



**OWENS CROSS ROADS CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES  
Tuesday, July 26, 2022 @ 6:00 p.m.  
Owens Cross Roads Court Room | 9032 Highway 431 S.**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Tony Craig, Mayor  
Scott Baker  
Larry Furlough  
James Mann  
Terry Mann  
Tim Wright

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

Matthew Balch, City Attorney  
Michael Benoit, Stone Ridge Homes, Inc.  
Andrew Craig  
Elizabeth Craig  
Jake Roth, City Engineer

**CITY HALL STAFF PRESENT:**

Polly Blalock, Judge  
Christie Eason, City Clerk  
Jason Dobbins, Police Chief  
Tim Gaines, Inspector  
CT Locke, Maintenance  
Lora Martin, Assistant Clerk  
Will Maynes, Maintenance  
Brandy Wilson, Court Clerk  
Jeff Graves, K-9 Officer

**COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:**

none

**MAYOR CRAIG: CALL TO ORDER @ 6:00 pm**

**TIM WRIGHT: Pledge of Allegiance**

Meeting Minutes June 28<sup>th</sup> Regular Session and Bank Balances – Christie Eason, City Clerk

Motion to Approve: Larry Furlough; 2<sup>nd</sup>-Tim Wright

Terry Mann Aye	Tim Wright Aye	Scott Baker Aye	Mayor Craig Aye	Larry Furlough Aye	James Mann Aye
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**Minutes & Bank Balances APPROVED - Unanimous**

**Mayor Tony Craig** greeted and canvassed guests in attendance.

Michael Benoit, Land Developer with Stone Ridge Homes – just observing

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**Brandy Wilson, Court Clerk –**

Court Clerk Report for July 2022

Owens Cross Roads Municipal Court has 1,234 open cases with a total balance of \$201,372.56

Adjudicated	24	Entered Cases	40
Dismissed	1	Non-Pros	1
Closed Cases	1	Guilty	12
Open Warrants	755		
Cases appealed to circuit court			1
Entered into Pretrial Diversion			1

Fines Set up: \$11,930.50                      Total Received: \$7,542.00

**AGENDA ITEMS**

**Ordinance No. 22-018 Abatement of Unsafe Structures**

*This ordinance adopts Code of Alabama Section and also adds a Board of Abatement. The term of the Board of Abatement is 2 years. This ordinance was presented & considered in May and June council meetings.*

Motion to Approve: Tim Wright; 2<sup>nd</sup> - Scott Baker

Terry Mann Nay	Tim Wright Aye	Scott Baker Aye	Mayor Craig Aye	Larry Furlough Aye	James Mann Nay
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**Ordinance No. 22-018 APPROVED – 4 to 2**

**Ordinance No. 22-019 After Hour Sewer Emergency Call Charges**

*This ordinance adopts a fee schedule for after hour sewer calls that are the homeowner’s responsibility and not the fault of the City Sewer Department.*

Motion to Consider: Tim Wright; 2<sup>nd</sup> James Mann

Terry Mann Aye	Tim Wright Aye	Scott Baker Aye	Mayor Craig Aye	Larry Furlough Aye	James Mann Aye
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Motion to Approve: Larry Furlough; 2<sup>nd</sup> Scott Baker

Terry Mann Aye	Tim Wright Aye	Scott Baker Aye	Mayor Craig Aye	Larry Furlough Aye	James Mann Aye
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**Ordinance No. 22-019 APPROVED – Unanimous**

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**Ordinance No. 22-020 Right of Way Regulations (replaces 21-014)**

*This ordinance updates ROW regulations for contractors that perform work within the city limits and sets a standard of notification to City Hall and/or the property owner.*

Motion to Consider: Tim Wright; 2<sup>nd</sup> Larry Furlough

Terry Mann Aye	Tim Wright Aye	Scott Baker Aye	Mayor Craig Aye	Larry Furlough Aye	James Mann Aye
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Motion to Approve: Terry Mann; 2<sup>nd</sup> Tim Wright

Terry Mann Aye	Tim Wright Aye	Scott Baker Aye	Mayor Craig Aye	Larry Furlough Aye	James Mann Aye
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**Ordinance No. 22-020 APPROVED – Unanimous**

**Resolution No. 22-023 Y & S Paving Inc. Proposal**

*This resolution approves Y & S Paving, Inc. to perform road repairs to seven (7) locations within the City Limits of Owens Cross Roads for \$16,240.*

Terry Mann asked if the city can use Rebuild Alabama funds for this project?  
Christie Eason stated yes, she verified this information before the meeting.

Motion to Approve: Terry Mann; 2<sup>nd</sup> Tim Wright

Terry Mann Aye	Tim Wright Aye	Scott Baker Aye	Mayor Craig Aye	Larry Furlough Aye	James Mann Aye
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**Resolution No. 22-023 ADOPTED - Unanimous**

**Resolution No. 22-024 Donation to support New Hope Volleyball Team**

*This resolution approves a monetary donation of \$100 to support the New Hope High School Volleyball Team.*

Motion to Approve: Tim Wright; 2<sup>nd</sup> - Larry Furlough

Terry Mann Aye	Tim Wright Aye	Scott Baker Aye	Mayor Craig Aye	Larry Furlough Aye	James Mann Aye
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**Resolution No. 22-024 ADOPTED - Unanimous**

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**Resolution No. 22-025 Donation to New Hope High School Band Booster Club**

*This resolution approves a monetary donation of \$300 to support the New Hope High School Band Booster Club. The band booster club will feature the City of Owens Cross Roads in a full-page color ad in their football program.*

Motion to Approve: Tim Wright; 2<sup>nd</sup> – Scott Baker

Terry Mann Aye	Tim Wright Aye	Scott Baker Aye	Mayor Craig Aye	Larry Furlough Aye	James Mann Abstain
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**Resolution No. 22-024 ADOPTED – Unanimous of 5 voters**

**Mayor Craig asked Jake Roth, City Engineer** to present the status of the ADEM SRF Grant application and discuss the meeting had at ADEM headquarters in Montgomery on Wednesday, July 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Jake Roth-**

*ADEM has multiple funding streams available for use in funding projects through the SRF program. A large amount of money is already spoken for, and projects must fit into certain categories in order to obtain funding. The federal funds for the ARPA program are not available in lump sum and must be prioritized for award over the next two years. In an effort to maximize project dollars, ADEM is reviewing financial statements of each entity that has submitted for funding to identify their potential for using a combination of loan and grant funding to award the project.*

*The FY22 money for this program has been decided on and is being moved toward project award. The next round of project funding is targeted for January. Based on the conversation with ADEM, we anticipate that Owens Cross Roads WWTP project will make that list.*

*Upon review of our application package, ADEM has verified the point scoring system and rates our project well. Owens Cross Roads is no longer a disadvantaged community, which does hurt our prospects for use of certain funding streams. However, there is a proposed definition change that may move OCR back into that category.*

*Based on our application, it is anticipated that OCR would be awarded a combination of grant and loan money to fund the project. We will need to provide 2021 financial statements, but it is likely that the low interest loan funding would be close to \$4M and the grant would make up the difference.*

*Due to the extremely tight schedule for a new operation to be in place May 2024, ADEM is working to provide funding of up to \$250K to support OCR moving forward with engineer design and drawings to prepare for bid of the project while the next round of project approvals is being negotiated. This would allow OCR to be ready to bid/award the project in early 2023 which would give us a chance to meet the May 2024 timeline.*

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*There are a number of ways to award the engineering design effort. I am able to assist in whichever way OCR chooses. I believe the lowest cost option is to utilize the treatment plan as provided and used in multiple places in other municipalities by Bill so that your operator is familiar with the equipment supplier, the operation of the system and can manage it well. To do this, I am confident that we can move forward with the design of the pieces to prepare a project design by contracting a series of small, local firms with specific expertise to come together to compile a full design. Alternatively, OCR could prepare an RFQ package and solicit publicly for an engineering firm for the specific design of the entire project. This would likely draw interest from a number of highly qualified larger firms, but would come at a higher price and may be more difficult to direct on exactly how the WWTP operation should run based on OCR experience.*

*ADEM has indicated they will be able to provide a letter of funding up to \$250K for the design effort for OCR in the next 2-3 weeks. It must be approved through the governor's office with review at the state legislature.*

**Terry Mann** - \$250K guarantee? **JR** – nothing is a guarantee without the letter stating it.

**James Mann** - What is the life expectancy on a new plant? **JR** - 25-30 years with routine maintenance  
**JM** – how far out on install process? **JR** – predicting around 14-20 window, however, again, it all depends on available supplies needed.

New Hope is a year ahead of OCR installing same type of plant. Could be seen, etc. if interested.

Motion by James Mann to keep Jake Roth on as the Engineer for the Sewer Plant project; 2<sup>nd</sup> Tim Wright

Terry Mann Aye	Tim Wright Aye	Scott Baker Aye	Mayor Craig Aye	Larry Furlough Aye	James Mann Aye
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**Approved – Unanimous**

Christie Eason and Jake Roth both stated that this is great as long as the legalities line up with this. That is the next step to check.

**Matt Balch, City Attorney** – asked Christie and Jake to send the info we need checked to him and Tom and they would verify everything for us.

Also, Jeff Rich, County Attorney, has hired a new person, Megan Zingarelli. She is great and stays on top of things. She contacted him via email requesting a copy of the ordinance/resolution establishing the new Fire Department for Owens Cross Roads. This is needed for their meeting on Wednesday. At this meeting, they will decide on whether County Fire can support OCR Fire and Rescue via dispatch.

Also, on a personal note, thank you for the support by the City employees and elected officials during the loss of his father.

**Employees Canvassed by Mayor Craig**

**Polly Blalock, Judge** – nothing today

**DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS/REQUESTS**

**1. LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

- a. Christie Eason, City Clerk** – Audit should be completed before end of August. MIS collections working good for Sewer collections.

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- b. **Teresa Carpenter, Revenue Clerk** – 32 new accounts in July,
- c. **CT Locke Maintenance** –built a ramp over the sunken spot outside the firehall back door.
- d. **Tim Gaines, Inspector** – nothing
- e. **Lora Martin, Building Clerk** – building permitting report attached.
- f. **Will Maynes** – nothing

**2. POLICE DEPARTMENT – Jason Dobbins, Police Chief**

- Monthly report attached in council packet
- Jase Bakker, new officer, is graduating school next week and will be scheduled regularly immediately following

**3. FIRE DEPARTMENT – Shannon Drake, Chief & Bruce Swanson, Deputy Chief, both ABSENT**  
Christie stated to council and guests that a Fire Department report was included in the packet and that they should email with any questions.

**Terry Mann** – asked if the ARPA money received in July could be used for the sewer plant?  
Christie explained that the use rules and regulations are very strict and that would have to be researched.

**Tim Wright** – Ed Spears & Hamer Roads are very rough again. When are they going to get it fixed?  
Mayor said he would see to getting gravel and smoothing done again.  
Chief Dobbins suggested that maybe a metal sheet on top of problem areas would help

**Scott Baker** – nothing  
**Larry Furlough** – nothing

**James Mann** – for school donations, how do we choose?  
Mayor said they contact us and we donate. Some places we have a standard donation that has been going on for a long time.  
Chief Dobbins stated we are in the middle of stuff a backpack fundraiser/project. The City donated \$500 to this and there have been multiple donations of items from community members and business owners. The school will divide up donations received for teachers. The kids will receive a backpack of supplies.

Motion to Adjourn Meeting by **Tim Wright**; 2<sup>nd</sup> **Larry Furlough**

Terry Mann Aye	Tim Wright Aye	Scott Baker Aye	Mayor Craig Aye	Larry Furlough Aye	James Mann Aye
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ADJOURNED MEETING AT 6:55 pm.

*Respectfully Submitted by Christie D. Eason, City Clerk  
Teresa Carpenter, Revenue Clerk*