

CITY OF OSBORN, MISSOURI
BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, March 12, 2025

Mayor Carlena Bradford declared the meeting open at 6:00 P.M.

Roll call of council persons:

Present – Mayor Carlena Bradford
Alderman Brian Stone
Alderman Norman Baumgarden – Arrived at 6:30 P.M.
Alderman Valerie Kull
Alderman Ferren Gibson

Also present:

City Clerk, Jody Barlow
Water/Sewer, Doug Moeller

Citizen – Austin Ethington

Authorization of Bills

Consent Agenda:

- A. February 19, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes
- B. February 2025 Financial Report

Reports:

- A. Mayor Report
- B. City Clerk Report
- C. Water Department Report
- D. Street Department Report

Agenda:

New Business:

- A. Spring/Fall Cleanup Days
- B. Spring Cleanup Day – R&W Container, Pat Watkins
- C. City Park – Austin Ethington
- D. City Budget 2025-2026
- E. Water Rates
- F. Alderman Comments

Old Business:

- A. Personnel Policy

Alderman Gibson moved, seconded by Alderman Kull, to accept and approve the agenda for tonight's meeting. The motion passed 3-0.

Consent Agenda:

Alderman Kull moved, and Alderman Stone seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed 3 - 0.

Bills: A list of March 2025 bills was presented for approval and payment. Alderman Stone moved, seconded by Alderman Kull, to approve the presented bill list. The motion passed 3-0.

Public Comment:

None

Mayor Report:

None

Clerk Report:

Budget Meeting Reminder March 26th at 6:00 P.M. at City Hall.

The clerk reported that State Statute 71.948, which requires that at least three copies of the published code be kept on file and available for public inspection during reasonable business hours, was recently brought to her attention. Currently, the city does not have three copies of each ordinance available. However, there is an ongoing discussion at the state level to amend this statute, potentially changing the requirement to only one copy on hand and the ordinance to be maintained on the city website.

A bill addressing this amendment is set to be voted on in August. The clerk inquired whether the city should produce three copies of each ordinance now or wait until the vote decision is made. At present, the city has one copy available to the public during office hours, and all ordinances dating back to 2010 are available on the city website. The Board has directed the clerk to refrain from making the three copies until it is confirmed whether the statute will change.

The Clerk reported that a citizen requested the city consider creating an ordinance aligning with local burn bans and reviewing the wording of the city ordinance prohibiting the discharge of firearms within city limits. To gather more information, the Clerk will contact other cities to see what regulations they have in place.

The Clerk has received a request for the City to review/update the City Ordinance #1991-223 pertaining to the discharge of firearms inside the city limits. The ordinance will be discussed further in April.

Water Report:

February Water Loss 7.4%

Street Report:

Doug has been removing snow.

Old Business:

Personnel Policy

A motion was made by Alderman Gibson, second by Alderman Kull to approve the update personnel policy. Motion passed 4-0.

New Business:

Spring Cleanup Day – R&W Container – Pat Watkins:

Pat Watkins was present to discuss whether the board should provide one or two dumpsters for the spring cleanup. The contract includes 4 tons of waste disposal each year, which is typically divided into two cleanups. After some discussion, the board decided to place one dumpster on May 21st from 2 PM to 8 PM and to schedule another one in the fall, but with flipped time slots.

City Park: Austin Ethington:

Citizen Austin Ethington attended to further discuss the possibility of planting fruit trees in the park. He conducted a public forum on Facebook to gather community input on which fruit trees residents would like to see. The top choices were peach and apple trees. Ethington discovered self-pollinating varieties available through the Stark Brothers company, with dwarf and semi-dwarf options priced between \$20 and \$30. It will take two to three years for the trees to begin bearing fruit.

During the discussion, various concerns were raised, including who would be responsible for watering the trees, the possibility of children damaging the trees before they mature, and the clean-up of fallen, rotten fruit. There were also worries about kids throwing fruit at the shelter house or using it as balls on the court. Additionally, the topic of planting trees for shade was mentioned, as well as the idea of installing a shade structure over the play area.

The Clerk was directed to apply for the Missouri Department of Conservation TRIM grant to support the planting of trees in the park.

City Budget 2025-2026:

The Clerk presented rate information for the board to discuss. The rates will need to increase because the City is now purchasing water from Dekalb County Water District #1. This decision was made two years ago to acquire water from the district in response to the anticipated costs of upcoming regulations proposed by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for the water plant. The City will need to cover increased costs of approximately \$4,000 more per month.

The Clerk noted that the costs of chemicals will decrease by around \$150 per month, and wages will decrease by \$500 per month due to the elimination of the need for a chief operator license. Initially, it was believed that the City could cut power to the water plant and discontinue the phone line. However, this is no longer feasible, as the water plant will still need heating during colder months because it serves as a testing location. The phone line must remain operational as a backup for the low-pressure dialer for the water tower.

Additionally, the maintenance contract for the water tower has increased from approximately \$12,500 per year to around \$15,000 per year. The price of water meters has also risen, from approximately \$75 to \$100 each. The Clerk presented some cost-cutting options, such as the City not paying for full-time employee insurance and reducing hours to 32 per week.

After some discussion, the board decided to review the material presented and continue the conversation at a meeting next Tuesday or Wednesday. The Clerk will schedule the meeting.

Alderman Comments:

Alderman Gibson inquired about the possibility of emailing water and sewer bills to customers. The Clerk confirmed that this option is currently available and accessible to everyone. Currently, three customers receive their bills by email. However, the process is somewhat lengthy, adding approximately two hours to the monthly billing cycle. There is also a module available for purchase that could streamline the water billing program. Alderman Gibson requested information on the cost of this module. The Clerk will post a notice on the City website, as well as on the water bills and Facebook page, to remind residents that email billing is an option.

Adjourn:

As no other business was presented, Alderman Kull moved, seconded by Alderman Gibson, to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 P.M. The Motion passed 4-0.

Carlena Bradford, Mayor

Respectfully Submitted,

Jody Barlow, City Clerk