

**OSSEO CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
July 10, 2023**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Duane Poppe called the regular meeting of the Osseo City Council to order at 7:02 p.m. on Monday, July 10, 2023.

2. ROLL CALL

Members present: Councilmembers Juliana Hultstrom, Ashlee Mueller, Mark Schulz, Alicia Vickerman and Mayor Duane Poppe.

Staff present: City Administrator Riley Grams, Community Management Coordinator Joe Amerman, and City Attorney Mary Tietjen.

Others present: James Kelly, City Resident; Kenny Nelson, City Resident; Craig Simon, Northeast-Winslow Lewis Lodge 125.

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.

**A motion was made by Hultstrom, seconded by Vickerman, to accept the Agenda as presented. The motion carried 5-0.**

5. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Receive June 20 Planning Commission Minutes
- B. Approve June 26 Council Work Session Minutes
- C. Approve June 26 Council Minutes
- D. Accept Resignation of Community Management Coordinator Joe Amerman
- E. ~~Approve Exempt Permit for Northeast Winslow Lewis Lodge 125 for Gambling Activities~~
- F. ~~Approve Bandshell Use Fee Waiver for Osseo Cross Country Alumni Association~~
- G. Receive June American Legion Gambling Report
- H. Approve Exempt Permit for Fur, Fin and Feather for Gambling Activities
- I. Accept Resignation of Nate Berg from Public Safety Advisory Committee

Schulz requested items 5E and 5F be removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

**A motion was made by Schulz, seconded by Hultstrom, to approve the Consent Agenda as amended removing items 5E and 5F. The motion carried 5-0.**

- E. Approve Exempt Permit for Northeast-Winslow Lewis Lodge 125 for Gambling Activities

Schulz requested further information regarding the type of permit being requested. Grams stated this permit was for a raffle at the Northeast-Winslow Lewis Lodge.

Craig Simon, Northeast-Winslow Lewis Lodge representative, explained the lodge would be holding its annual fundraiser and a raffle would be held. He stated the funds raised would be used to assist with scholarships in the community. He indicated the Osseo Gun Club would be providing items that would be raffled.

Schulz explained in the future, he would like more information on what items would be raffled.

**A motion was made by Schulz, seconded by Hultstrom, to Approve Exempt Permit for Northeast-Winslow Lewis Lodge 125 for Gambling Activities. The motion carried 5-0.**

- F. Approve Bandshell Use Fee Waiver for Osseo Cross Country Alumni Association

Schulz explained he believed the Osseo Cross Country Alumni Association would be holding a great event, but he did not support a fee waiver for use of the bandshell.

Poppe asked if this event has been held in the past. Grams stated this event has been held for the past four or five years.

**A motion was made by Hultstrom, seconded by Vickerman, to Approve Bandshell Use Fee Waiver for Osseo Cross Country Alumni Association. The motion carried 4-1 (Schulz opposed).**

6. MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR

Kenny Nelson, 509 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue NE, thanked Joe Amerman for his service to the City. He stated he would like the City Council to consider renaming 7<sup>th</sup> Street/County Road 30 because of delivery issues.

7. SPECIAL BUSINESS – None

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS – None

9. OLD BUSINESS – None

10. NEW BUSINESS

- A. APPROVE JUST DEEDS PROJECT PROPERTY LETTERS

Amerman stated that the Just Deeds project was created in 2020 was a metro area coalition originally created by the Golden Valley Human Rights Commission to address the legacy of racially restrictive covenants in the area's deeds. These covenants, clauses inserted into deeds to prevent people who were not White from buying or occupying

land, became a common practice in the early to mid-nineteenth century as real estate developers and homeowners looked for ways to prevent the diversification of desirable neighborhoods.

Amerman explained these covenants, while now illegal and unenforceable, have led to a number of wealth and health disparities in the metro area. An example being the gap in home ownership between white families (76.9% ownership rate) and black families (25.3%), which is the largest such gap in the United States. Minnesota as a whole has the lowest rate of black homeownership of any state. To address these covenants, the Just Deeds Coalition provides free legal and title services to help property owners in participating cities find discriminatory covenants and discharge them from their property titles.

Amerman reported the University of Minnesota's Mapping Prejudice project volunteers have identified roughly 26,000 racial covenants in the metro area. In Osseo, they've identified 36 properties (none publicly owned) with such language. These are all properties which fall within the Larson's Addition acquired by the city in 1947 from Fred and Ethel Larson, and they all contain the same clause:

"No persons of any race other than of the Caucasian race shall use or occupy any building or any lot, except that this covenant shall not prevent occupancy by domestic servants of a different race domiciled with an owner or tenant"

Amerman explained the Coalition has since grown to include 24 participating cities and has led to more than 400 deeds being discharged of their racially restrictive language.

Amerman stated as there are no publicly owned properties containing racial covenants, there is no need for the City to discharge any language of its own. Next steps then include notifying property owners of their deed language and connecting them with Just Deeds resources if they wish to discharge them. Staff has drafted a notification mailing, which is attached to this packet. In return for offering free title services to residents, Just Deeds asks that participating cities pass a resolution of support. This resolution disavows and condemns the past use of discriminatory covenants and prohibits their use in the future. It also directs Staff to participate in the work of the Just Deeds coalition, and work with interested property owners to discharge the language contained in their own deeds.

Hultstrom thanked Staff and Councilmember Vickerman for their efforts on this matter.

**A motion was made by Vickerman, seconded by Mueller, to adopt Resolution No. 2023-32, condemning the use of discriminatory covenants and directing staff to participate in the Just Deeds Coalition. The motion carried 5-0.**

**B. APPROVE 2023 CITIZEN APPOINTMENTS**

Grams stated staff has received Letters of Interest for appointments and drafted a resolution that indicates where appointments are needed.

Letters of Interest were received from:

Kim Klocek for Public Safety Advisory Committee  
Mark Cook for Public Safety Advisory Committee  
Mark Cook for Economic Development Authority  
KC Robinson for Planning Commission

**A motion was made by Schulz, seconded by Hultstrom, to adopt Resolution No. 2023-33, appointing citizens to various committees and commissions. The motion carried 5-0.**

C. APPROVE COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR POSITION POSTING

Grams stated with Joe Amerman's resignation from the City's Community Management Coordinator position, the Council should consider approving for the soon-to-be vacant position. The position opening will be shared with the League of MN Cities for their job board postings and on the City's social media platforms, the City website, and the Gateway Sign. Applications resumes will be accepted until the position has been filled. Grams will coordinate with the Council Human Resources Committee to set up interviews of prospective employees.

**A motion was made by Hultstrom, seconded by Vickerman, to approve the posting for the open Community Management Coordinator position.**

Schulz thanked Mr. Amerman for everything he has done on behalf of the City.

Mueller thanked Mr. Amerman for working with her while she served on the Planning Commission.

Vickerman stated Mr. Amerman would be dearly missed but wished him well in his new position.

**The motion carried 5-0.**

D. APPROVE ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Grams reviewed the Accounts Payable with the Council.

**A motion was made by Schulz, seconded by Mueller, to approve the Accounts Payable as presented. The motion carried 5-0.**

11. ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Grams wished Mr. Amerman all the best in the future and thanked him for his tremendous service to the City.

12. COUNCIL AND ATTORNEY REPORTS

Hultstrom thanked Nate Berg for his service on the Public Safety Advisory Committee. She then welcomed the new appointees to their Committees and Commissions.

Hultstrom stated the League of Minnesota Cities HR and Data Practices Committee has appointed her to her fourth term on the committee.

Mueller congratulated the new Committee and Commission members. She congratulated Michael Olkives for being appointed as the Chair of the Planning Commission.

Vickerman thanked Mr. Amerman for all of his efforts on behalf of the community and wished him all the best in his new position.

Schulz wished Mr. Amerman all the best at Maple Grove and thanked him for his time with the City.

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Poppe encouraged the public to attend the upcoming Music and Movie in the Park on Tuesday, July 11 at 7:00 p.m. where the Teddy Bear Band will provide music and the movie Strange World will be screened at dusk.

Poppe reported the farmers market opens on Tuesday, July 11.

Poppe explained the Red Cross would be holding a blood drive at the Community Center on Wednesday, July 12 from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Poppe stated the City was seeking a commissioner still for the Parks and Rec Commission. Those interested were encouraged to visit the City's website or contact City Hall for further information.

Poppe reminded the public that the trolley was available for rides Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

14. ADJOURNMENT

**A motion was made by Schulz, seconded by Hultstrom, to adjourn the City Council meeting at 7:31 p.m. The motion carried 5-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Guenther  
*Minute Maker Secretarial*