



OWENS CROSS ROADS CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

Tuesday, December 14, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m.
Owens Cross Roads Court Room | 9032 Highway 431 S.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tony Craig, Mayor
Tim Wright
Terry Mann
James Mann

COUNCIL MEMBERS

ABSENT:

Larry Furlough
Scott Baker

GUESTS PRESENT:

Tom Jarvinen, Atty @ Law
Matt Balch, Atty @ Law
Hope Davis, Media
Dr. Waymon Burke
Keith Conville
Crane Creel
Pastor Thomas Dunn
Nicole Dunn
Elizabeth Craig
Andrew Craig
Peggy Harris
Nicole Keel
Stanley Walls
Clayton Newkirk
Mr. Young
Edwin Parks

CITY HALL STAFF PRESENT:

Christie Eason, Municipal Clerk
Teresa Carpenter, Assistant Clerk
Lora Martin, Assistant Clerk
Brandy Wilson, Court Clerk
CT Locke, Maintenance
Tim Gaines, Inspector
Jason Dobbins, Chief of Police
Scott Worsham, Lieutenant
Jeff Graves, K-9 Police Officer
Shannon Drake, Fire Chief
Bruce Swanson, Fire Department

MAYOR CRAIG: CALL TO ORDER @ 5:58 pm

TIM WRIGHT: Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Craig welcomed guest, Crane Creel from the Masonic Lodge in Gurley, Alabama for a presentation. The Masons of Gurley donated stuffed animals to be used in comfort for children during OCR Police Department calls.

Meeting Minutes November 16th Council Meeting and Bank Balances – Christie Eason, Municipal Clerk

Motion to Approve: Tim Wright; 2nd – Terry Mann

Terry Mann Aye	Tim Wright Aye	Scott Baker Absent	Mayor Craig Aye	Larry Furlough Absent	James Mann Aye
-------------------	-------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	--------------------------	-------------------

Mayor Tony Craig canvassed employees and guests in attendance.

Brandy Wilson gave a report on stats of Court for 2021:

Adjudicated - 775 Cases;
 Guilty - 421 – Traffic, 60 – Non-traffic;
 Dismissed – 215 – Traffic, 18 – Non-traffic;
 Non-pros: 34 - Traffic, 26 – Non-traffic;
 Youth Offender - 1 – Guilty; Closed 811 Cases; Entered 577 Cases.

AGENDA ITEMS

Dr. Waymon Burke, multi-generational family have been life-long residents of Owens Cross Roads. Dr. Burke presented a drawing of his pond. He is proposing to donate this pond and small parcel of land adjacent to pond (total of ~ 4- 5 acres) located on Highway 431 S in front of Redemption Church for the City to use as a Park. He proposed a sidewalk around the park, possibly a bridge. He requests the park be named after his parents. Suggests that the property on north side of pond be used as a small parking lot for the park. He understands that details would have to be worked out with the Church since property line for church goes into the pond, as well as FEMA regarding the blue line stream that the pond flows into. In early 2022 Dr. Burke plans to have the property surveyed so that he has exact information to present an official offer/proposal to the City Council for deed/donation.

Keith Conville – donation of the pond to the City for Park use presents some practicality challenges:

- State right of way comes to the tree line on the east side of the pond
- Church property line comes into the pond
- Crossing at inlet/outlet – pond is actually in the flood plain
 - Need rise certificate
 - Bridges, if even allowed, would have be ADA compliant
- Liability issues

Thomas Dunn, Pastor of Redemption Church that shares property line with Dr. Burke’s property – he has a positive view on the park, and thinks that the local church leadership would be willing to partner with Dr. Burke and the City of Owens Cross Roads on the park project. Wants to make sure all parties understand that the State level leadership would have final say before any agreement could be made.

Ordinance No. 21-037

Motion to Consider: Tim Wright; 2nd Terry Mann

Terry Mann Aye	Tim Wright Aye	Scott Baker Absent	Mayor Craig Aye	Larry Furlough Absent	James Mann Abstained
-------------------	-------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------

Motion to Approve: Larry Furlough; 2nd - Scott Baker

Terry Mann Aye	Tim Wright Aye	Scott Baker Absent	Mayor Craig Aye	Larry Furlough Absent	James Mann Abstained
-------------------	-------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------

Ordinance No. 21-037 **did not pass** and was tabled until next month.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS/REQUESTS

1. LOCAL GOVERNMENT- Christie Eason, Municipal Clerk

Digital sign installed by CT Locke, Shannon Drake, and electricians. Lora Martin has developed working knowledge of software and is keeping the sign messages updated. Mayor and Christie have asked CT to look into adding brick to the sign to finish off the appearance. Received a lot of compliments from community members and others about the new sign.

CT Locke – old maintenance shed demolished, new pole barn enclosed, other finishing details work in progress

Teresa Carpenter – business license renewals were mailed out and some are already coming back in; sewer department is marching forward well

2. POLICE DEPARTMENT – Jason Dobbins, Chief of Police

- 179 Calls of Service; 36 Traffic Citations; 20 Warnings; 16 case reports; 4 wrecks; 5 arrests
- Attended FEMA Meeting Tuesday morning held for Madison County representing Owens Cross Roads – they have added two (2) of OCR needs to the list: Flood study for the Tarkiln Branch area to the river, and sewer treatment plant. Jake Roth will create quote on how much a flood study would cost; Bill Thomas will supply a quote for a sewer treatment plant. These plus letters of intent must be submitted no later than January 11th. No guarantee for money, if OCR is granted the funds, it could be over a year before any is made available. Chief Dobbins will attend the next meeting to gather more information and turn in our letters of intent and quotes.

3. FIRE DEPARTMENT – Shannon Drake, Fire Chief

- New hire, Bruce Swanson, has been helping a lot with Fire Department logistics since Shannon Drake has been out for his injury
- Waiting to hear back from forestry commission regarding our City Fire Department approvals
- 911 is ready to assign us #563
- Will start pricing radios
- Will start having all vehicles re-lettered after confirmation of # from 911
- There will be an informational meeting for the Fire Department in January

OPEN FLOOR TO OTHER INDIVIDUAL EMPLOYEES & OTHER ATTENDEES

Scott Worsham – nothing; Lora Martin – nothing; Hope Davis – nothing; Andrew Craig – nothing; Nicole Keel – nothing; Peggy Harris – nothing; Stanley Walls – nothing; Tom Jarvinen – nothing;

Elizabeth Craig - the Christmas parade had 37 registered participants – 12 of those floats, unfortunately we were rained out but look forward to even more participants and great day next year for the parade.

Matt Balch – Merry Christmas!

OPEN FLOOR TO INDIVIDUAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Terry Mann – County has been working well with us on street repairs but they are very backed up and do not know when they will be able to get to any of our needs.

He is verbally proposing:

- 1) Take old fire department brush truck and put a new motor in it (~12K) and use it for street maintenance to work with the County and other maintenance needs
- 2) Hire someone for 40 hours a month, not to exceed 60 hours a month to do the work mentioned above

Mayor Craig and others liked the idea and gave Terry the go ahead to create an official proposal with firm #'s to present to the Council in January.

Tim Wright – nothing;

James Mann – two (2) topics to address:

- 1) We started live stream recording last year and it has been well received but a consistent complaint about unable to hear well; as well as unable to hear well in court/council room. There are plans to improve the sound quality with an upgrade to our system. Quotes are hard to come by as well as supplies. We have been attempting to meet with providers and gather quotes for a few months but it's a slow go. Please be patient.
- 2) Facebook profile – for the last year the metrics response has been wonderful, some posts would have 100 likes in an hour and 2000 reached in 2-3 days. During the last month, these metrics have dropped across the board for every post. He believes this is because of repeat posting of the Christmas parade instead of a scheduled routine like other items. He requests that Ms. Davis be included in all planning meetings. She is the expert on this and knows how to best reach the public.

Edwin Parks – former community member, believes that if the dam and drainage issues on Hobbs Island Road were addressed it would solve most if not all of the flooding issues in Owens Cross Roads. Has anyone talked to the appropriate persons about that? It was clarified that Hobbs Island is a County Road, but Mayor said we would definitely speak to someone about that issue.

Motion to Adjourn Meeting by Tim Wright; 2nd by Terry Mann

Terry Mann Aye	Tim Wright Aye	Scott Baker Absent	Mayor Craig Aye	Larry Furlough Absent	James Mann Aye
-------------------	-------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	--------------------------	-------------------

ADJOURNED MEETING AT 6:31 pm.

*Respectfully Submitted by Christie D. Eason, Municipal Clerk
Teresa Carpenter, Assistant Clerk
Lora Martin, Assistant Clerk*