

CITY OF OWEN COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Tuesday, March 10, 2026

LOCATION: City Hall

TIME: 6:00pm

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT: Mayor Scott Jalling

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

ATTENDANCE LIST: Clerk/Treasurer Tracy Rau

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

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

Public Comment: None

Approve 02.24.26 Meeting Minutes: A Wilczek/Jaffke motion to approve. Motion carried

Feral Cats Within City Limits: The Mayor along with Alderperson Jaffke talked with Jen LaRock, and she is in favor of getting rid of the feral cats. There is stuff everywhere from the cats; she will allow trapping of these animals if you call her and ask(she has communicated with several of her neighbors, and this is an issue!). She has talked to others, and they agree with her and she will contact some farm owners to see if they can be "rehomed". Mr. Swiggum said we can use live traps in the theater as well. You are not doing any cat any favors by feeding them. The gentleman from Neillsville's Humaine Society has moved to Georgia, he used to take them. The Humaine Society in Clark County will spay and neuter for free if we can prove we are taking the cats to a farm that wants them. Alderperson Jaffke stated that we need to stop feeding the cats. The Feed Mills are keeping the rodent population down and they have the means to control them; we do not see them as the problem; we have a feral cat problem, and they have a pretty hard life. Too many people are feeding them, if we can stop the feeding they will leave. We need to enforce the ordinance, if cats are removed more will come. The Police need to go around and talk to people who feed them and house them. Alderperson Martine said we need to educate why they should not feed the cats and second, they should have so many days before the Police go and talk to the resident. A Martine/Wilczek motion to put a public service announcement in the paper and have Alderperson Jaffke write something up to go in the water bills. Motion carried

Revisit Bank Accounts: A Wilczek/Mauel motion to allow Tracy Rau, Clerk/Treasurer to get rates from Prevail Bank and report back. Motion carried

DPW Report: On next Agenda

Mayor's Report: There was a court hearing for the nuisance property. The City of Owen was awarded a \$10,000 judgement and the abatement order. The City Attorney will come to the next meeting if needed. The judge gave the resident the option of cleaning up the property or let the city do it and the resident chose the city.

Other Reports: The DRC met and it was commented that the Curtiss Sign could be utilized more. An example would be to promote business in the Owen area by creating a vinyl sign that could be swapped out. This could generate income for the city. The DRC was given to go ahead to look into this further.

Treasurer's Report: A Wilczek/Thornton motion to approve. Motion carried.

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

Future Agenda Items: Feral Cats, Nuisance Property, Bank Accounts, Lot Signs(4 Sale), Land Contracts/Agreements DPW, Garage agreement with City and OWPD

Adjourn: A Martine/Wilczek motion at 7:20 pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully given to the best of my ability, Kelly Booth, Deputy Clerk