

CITY OF OWEN COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Tuesday, February 24, 2026

LOCATION: City Hall

TIME: 6:00pm

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT: Mayor Scott Jalling

Alderspersons: John Mauel, Ray Kilty, Bob Wilczek, Pam Jaffke, Jason Thornton and Ken Martine(absent)

ATTENDANCE LIST: Clerk/Treasurer Tracy Rau, DPW Chad Smith

COMMUNITY ATTENDANCE: Cindy Cardinal/O-W Enterprise, Dan Hooks, and Kelly Booth

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Jalling at 6:00 pm & the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Comment: Dan Hooks commented on the Cats; reminded the council of the abuse and what the state statute says about legal force. The cats control the rats and take care of other rodents in the city. They are hardworking and dependable animals in the city. If we get rid of them, pest control will cost money. The cats are keeping the pests at bay.

Approve 02.10.26 Meeting Minutes: A Kilty/Jaffke motion to approve. Motion carried

Property Purchase Parcel #265.0700.000, Heartland Drive: A Wilczek/Kilty motion to accept Barb Wilson's offer to purchase 2 acres at a price of \$8000.00, with a 2 year agreement following the current City Contract. Motion carried

Feral Cats Within City Limits: The Mayor, Scott Jalling, had residents complaining about the cats downtown. Alderperson Jaffke stated that last year they used her flower garden as a cat litter box after planting her flowers. The only thing to do is a TNR (Track, Neuter, & Release) along with tipping the ear. This will cost money and who will pay for it(possibly the Humane Society would work with this)? Alderperson Wilczek agreed, it would be the best-case scenario, but it will cost; we know we cannot catch them all so they will continue to reproduce but at a slower rate(maybe we can find a farm to rehome them, if caught). Alderperson Jaffke and Alderperson Wilczek will investigate this further. The cats along with redoing some of the buildings has helped but the residents need to stop feeding and sheltering them. The Chief read our city ordinance, and it states that the cats will become property of the residents and citations will be issued if over the ordinance limit of cats/dogs. If just one cat gets distempered it goes through all of them and they will get sick/die. Mr. Hooks gave information in past about the American Alley Cat Association, Alderperson Jaffke is familiar with them. The council felt this issue should be tabled.

Operators License: A Mauel/Thornton motion to approve Colton Lauersdorf for the Woodland/Taproom. Motion carried

Safety Grant/Cameras: Our DPW uses the grant to purchase much needed equipment for the confined space, harnesses, hard hats, life jackets, signs for night, and the list goes on. By putting up the cameras we prevent vandalism with the new playground equipment. Alderperson Kilty just installed a camera system for \$4600 with 16 cameras for a local business. We will have to check on the price of cameras as well as getting WIFI down there and if we are doing that park can we do cameras by the camping area? It was suggested that the Budget be Amended so we can allocate the funds we have (\$8600) not being used for the OWCFD truck for the security cameras. Our DPW will look further into the cost.

Playground Equipment Update: Prevail Bank donated \$20,000 to the equipment purchase. In May, it is their shred day, and all proceeds will go to the Playground! They will be writing up a News Release to go with this, thank you for your donation!

Nuisance Property Update: The Court date is March 10, 2026; the Chief will reach out to the City Attorney at the beginning of March.

Community Clean Up Day: Set for Saturday, May 2nd, depending on the DPW's schedule. The question is Withee? The Village of Withee has not reached out, and there was some interest from them.

Land for the Fire Department: A Kilty/Jaffke motion to a right of 1st refusal on lot 3 to the OWC Fire Department. Motion carried with Wilczek abstaining.

Mayors Report: Debellas has been knocking on residents' doors for free estimates on roof replacement. They need a permit to sell this service, and residents should check with city hall to see if they are legit. The company seems to be targeting our elderly according to the Chief.

Other Reports: None

Disbursements/Accounts Payable: A Kilty/Jaffke motion to approve. Motion carried.

Future Agenda Items: Bank Accounts

Adjourn: A Mauel/Kilty motion at 6:53 pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully, Kelly Booth, Deputy