

OTTUMWA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING NO. 8
Bridge View Center, 102 Church St.

March 4, 2025
5:30 O'Clock P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 5:37 P.M.

Present were Council Member McAntire, Caviness, Reid, Galloway, Hoffman and Mayor Johnson.

Caviness moved, seconded by Hoffman to approve consent agenda: Mins. from Regular Mtg. No. 6 on Feb. 18, 2025 as presented; Ack. and approve March 4, 2025 Claims List submitted by Finance; Approve Drug Task Force Bryne –JAG Grant Submission and auth. Mayor and Chief of Police to sign; Consideration of Order Accepting Ack./Settlement Agt. between the City and Casey's Marketing Comp. d/b/a Casey's Gen. Store #1886 (504 W. Mary); Consideration of Order Accepting Ack./Settlement Agt. between the City and Hy-Vee, Inc. d/b/a Hy-Vee #1 Fast & Fresh (1027 N. Quincy); Consideration of Order Accepting Ack./Settlement Agt. between the City and MAD JUSTUS LLC, d/b/a MAD Ave Quik Shop (405 S. Madison); Consideration of Order Regarding Affirmative Defense between the City and Elliott Oil Comp. d/b/a Albia Rd. BP (1340 Albia Rd.); Consideration of Order Regarding Affirmative Defense between the City and Elliott Oil Comp. d/b/a North Court BP (1301 N. Court); Beer and/or liquor applications for: SE Iowa Sports Center, 101 Church St. Motion carried 4-1. Ayes: McAntire, Caviness, Galloway, Hoffman. Nays: Reid.

Reid moved, seconded by Galloway to approve agenda with removal of Item I-6, Res. No. 41-2025, due to VenuWorks requesting removal so an alternative can be presented. All ayes.

Dennis Willhoit, Executive Artistic Dir. American Gothic Performing Arts (AGPA), presented Proposal for Phase 1 of an Arts & Culture Strategic Plan that is recommended within Ottumwa's *2040 Comprehensive Plan*. Phase 1 would involve a week of in-depth stakeholder engagement conducted by Dr. Hinsley; followed by analysis with recommendations for further development. Phase 1 will be fully funded by private support with AGPA serving as a fiscal agent for any grants.

City Admin. Rath and Finance Dir. O'Donnell discussed current legislative items that could have lasting effects on our budgetary constraints. The State Legislature is making decisions on local revenues with no contemplation of the effects on service delivery. This is eroding local government's ability to fund services its citizens want and need; rural cities struggle to grow while growing communities struggle to keep up. Galloway added, Iowa Legislatures are choosing to defund local governments. As a Council, we have had to make hard decisions. Mayor Johnson added, extended invitation to Sen. Westrich and Rep. Wilz to meet with Council this month to discuss current legislative items. Rath added, we will hold a work session March 11 to discuss current EMS services; county supervisors are invited to help identify potential issues and concerns and work together.

Mayor Johnson inquired if anyone from the audience wished to speak on any agenda item. There were none.

This was the time, place and date set for a public hearing on the disposition of City owned property located at 817 Lee. Comm. Dev. Dir. Simonson reported; Rippling Waters submitted a petition to purchase 817 & 813 Lee to construct a new duplex. No objections rec'd. Galloway moved, seconded by Reid to close public hearing. All ayes.

Reid moved, seconded by Hoffman that Res. No. 20-2025, accepting offer and approving sale of City owned property at 817 Lee, to Rippling Waters for \$125, be passed and adopted. All ayes.

This was the time, place and date set for a public hearing on the disposition of City owned property located at 813 Lee. Simonson reported. No objections rec'd. McAntire moved, seconded by Galloway to close public hearing. All ayes.

Caviness moved, seconded by Hoffman that Res. No. 22-2025, accepting offer and approving sale of City owned property at 813 Lee, to Rippling Waters for \$125, be passed and adopted. All ayes.

This was the time, place and date set for a public hearing on disposition of City owned property located at 901 Queen Anne. Simonson reported five bids rec'd. No objections rec'd. McAntire moved, seconded by Hoffman to close public hearing. All ayes.

Caviness moved, seconded by Galloway that Res. No. 37-2025, accepting offer and approving sale of 901 Queen Anne to Manny Martinez for \$17,200, be passed and adopted. All ayes.

Caviness moved, seconded by Hoffman to pass second consideration of Ord. No. 3241-2025, Amending City of Ottumwa, Code of Ord. Ch. 12 – Elections to Adopt Nomination by Petition Manner of Elections Provided for by IA Code Ch. 45 for City of Ottumwa's City Elections, in Accordance with IA Code Ch. 376, and Thus Cease Holding City Primary Elections. All ayes.

Caviness moved, seconded by McAntire to waive third consideration, pass and adopt Ord. No. 3241-2025. All ayes.

Galloway moved, seconded by McAntire to pass first consideration of Ord. No. 3243-2025, Amending Municipal Code by Amending Section 31-14(a) entitled "Fees and Charges, Costs." by Repealing and Replacing Ord. No. 3239-2025. O'Donnell reported on increased sewer fees. All ayes.

Caviness moved, seconded by McAntire to waive second and third considerations, pass and adopt Ord. No. 3243-2025. Galloway stated we should have additional readings to make sure public is aware of this change to sewer fees. Motion Failed – all NAYS. Item will be placed on the next regular mtg. for second consideration.

Hoffman moved, seconded by McAntire that Res. No. 12-2025, approving updates to City Personnel Policies, be passed and adopted. All ayes.

Caviness moved, seconded by McAntire that Res. No. 35-2025, awarding contract for Asbestos Abatement and demolition of condemned property (1550 Mable) to Torres Const. (\$17,000), be passed and adopted. All ayes.

Caviness moved, seconded by McAntire that Res. No. 36-2025, awarding contract for Asbestos Abatement and demolition of condemned property (424 Waverly) to Torres Const. (\$8,250), be passed and adopted. All ayes.

Hoffman moved, seconded by Reid that Res. No. 39-2025, setting April 1, 2025 at 5:30 P.M. as date for a Public Hearing on FY26 Proposed Property Tax Levy, be passed and adopted. All ayes.

McAntire moved, seconded by Reid that Res. No. 40-2025, auth. Mayor to execute four (4) permanent Sewer Easements and two (2) Temporary Sewer Easement Agt. for Construction of Public Improvements for Blake's Branch, Ph. 8, Div. 3, Sewer Separation Project, be passed and adopted. All ayes.

Caviness moved, seconded by Reid that Res. No. 42-2025, approving Demolition and Controlled Burn Agt. between City of Ottumwa and Ottumwa Comm. School Dist, be passed and adopted. All ayes.


McAntire moved, seconded by Hoffman that Res. No. 43-2025, auth. removal of special assessments applied to 126 S. Cooper, 422 N. Wapello and a Vacant Lot on Hackberry all contained within Res. 199-2024 and 200-2024, be passed and adopted. All ayes.

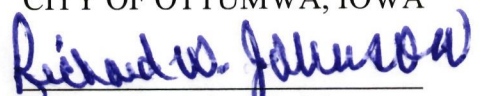
Mayor Johnson asked if anyone from the audience wished to address Council on any non-agenda items; Isaac Mills and Scott Hallgren addressed Council.

There being no further business, Galloway moved, seconded by Hoffman that the mtg. adjourn. All ayes.

Adjournment was at 7:05 P.M.

ATTEST:


Christina Reinhard, CMC, City Clerk

CITY OF OTTUMWA, IOWA

Richard W. Johnson, Mayor

Published in Ottumwa Courier on 3/15/2025.

