



# OWENS CROSS ROADS

## ALABAMA

EST. 1967

### MINUTES FOR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OCTOBER 27, 2020

#### Council Members present:

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

#### Town Hall staff present:

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

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Tony Craig at 5:58 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Tim Wright.

Minutes from the September 22<sup>nd</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. Tim Wright 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All in favor.

Mayor Craig made a special presentation of a plaque to John Ikard in recognition of his service for 15 years due to his retirement October 31<sup>st</sup>.

The following town people requested to speak:

- 1) **Doug Merchant** – lives at 494 Wilson Mann; Requesting road to be resurfaced from 476 to 503 Wilson Mann Road. Previous repairs were cold patch and has not stayed in good repair. They constantly flake, are never smooth and even. Many vehicles

not stayed in good repair. They constantly flake, are never smooth and even. Many vehicles travel this road including large vehicles such as 18 wheelers and when they go over the uneven surfaces it is very noisy and disruptive but also more damaging to the area.

In addition, vehicles travel at very high rate of speeds from Highway 431 to the residential area around 530 Wilson Mann Road in spite of the posted 25 mph speed limit. He is requesting speed bumps be put in place to help slow this traffic.

**Note:** Town Hall has ordered additional signs as well as ‘slow, children at play’ signs to be posted to this area.

- 2) **Marvene Borotrager** – lives at 495 Wilson Mann Road. She is very concerned about a neighboring house located at 487 Wilson Mann Road, owner named Barbara Hall. She as well as other neighbors believe it is being treated as a boarding house. They have seen as many as 11 adults living there. There has been at least one incident with a man who was disoriented in the middle of the night, knocking on neighbors’ doors because he didn’t know where he was supposed to be. There are individuals sleeping in their vehicles in the drive way. The garage has been converted to 2 bedrooms and there are bunk beds in there. Police have been called numerous times. There have been fights, people yelling at all times of day and night. Ms. Borotrager believes people from this home have stolen from her garage, trespassed on her property, etc. Elizabeth Craig asked about school age children – MB: there appears to be one child between 12-14, who doesn’t appear to be in school.

Ms. Borotrager is requesting an ordinance be put in place limiting 2 adults per bedroom. Mayor Craig said we are looking into an ordinance related to this issue.

Note from additional town member: Ms. Hall owns many cats and they are being destructive and a general nuisance to the neighborhood. Urinating on personal property, tearing up flower beds, etc. Mayor Craig suggested that they call animal control for this issue. Mr. Merchant noted that he set traps.

Mr. Birdwell from the EMA for all of Madison County was present. On behalf of the EMA, he thanked the Town Council and the Town of Owens Cross Roads for their continued support. Each municipality who takes partners with the EMA is asked to pay their share based on their population.

The EMA provides Hazard Mitigation plans through FEMA. Disaster related funds. They visited all nursing homes during the COVID Pandemic to ensure they had everything they needed to care for the elderly. EMA also operated the Tornado warning sirens throughout our county. EMA also can help provide substitutes for our PD in an emergency. They also help with storm damage and debris cleanup after a disaster.

Mayor asked if there were any additional guests who wanted to speak.

Stanly Walls asked if the Council knew anything about orange paint on his yard and in front of his property on Guthrey was for. Mayor did not but Tim Wright stated that was NHTC paint.

**Old Business:**

- 1. Server Room & Police Locker Room update: James Mann – servers are in place, construction about 95 % done.
- 2. Halloween Celebration set and ready for Saturday, 5- 7 pm – decorations will be put up this week
- 3. Owens Cross Roads Church of Christ annexation paperwork filed and complete. Proper notice was sent to the Owen Cross Roads Church of Christ.
- 4. JSI has been scheduled to set up Christmas décor/lights the week of Nov 9-13

**New Business:**

- 1. Michael Wilson, Chairman of Planning Commission presented 569 Brockway for vote – representing the PC, MW proposed approval to subdivide the lot into 2 – R1 lots with the understanding that approval is contingent on the property being surveyed and filed with the tax assessor’s office. Cooper will need to bring survey and house plans to Town Hall for approval.

James Mann asked if any opposition from the property owners. There are none.

Roll Call Vote as follows:

James Mann – yes	Scott Baker – yes	Tony Craig - yes
Larry Furlough – yes	Tim Wright – yes	Elizabeth Craig - yes

- 2. Ordinance 20-010: ADDENDUM TO THE ZONING REGULATIONS OF OWENS CROSS ROADS ALABAMA ARTICLE V. SIGN STANDARDS ADOPTED JUNE, 2008 – Town Council received this ordinance via email to review prior to meeting.

Motion to consider ordinance: Larry Furlough, 2<sup>nd</sup> Elizabeth Craig, All in favor.

Motion to adopt ordinance: Tim Wright. 2<sup>nd</sup> Elizabeth Craig, All in favor.

- 3. Ordinance 20-012: Implementing Reserve Officers Program – there will be maximum # of participants set at 10. Required to serve 8 hours a month, and work events in the town such as Halloween Drive Thru, Christmas Parade, and others. The officers would never serve alone, and would report to Jason White, Investigator. The Reserve Officers would have their own set of Standard Operating Procedures.

The police budget will pay for the following supplies for the RO: reserve officers’ badge, 1 long sleeve shirt, 1 short sleeve shirt. Chief Dobbins states there is a guardian angel program to have protective vests donated to them.

Elizabeth Craig asked how long before vests acquired? Would they be active without vests before donated? How much would vest be if purchased outright. Chief Dobbins says he has a few extra vests to be used by RO until the other vests come in and that no RO would be on patrol without a vest. An inexpensive vest would run between \$300-500 apiece.

- a. Adding Reserve officers to the Workers Compensation Fund – this money would come from the Police Budget.

Motion to consider Ordinance 20-012 and add RO to workers compensation fund – Tim Wright, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Scott Baker, All in Favor.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 20-012 and add RO to workers compensation fund – Larry Furlough, 2<sup>nd</sup> – James Mann, All in favor.

4. 2021 Severe Weather Preparedness Tax Holiday Feb 26-28, 2021: Resolution 12-10-25 passed on 10/31/2012. Council agreed to leave resolution in place and continue to honor Severe weather preparedness Tax Holiday.

5. James Mann – security – James requesting a budget not to exceed \$8000 to have Electronic Access control locks added to back half of building, including Server Room and Police locker room. These locks would be RFID. Once Proxy Cards are purchased the printing of badges would be done in house.

Mayor inquired about Police and Clerk doors at the front of the building. James stated this could be added at a later date or priced out now to see what it would be to add. Elizabeth asked about a key pad lock and JM stated this was about the same cost. Either system would have a battery backup, etc. Could be changed inhouse. Proxy cards could be disabled as needed or created as needed. There is an option of proxy card + pin code. EC asked to make sure the price is locked down before work begins so the budget isn't blown. James said he is 100% confident the project would run between \$5-7K. EC asked about NHTC doing it and JM stated they turned down the project.

James Mann motioned to upgrade lock system for back half of building not to exceed \$8k. Larry 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in Favor.

6. Parking Lot lights – 4 additional lights needed – Christie presented quotes from JSI, Mr. Electric, and K Electric. Reviewed the need for lights on north side of building. Elizabeth Craig stated this was brought up in 2018 to Council and quotes were never presented by preceding Town Clerk.

Mr. Electric – \$19,466.48

JSI – \$25,556

K Electric – \$10,000

Christie stated that K Electric was highly recommended by Inline Lighting and that research found K Electric has a 5/5 with the BBB and has been in business since 1983.

Motion to accept quote, Tim Wright, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Elizabeth Craig, all in favor.

Additional townsperson requested to speak.

Cecilia Yarbrough of 114 Rein Dance Lane in Carriage Park. There is no lighting in Carriage Park. What can we do to get lighting? Mayor stated we would check into it. CY asked what is procedure? And Wanted a copy of Agenda. Christie gave her copy to her. She did receive the letter regarding the flume clean up. Wanted to know how late could they work? That there should be a time limit of start/stop work. Scott Baker said those rules would be in the covenants of their HOA but they do not have an HOA. Mayor Craig indicated they need an HOA. CY stated she was NOT interested in an HOA. CY also stated that the FLUMES were not a true indication of property lines. Tim Gaines (Town Administrator) stated that each property owner would have to prove their property lines, or we could refer to the Plats we have stored at Town Hall to determine responsibility of flume for each property.

Chief Jason Dobbins reported on the Police Department numbers this month.

109 traffic stops with 66 citations and 43 warnings. 6 arrests. And 195 calls for service. It was decided by Council, Chief Dobbins, and Lieutenant Worsham to begin posting those numbers on OCR Police FB page so the community is aware of what is happening in our town.

Christie reported that she is currently gathering info for the accountant for the standard annual audit happening. Accounts are auditing 2019 and 2020. Also, TARCOG has been scheduled to begin work with the Clerks and Mayor next week to update our boundary map.

Teresa reported that Sewer ACH is set to begin November 18. Xxx have signed up so far for this service. Electronic bills should start on Friday pending a few glitches to work out this week. Just these electronic bills save about \$30 a month. We currently send out 780 bills a month. Think of how much we could save in postage if all were electronic instead of mail.

Elizabeth Craig

Has asked Chief Dobbins to check into a flashing warning light about the approaching RED LIGHT at Wilson Mann Road. Chief Dobbins confirmed he is checking into it.

EC asked Christie the status of the miles to OCR sign at Guntersville. Christie stated that they promised it done by end of year, but she would check on it.

EC asked how many RO will be at Halloween Drive Thru. PCJD Stated 7-10, with 2 officers on duty, and Lieutenant Worsham on call helping out.

Christmas parade – EC has been gathering participants.

Landscaping for Tornado shelters was previously approved for \$1500. This is in the works.

Lieutenant Scott Worsham

Can get the City Limit signs moved to the correct location? Christie will ask about this again.

No other council members had anything to present or discuss.

EC referred to RO vests again. Is it in budget to purchase vests for RO? She doesn't want ANY RO on patrol without a vest. Mayor Craig wants them to use few extra vests on hand see what happens with Guardian Angel program.

Chief Jason Dobbins swore in the Reserve Officers that were present.

Motion to adjourn, Tim Wright. 2<sup>nd</sup>, Scott Baker, All in Favor.

Adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Christie D. Eason, Town Clerk

Teresa Carpenter, Assistant Town Clerk

