

## OTTUMWA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING NO. 14  
Bridge View Center, 102 Church St.

April 1, 2025  
6:00 O'Clock P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M.

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

Hoffman moved, seconded by McAntire to approve consent agenda items: Mins. from Regular Mtg. No. 10 on March 18, 2025 and Special Work Session No. 11 on March 25, 2025 as presented; approve April 1, 2025 Claims List submitted by Finance; Arbor Day Proclamation; Beer and/or liquor applications for: Pizza Hut, 1247 Theater Dr.; Las Palmas Bar & Grill, 321 East 2<sup>nd</sup> St.; Joe's Italian Restaurant, 332 E. Main. Motion carried 4-1. Ayes: Caviness, Galloway, Hoffman, McAntire. Nays: Reid.

Caviness moved, seconded by Hoffman to approve agenda as presented. All ayes.

Mayor Johnson designated April as Child Abuse Prevention month and presented proclamation to Angie Mach with Wapello County Children's Alliance.

City Admin. Rath introduced Youth City Council for their presentation; each member introduced themselves and had a part in reading the presentation. They are requesting City's support in having a Career Day where city leaders visit during Connections and discuss their careers and have a Shadow Day where students spend a day shadowing city leaders in their roles.

Rath provided Legislative Update.

Mayor Johnson inquired if anyone in the audience wished to speak on an agenda item. There was one Anthony Long, 120<sup>th</sup> Street, on item H.2. Delay Sewer Base Fee on Multi-Family & Mobile Home Units.

This was the time, place and date set for a public hearing on approving plans, specs., form of contract and est. cost for Apron Improvements Project at Ottumwa Reg. Airport. No objections rec'd. Hoffman moved, seconded by Galloway to close public hearing. All ayes.

Caviness moved, seconded by Hoffman that Res. No. 45-2025, approving plans, specs., form of contract and est. cost for Apron Improvements Project at Ottumwa Reg. Airport, be passed and adopted. All ayes.

This was the time, place and date set for a public hearing on proposal to convey certain real property located at 422 N. Wapello St. to Alma Perez. No objections rec'd. Hoffman moved, seconded by Reid to close public hearing. All ayes.

Reid moved, seconded by McAntire that Res. No. 51-2025, accepting bid and approving disposal of 422 N. Wapello St. to Alma Perez for the sum of \$7,777.77, be passed and adopted. All ayes.

This was the time, place and date set for a public hearing on Ord. No. 3242-2025, Establishing Solid Waste Fees for Noncommercial Establishments by Repealing and Replacing Section 31 ½ - 35 of the Municipal Code of the City of Ottumwa, Wapello County, Iowa. Mayor inquired if anyone wished to address this item, Katy Bowers, 1111 Hamilton St. asked question on budget. No objections rec'd. Hoffman moved, seconded by Caviness to close public hearing. All ayes.

McAntire moved, seconded by Hoffman to pass first consideration of Ord. No. 3242-2025. All ayes.

Hoffman moved, seconded by Reid to approve new Agt. between City of Ottumwa and Wapello County for maintenance of the Joint Law Enforcement Center. All ayes.

Galloway moved, seconded by Reid to approve delaying imposition of sewer base fees on each unit within a multi-family dwelling and each mobile home lot of a mobile home park until Jan. 1, 2026. Anthony Long, 14277 120<sup>th</sup> St., owns low income apartment bldgs. and his tenants are not happy that he needs to raise rent due to this policy. He states it should be \$20 per meter not per unit; he was told there are 15,000 homes at \$20 would be \$300,000/mo. Finance Dir. O'Donnell said there is already a base fee we would just be raising it and then start charging per unit not just meter, so it might be 1,500 x 1.50. Long asked what the Hotels, Schools etc. pay. O'Donnell stated Commercial users if they only have one meter then they pay only one base fee. At this point we are only looking at Residential users, if Council would like to add Commercial users we can. PW Dir/City Eng. Burgmeier referenced a study done in 2005 for Sewer Separation showing charging more to Residential than Commercial. Council feels more discussion needs to happen on this. All ayes.

Caviness moved, seconded by Hoffman that Res. No. 50-2025, setting April 15, 2025 at 5:30 PM as the date and time for a public hearing on FY26 Annual City Budget and certifying taxes for the City of Ottumwa, be passed and adopted. O'Donnell reported after the last work session he added to the Gen. Fund all revenue enhancements and expenditure reductions that Council wanted with the exception of three (3) new positions. When we hold the public hearing you will be asked to vote on approving each of these positions separately then the certifications. State allows us after we publish and certify the budget we can go down but cannot increase. So we are perfectly fine approving the public hearing with certification I present to you as is. It should be noted that with all changes to budget the shortfall in Gen. Fund is \$576,896 and if you do not add (3) new positions the shortfall would be \$444 and some change. All ayes.

Galloway moved, seconded by Reid that Res. No. 54-2025, awarding Contract to Christner Contracting Inc. and approving contract, bonds and cert. of ins. for the S. Market St. Gateway Project funded by Legacy Foundation, be passed and adopted. All ayes.

Galloway moved, seconded by Caviness that Res. No. 55-2025, accepting work as final and complete and approving Final Pay Request for Wapello St. Ext. Trail Project funded by Legacy Grant, be passed and adopted. All ayes.

Caviness moved, seconded by Galloway that Res. No. 56-2025, approving combined Change Orders (6, 7, 8 and 9) for the Greater Ottumwa Park Soccer Complex Project (Legacy Fields) funded by Legacy Foundation, be passed and adopted. All ayes.

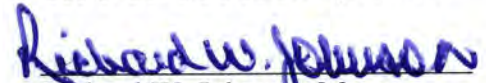
Galloway moved, seconded by Reid that Res. No. 57-2025, approving proposal submitted by Black Hawk Roof Company, Inc. for WPCF Headworks Bldg. Reroofing Project, in the amt. of \$106,616, be passed and adopted. All ayes.

Mayor Johnson inquired if anyone wished to address Council on any non-agenda items. There were none.

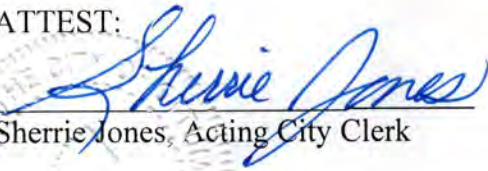
There being no further business, Galloway moved, seconded by Hoffman to adjourn. Motion carried 4-1. Ayes: Reid, Galloway, Hoffman, McAntire. Absent: Caviness.

Adjournment was at 7:20 P.M.

CITY OF OTTUMWA, IOWA

  
Richard W. Johnson, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Sherrie Jones, Acting City Clerk

Published in the Ottumwa Courier on 4/12/2025.