

**Owens Cross Roads**  
**Town Council Meeting**  
***Minutes from September 22, 2020***

**Council Members present:**

1. Mayor Tony Craig
2. Tim Wright
3. Larry Furlough
4. James Mann
5. Elizabeth Craig

**Council Member absent:**

1. Scott Baker

**Town Hall staff present:**

1. Christie Eason, Town Clerk
2. Teresa Carpenter, Asst Town Clerk
3. Brandy Wilson, Court Clerk
4. Scott Worsham, Lieutenant of Police
5. Officer Logan Johnson
6. Officer Tyler Sistrunk
7. Jason White, Investigator
8. Dan Kelly, Fire Chief
9. Michael Wilson, Chairman of Planning Commission
10. Terry Mann, Council Member elect

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Tony Craig at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Tim Wright.

Minutes from the August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 meeting and current bank balances were presented by Christie Eason, Town Clerk. Larry Furlough made the motion to approve the minutes and bank balances. Elizabeth Craig 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All in favor.

Mayor welcomed all guests and opened the floor to citizens' concerns/comments. Diane Nicholson voiced her observations of lack of police patrol on Dudley Lane and asked that they patrol more often due to the presence of small children playing in the area and vehicles speeding on that street. She inquired about businesses on Hamer Road, namely AG Composites and new construction at Sequel/Three Springs. She said that a building permit had not been posted for a house under construction by Scott Baker; Teresa Carpenter assured her the permit had been purchased. Another concern for Ms. Nicholson was the spraying for mosquitos; Mayor Craig told her that our mosquito sprayer had been out of operation due to mechanical failure for a week or more but that prior to that, mosquito spraying had occurred as regularly scheduled.

Lieutenant Worsham introduced Jason White as a new part-time detective. He also said the town has re-implemented a Reserve Officer Program with 9 current members in training. He emphasized that these Reserve Officers are on a volunteer basis and will not be paid by the town. They will ride along with certified officers and assist as necessary in the line of duty but will not be patrolling by themselves. They will use their own equipment and seek out their own certifications if so desired.

#### **Old Business:**

1. The Mayoral Election was held August 25 and the results were as follows:

<b>Candidate:</b>	<b>Town Hall</b>	<b>Absentee</b>	<b>Provisionals</b>	<b>Total Votes</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Craig, Tony</b>	204	3	0	207	259	79.92%
<b>Meier, Yvonne</b>	51	1	0	52	259	20.08%

2. On September 3<sup>rd</sup> speed bumps for Sedgewick Drive in Bristol Creek were approved by council and installed by Y & S.
3. On September 3<sup>rd</sup> new planning commission members were approved by the council at Mayor Tony's suggestion: Ross Hill & Jason Denenny.
4. Planning Commission Organizational meeting was held last night, September 21. Michael Wilson was elected as Chairman, Jason Denenny as Vice Chairman, and Yvonne Meier as Chairman Pro Tempore. Christie Eason and/or Teresa Carpenter will serve as secretaries for the Planning Commission meetings.
5. Server Room & Police Locker Room update: James Mann & Christie Eason; walls are almost completed, the server is temporarily installed and will be moved to its permanent location as soon as the renovations are complete. The shower room for the officers will be the last thing completed. James Mann noted that email addresses for Town employees and Council Members are now ready for activation and use with a .gov domain. He also noted that CT Locke is doing a good job on the construction/renovations required for the upgraded IT system.

#### **New Business:**

1. Ordinance 20-009: (*replaces Ordinance No. 02-03*) overgrown grass and weeds; violation warnings (sample) and citations. Larry Furlough made a motion to consider Ordinance 20-009; Tim Wright seconded the motion. All were in favor. Tim Wright made a motion to adopt Ordinance 20-009; Larry Furlough seconded the motion. All were in favor.

2. Ordinance 20-010: new sign ordinance. Mayor Craig asked that all members of the Council take the documentation regarding Ordinance 20-010 home and review it then provide responses to the Town Clerk as soon as possible.
3. Ordinance 20-011: Annexation of Owens Cross Roads Church of Christ. Tim Wright made a motion to consider Ordinance 20-011; Larry Furlough seconded the motion. All were in favor. James Mann made a motion to adopt Ordinance 20-011; Elizabeth Craig seconded the motion. All were in favor.
4. Resolution 20-09-22: NSF Policy for Town Hall business & court. James Mann made a motion to adopt Resolution 20-09-22; Tim Wright seconded the motion. All were in favor.
5. Resolution 20-09-22-A: Public Records Request policy & sample of form. Larry Furlough made a motion to adopt Resolution 20-09-22-A; Tim Wright seconded the motion. All were in favor.
6. Halloween Celebration for Owens Cross Roads – Elizabeth Craig said the CDC has asked people to NOT celebrate Halloween this year due to COVID-19. James Mann initially agreed with Elizabeth Craig. Brandy Wilson suggested a drive-by style treat distribution where children and parents would remain in their respective cars and employees of Town Hall would distribute and appropriate number of treat bags to each car as they drive past; Elizabeth Craig was concerned about cars backing up. James Mann was open and receptive to the drive-by idea. Mayor Craig said he felt there would be traffic issues created. Scott Worsham suggested maybe an alternate location or use reserve officers to direct traffic. Terry Mann volunteered to direct traffic and asked what local churches were doing. Michael Wilson suggested checking with the state to see what restrictions may be placed upon Halloween celebrations. Larry Furlough, Tim Wright, James Mann, Elizabeth Craig and Tony Craig all agreed that if the local churches were going forward with a Halloween celebration then Town Hall would follow suit. Scott Worsham said that he and Jason Dobbins would have sufficient coverage for that night if the Town went forward with a Drive By event.
7. Elizabeth Craig suggested the Council to give \$200 to the Owens Cross Roads School PTO for their annual Bingo event which has been postponed until March, 2021. Elizabeth Craig made the motion and Tim Wright seconded the motion. All were in favor.
8. Elizabeth Craig introduced the idea of having a Christmas Parade this year instead of the annual Christmas Open House. Suggested date is December 12, beginning at 12 noon with lineup at the OCR School, heading West on Wilson Mann then South on Old 431, ending at Cove Baptist Church. Teresa Carpenter said that Chief Jason Dobbins had said earlier in the week that he could block the traffic on Wilson Mann and Old 431 during the time of the parade to allow parade participants to use the South bound lane and people viewing the parade could stand/sit on the North bound lane and/or in yards along the parade route. Chief Dobbins had also previously offered to talk with all the property owners on the East side of Old 431 to gain their permission for use of their yards. Elizabeth Craig asked for a budget of \$2,000 to cover any and all costs associated with the parade, including but not limited to ordering of a banner to

announce the date and time, flyers to be passed out at the school, and salaries for any necessary additional officers. James Mann made the motion to approve the Owens Cross Roads 2020 Christmas Parade with a budget not to exceed \$2000. Tim Wright seconded the motion. All were in favor.

9. Larry Gurley from the Gurley Masonic Lodge came forward and presented the OCR Police Officers with gift cards as a token of appreciation for their backup of the Gurley Police Department. Scott Worsham will check to ensure there are no ethics violations involved in the acceptance of these cards. If there are potential issues, the cards will be used for Christmas gifts for local children.
10. Christie Eason presented the idea of having a non-perishable food drive box in the lobby of Town Hall; all food donated into the box will be given to the food pantry managed by the CARE Center in New Hope, which also serves families in the Owens Cross Roads area.
11. Referring back to Diane Nicholson asking about being notified of new businesses coming into OCR, James Mann said that with our new website in place, we can add names of new businesses moving into Owens Cross Roads after the businesses purchase their Business License. Will be added to the NEWS tab on the website.
12. Christie Eason briefly explained the Notice of Ordinance Violation forms which have been ordered and will be used by officers to give warning and notice to those in violations. If they are ignored, citations will be issued which will require an appearance in Municipal Court.
13. Elizabeth Craig reminded Christie Eason and Teresa Carpenter to call JSI by mid-October to have Christmas decorations put up by the 1<sup>st</sup> week of November.

Tim Wright made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Larry Furlough Seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:04pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Christie Eason, Town Clerk

Teresa Carpenter, Assistant Town Clerk