R staff has told me not to worry, the hunters shoot downward but that is where the people are. Mineral Springs Park is too small and should not be included in the city's Deer Management Plan. Kaplan Woods is 200+ acres and stands should be placed in secluded areas where dirt bikers are not riding.

Justin Bartels, 1 N Elm Avenue, told a story of a child praying to receive a kitty and his prayers were answered when a kitty surprised them. He kept the kitty unaware that someone would be looking for it. He requested reestablishment of prayer prior to City Council Meetings, he believes they can help everyone and hurt nobody.

Gale Jorgenson, 249 E Main Street, commented that she is a Christian and firmly believes in separation of state, city, school, and church. If public prayer is offered, it opens to all; when she lived in Minneapolis, several groups took advantage of their time which led to bigger problems. She requested there be no display of public prayer.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Council Member McCann asked how a recent tour of the West Hill facilities went. Council Member Raney commented that the Task Force toured the West Hill campus last week and saw firsthand the challenges the school and city face with the swimming pool at West Hills and Junior High.

Mayor Jessop commented that last week he attended the MURA Legislative Rally with OPU General Manager Roger Warehime. They met with House Representative Tom Sexton and held a very open conversation of current concerns. Last night he attended a meeting of the Owatonna Fire Fighter Relief Association with City Administrator Busse and Fire Chief Hofman, he was encouraged to see the firefighters were all very actively engaged in their meeting.

Council Chairman Raney commented tonight's meeting had been a good meeting.

At 7:40 p.m., Council Member Boeke made a motion to adjourn, Council Member Dotson seconded the motion and with no objection, the meeting ended.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanette Clawson, Administrative Coordinator