

**OSSEO CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
May 8, 2023**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Duane Poppe called the regular meeting of the Osseo City Council to order at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, May 8, 2023.

2. ROLL CALL

Members present: Councilmembers Juliana Hultstrom, Mark Schulz, and Mayor Duane Poppe.

Members absent: Councilmembers Harold Johnson and Alicia Vickerman.

Staff present: City Administrator Riley Grams, Police Chief Shane Mikkelson, and City Attorney Mary Tietjen.

Others present: Harold Johnson, City Resident; Karen Ruzicka, City Resident; Kenny Nelson, City Resident; Sarita Nelson, City Resident; Deanna Burke, City Resident; Becky Weidenbach, City Resident; Nikki Ditlefsen, City Resident; David Ditlefsen, City Resident; Dave Krych, City Resident; Dick Leigninger, InterMarque Car Show; RoseAnna Garibaldi, City Resident; Sue Nelson, City Resident; Charlene Mead, City Resident; Michael Olkives, City Resident; Kathleen Gette, City Resident; Preston Kroska, City Resident.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Poppe led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA [Additions - Deletions]

Poppe asked for additions or deletions to the Agenda.

Schulz requested action on Item 11B be postponed to June 12, 2023, Council meeting.

A motion was made by Schulz, seconded by Hultstrom, to accept the Agenda as amended postponing action on Item 11B to the June 12, 2023, Council meeting. The motion carried 3-0.

5. ACCEPT HAROLD JOHNSON COUNCIL RESIGNATION AND DECLARE VACANCY ON CITY COUNCIL

Grams stated the City has received a resignation letter from Councilmember Harold Johnson. The City Council should adopt a Resolution which accepts Councilmember Johnson's resignation from office as of May 8, 2023, and declaring that a vacancy exists on the Osseo City Council to be filled by appointment.

Grams reported Minnesota Statute 412.02, subdivision 2a, states that when a vacancy is an elected office of a city with less than two years remaining in the unexpired term of the office, the City Council must appoint someone to complete the balance of the unexpired term. The Council has leeway in terms of how to appoint an individual to the Council. Typically, the City Council has solicited letters of interest from community members who are interested in serving on the Council. Should the Council want to continue that same practice, Staff recommends that letters of interest be accepted until May 17 at noon, which is the packet creation and distribution day for the next Council meeting on May 22.

A motion was made by Hultstrom, seconded by Schulz, to adopt Resolution No. 2023-23, accepting Councilmember Johnson's resignation from office as of May 8, 2023 and declaring that a vacancy exists on the Osseo City Council to be filled by appointment with staff accepting letters of interest through May 17, 2023 at noon. The motion carried 3-0.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approve April 24 Work Session Minutes
- B. Approve April 24 Council Minutes
- C. Accept Resignation of Full-Time Police Officer Chad Malmon
- D. Receive March Hockey Association Gambling Report
- E. Receive April Building Report
- F. Receive April Fire Activity Report

A motion was made by Hultstrom, seconded by Schulz, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried 3-0.

7. MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR

Harold Johnson, 12 Sixth Street NE #106, stated he has been elected three times by the majority of voters of Osseo with an opportunity to serve on the City Council. He discussed how his business background as a CPA has helped him in serving the City over the past eight years. He discussed how Staff has had a great deal of turnover in the last eight years. He commented on how the City Administrator has a responsibility to provide a good working environment and proper operating conditions in order to avoid office turnover. He stated the Council has continued to provide staff, equipment, and education when requested. He discussed how complaints are not being addressed and only emails are responded to by the City. He believed the treatment of residents by the City Administrator and some Staff was not satisfactory.

He reported he and Councilmember Hultstrom spent a great deal of time meeting with property owners that were not satisfied with the 2020 and 2021 street projects along with 2022 alley projects. He explained the poor quality of this project led to a special worksession meeting of the City Council. He noted these projects were still incomplete and WSB was providing services at no cost to the City due to negligence on their behalf. He believed the City Administrator, instead of Councilmembers, should have been responsible for this work. He commented on the marks that were found on a 2022 alleyway after the winter and stated these marks should not be present. He expressed

frustration with the fact the City had yet another street project that was completed with poor construction.

He discussed the recent utility rate study that was completed by Ehlers, noting it was lacking in basic information in order to make critical decisions. He was of the opinion the utility rate study was useless. He commented on how he had numerous questions regarding the utility rate study due to the lack of information and stated he should not have had to make decisions regarding the utility rates given the fact it was lacking information. He faulted the City Administrator for the incomplete utility rate study.

He stated in December of 2022 the EDA was asked to approve payment amounts for the TIF District bonds and interest payments without providing a source of funds to cover the requests. He stated as the treasurer, he refused to sign these payments because there was a lack of full disclosure. He faulted the City Administrator again for problem.

He expressed the concerns he had with the Tyler Software system, noting this program was not yet operational and the cost for additional assistance was more than what was budgeted. He reported a special Council worksession was held to reallocate Tyler and ABDO expenses that had been expended to utility funds and belonged elsewhere in the City. Without this adjustment, utility funds would have been overcharged. He expressed concern with the fact this was a problem due to the City Administrator.

He noted the City Administrator and the Mayor had worked for over a year on the 600 Central project before it was shared with the EDA and Council. He explained the project design created many questions from the EDA, Council and residents and when questions were raised, they were met with doubt. He noted this plan asked for 60% in TIF funds in order to make the numbers work. He stated this was another failure and poor use of taxpayer funding through TIF.

He reported the Osseo City Administrator may be the highest paid administrator for a City with a population of less than 3,000. He questioned if the Council believed the citizens of Osseo were getting what was being paid for.

He indicated the Historical Preservation Committee had not met for three years. He explained he was the Council liaison and had tried to get newly appointed members together for a meeting. After numerous attempts in speaking with Staff, he contacted each new member to set up a meeting himself which was held on April 26, 2023. The Council determined that he violated the open meeting law through this action. He stated this committee wants to work on the 150th Celebration and requested to meet in early 2023. He explained at the last Council meeting, the Council stated that they had approved Night to Unite and Fire Department Anniversary Committee Members. He indicated the Council did not approve these members, but did approve street closures.

He stated these were the reasons he was resigning and noted he had turned in his computer to the City. He requested a hard copy letter be sent to him from the City acknowledging the receipt of his computer.

Sarita Nelson, 509 Third Avenue NE, reported the Lions were looking for sponsors for Lions Roar and applications were available at OsseoLionsRoar.com. She stated she would like to see better communication between Staff, Councilmembers and the

residents of Osseo. Instead of finger pointing and dismissing, she would like to see problem solving. She hoped that all parties could work together to see Osseo flourish. She indicated she was saddened by Councilmember Johnson's resignation, but she believed Councilmember Johnson would work hard to make the 150th Celebration successful. She stated if the Council wanted to be more involved, there were compromises that could be discussed. She suggested Councilmembers alternate attending the committee meetings in order to stay informed on the celebration. She was of the opinion a formal committee did not have to be formed given the fact there were a large number of qualified volunteers that attended the April 26 meeting.

Karen Ruzicka, 12 6th Street NE, reported she attended the April 24 Council meeting and she was appalled by what transpired. She noted she has known Harold Johnson for several years and believes he was a good man who was unselfish and caring. She thanked Harold for working to make Osseo the kind of City everyone wants to live in. She hoped all of the Councilmembers have had an opportunity to rewatch the broadcast of the April 24 Council meeting and have reflected on how these actions were received by the residents of Osseo. She reported this Council needs to put aside its egos and work together in a professional manner in order to work for the good of all Osseo residents.

Charlene Mead, 126th Street NE, stated she appreciated all Harold Johnson has done for the community. She explained she would appreciate if each of the Councilmembers would speak into their microphones in order to allow the public to better hear their comments.

Kenny Nelson, 509 3rd Avenue NE, thanked Harold Johnson for his years of service to the City. He stated four years ago he came to a Council meeting for the first time asking for help on a street project. He reported there was a failure of communication and respect for each other, however, he did not lose hope. He came back and he has continued to try to make Osseo a better community for himself and others. He explained the Council does not appoint Councilmembers to the car show planning or any of the Lions events. Rather the Council approves or rejects the event. He understood Osseo did not have a lot of resources and the City was short staffed. He indicated the City has been struggling to get water meters installed, along with new software. He understood the City was working to hire more police officers and was considering an addition to the police station. He reported the City Hall needs updates and the City was considering improvements for its two parks. In addition, the City has a historical water tower that was covered in lead paint and has structural issues. He questioned why the City wanted to spend its resources to plan the 150th Celebration when there were about 30 volunteers who were willing to do this work. He hoped the City was not headed down the path that divided the community. He reminded the Council that civility, cooperation and conversation were essential for community.

Kathleen Gette, 525 2nd Avenue NW, shared a story about how Harold Johnson and she worked to get the historical water tower in the national register. She explained Harold Johnson was really hard on her and it was tough. She commented on the amount of work she went through to get the water tower registered at no cost to the City, even though Harold would always argue with her. She realized years later that Harold has fought for residents through his entire tenure with the City. She was of the opinion

Harold Johnson and Juliana Hultstrom were the only Councilmembers who fight and put Osseo residents first. She thanked Harold Johnson for all of his hard work.

She stated she was heartbroken that Harold had resigned from the Council. She wanted Harold to go out with his head held high and she wanted each member of the Council to apologize to him publicly for beating him down. She was of the opinion Harold was receiving the blame when Staff should have spoken up as to how they had dropped the ball. She explained she was devastated by this situation, but she was glad Harold had gotten the ball rolling for the 150th Celebration.

She indicated she was very surprised no other Councilmembers or Staff showed up for the kickoff meeting on April 26. She understood 30 months sounds like a long time, but it would take a great deal of time to gather information in order to complete a publication for the event. She hoped this group could continue in order to plan a proper celebration for the City of Osseo and its residents. She applauded Harold Johnson for his efforts.

8. SPECIAL BUSINESS

A. MOTORCYCLE AWARENESS MONTH

Poppe read a proclamation in full for the record declaring May to be Motorcycle Awareness Month in the City of Osseo.

B. APPROVE 2023 INTERMARQUE CAR SHOW AND CRAFT FAIR SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT

Grams stated the 2023 InterMarque Car Show and Craft Fair in the Park is scheduled to take place on Saturday, May 20 from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. As always, the event is scheduled rain or shine. The event includes several local car clubs (Mercedes, Jaguar, MG, Citroen, Triumph, Austin Healey, Lotus, Mini, Alfa, and many others) showcasing their cars for visitors to see. The owners always love visitors coming up and chatting about the cars. The Craft Fair in the Park will also be back again this year, with many great vendors showing and selling various craft items. Additionally, CROSS Food Shelf will have containers available for anyone who wishes to donate any non-perishable food items. The event requires the closure of several streets in the downtown area. The street closures are noted on the event maps. Additionally, local restaurants, bars, and other business report that these types of events usually lead to some of their best sales days.

Grams explained this is historically one of the most well attended events in Osseo and we expect that again this year. The applicants, John Engstrom and Dick Leighnger, will be present on Monday night to talk about the event. Staff has already met with the event organizers to discuss set up and take-down procedures, so that we can safely and responsibly close and re-open the public streets before and after the event. The special event permit allows City Staff the chance to review the event and determine if any special needs are required to run the event. The Car Show and Craft Fair will require a small amount of Public Works time to set out the necessary No Parking signs and traffic barricades prior to the event. The event organizers then set the barricades out the day of and put them back at the end of the event with the help of the Osseo Police

Department. The fee associated with this work is 1 hour of Public Works time at \$50 per hour. Additionally, there is a \$50 application fee. Staff understands that the applicant will seek a waiver of the permit fees for this event and ask for free advertising on the Osseo Gateway Sign. The City has historically approved the fee waivers for this event each year.

Dick Leighninger, applicant, thanked the Council for considering his special event permit. He stated last year he had almost 300 cars in Osseo. He noted this year the Viking Vintage motorcycles would be part of this event. He requested one change to the special event permit, noting the event would be held rain or shine.

Schulz requested access be maintained for the craft vendors to ensure they can unload for the craft fair. Mr. Leighnger reported he was aware of this need and noted cars would not be parked along this roadway until all vendors were unloaded for the craft fair.

A motion was made by Hultstrom, seconded by Schulz, to approve the special event permit for the 2023 Osseo Vintage Foreign Car Show and Craft Fair with associated fee waivers and street closures.

Schulz explained he was not a fan of fee waivers typically, but he would make an exception with this request because of the number of people that were brought into the community for this event.

The motion carried 3-0.

C. ACCEPT DONATIONS

Grams stated the City has received the following donations:

<u>Donor</u>	<u>Amount/Item</u>	<u>Designated Fund</u>
Harold E. Johnson	\$750	Beautification
Minnesota Masonic Charities	\$150	Fire

Staff recommended the Council accept the donations.

A motion was made by Schulz, seconded by Hultstrom, to adopt Resolution No. 2023-24, accepting a donation from Harold E. Johnson and Minnesota Masonic Charities. The motion carried 3-0.

9. PUBLIC HEARINGS – None

10. OLD BUSINESS – None

11. NEW BUSINESS

A. APPROVE HIRE OF FULL-TIME POLICE OFFICER RYAN SWANSON

Police Chief Mikkelson stated Ryan Swanson is coming to Osseo from the Corcoran Police Department where he was serving as a Community Service Officer. He is also

employed with Allina Health Services as a hospital security guard. He has passed the interview process, background, psychological and medical exams. He reported Ryan Swanson's first day will be May 15, 2023, if approved by the Council.

A motion was made by Hultstrom, seconded by Schulz, to approve the hire of Ryan Swanson to the position of Full-Time Police Officer. The motion carried 3-0.

B. DISCUSS 150TH CELEBRATION COMMITTEE

Action on this item was postponed to June 12, 2023, City Council meeting.

C. APPROVE ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Grams reviewed the Accounts Payable with the Council.

A motion was made by Schulz, seconded by Hultstrom, to approve the Accounts Payable as presented. The motion carried 3-0.

12. ADMINISTRATOR REPORT – None

13. COUNCIL AND ATTORNEY REPORTS

Hultstrom addressed Councilmember Johnson noting she has been friends from the time she moved to the City. She explained she admired Councilmember Johnson and noted he would be dearly missed. She stated she was sorry people had the perceptions they did but noted the Council had to stick to certain guidelines. She wished she could roll back time to April 7 and an agenda item could have been added to address the 150th Celebration. She thanked Harold Johnson for his service to the City and for his friendship.

Hultstrom stated on Thursday, May 11 she would be attending a fire trustee meeting.

Schulz stated it has been his pleasure to serve with Councilmember Johnson for over six years. While he may not have always seen eye to eye with Councilmember Johnson, they would discuss matters valiantly and he always respected Councilmember Johnson's opinion. He indicated he was sad to see Councilmember Johnson leaving the City Council.

Schulz reported Sunday, May 14 through Saturday, May 20 was National Police Week. He thanked Police Chief Mikkelson and each of his officers for their tremendous efforts on behalf of the community.

Poppe thanked Councilmember Johnson for his many years of service to the City of Osseo. He stated he enjoyed serving on the Budget and Finance Committee with Councilmember Johnson.

14. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Poppe reported the Step To It Challenge would begin on May 1 and run through May 28 again this year. He encouraged residents to participate in this family friendly activity.

Poppe stated the citywide garage sale would be held May 18 through May 21. It was noted maps would be available on May 17.

Poppe explained the InterMarque Car Show would be held on Saturday, May 20.

15. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Schulz, seconded by Hultstrom, to adjourn the City Council meeting at 7:41 p.m. The motion carried 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Guenther
Minute Maker Secretarial