

# Mayor & Board of Aldermen – Regular Meeting

## Meeting Minutes

October 17, 2024

Present: Vice Mayor Adrain Wiggins – Meeting Chairman  
Aldermen Cates, Fisher, Hummel/Rounds and Sutton

### **Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag**

- 1. Call to order by Vice Mayor Wiggins**
- 2. Establish Quorum**

Absent from meeting was Mayor Michael Brown.

- 3. Prayer & Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag**
- 4. Approval of Agenda**

Vice Mayor Wiggins requested that Ordinance 24-13 *Amending Compensation of Mayor and Board* be removed from the agenda. Alderman Sutton made a motion to remove item, Ordinance 24-13. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Wiggins. All in favor, none opposed.

Alderman Sutton requested the Travel Expense Report, distributed in the September meeting to be placed on the agenda for discussion under *Old Business*.

Alderman Sutton made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Alderman Cates seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. The motion passed.

### **5. Reading and Correction/Approval of Minutes of Regular Board**

#### **September 19, 2024 – Regular Board Meeting Minutes**

Alderman Cates made a motion to approve the September 19, 2024 Regular Board Meeting Minutes. Vice Mayor Wiggins seconded the motion. Two (2) in favor, one (1) opposed, and two (2) abstained.

#### **Voting results:**

**In favor** = Cates and Wiggins, **Opposed** = Hummel, **Abstained** = Sutton and Fisher

The motion failed. September 19, 2024 minutes were not approved.

## **6. Honored Guest:**

Carolyn Rhea recently sold the Fayette Falcon Newspaper. Vice Mayor Wiggins presented Ms. Rhea with a plaque from the Town of Oakland in honor of her outstanding contributions to the town and 22 years of dedicated community services.

Alderman Ken Sutton was presented a plaque in honor of his 8 years of service as Vice Mayor and Alderman of the Town of Oakland.

## **7. Citizen's Comments**

Oscar Ethridge – Black Ankle Dr. – thanked all out-going Board Members for their service. Mr. Ethridge then expressed concerns of social media post, untruths, and slanderous attacks on candidates running for elected positions within the Town of Oakland.

John Finn – Acadia Circle – He too expressed his thanks to those who serve on the Board. Mr. Finn encouraged the Board Members to search for alternative ways to offset the town's expenses rather than increasing taxes.

## **8. Communications from the Mayor**

None.

## **9. Communication from the Aldermen**

Vice Mayor Wiggins- expressed the same sentiments of Mr. Ethridge. The discord makes it difficult on those who are employed by the town, as well as the town's citizens.

Alderman Cates – directed his comment to the social media post regarding “this Board lining their pockets”. He pointed out he has received the same pay since first being appointed in 2016, in the amount of \$300 per month.

Alderman Sutton - pointed out he has not received a raise, nor asked for one during his time of service.

Alderman Fisher – asked Town Manager Ellis, what alderman requested the ordinance (Ord. 24-13, related to *Amending Compensation of Mayor and Board*) to be placed on the agenda. Mr. Ellis stated it was Vice Mayor Wiggins.

Mr. Wiggins stated he spoke with Town Manager Ellis on the issue; an ordinance was put on the final agenda. Mr. Wiggins asked Mr. Ellis to poll the Board to see if they were interested in amending the pay. Mr. Ellis contacted Vice Mayor Wiggins and said there was no interest.

Alderman Fisher said he was not contacted (polled).

Alderman Hummel – stated that she was unaware of Ordinance 24-13 until she had received her packet, adding she was not polled either.

Alderman Sutton – acknowledging this would be his last meeting, he thanked everyone in Oakland, the board and all town employees. He asked the town department heads to go to their employees and make them aware of how much he appreciates them. Mr. Sutton expressed the need for concentration in making things better for the Town of Oakland, stating there are tough decisions to be made by the board due to a low tax rate going back to 1995, when growth in Oakland began to happen; and, due to depreciation not being accounted for in the past.

Mr. Sutton closed with a challenge to the new Board, to do what it takes for the town's best interest and don't do what it takes to be re-elected. It's not about being re-elected – it's about doing what's best for the citizens of the town.

## **10. Department Head Reports**

Chief Earl reported the police department has confiscated rifles that will be put up for bid and traded for police equipment according to FFL protocol. He reiterated, it would be a trade, therefore, there would be no money transaction.

## **11. Town Manager Report**

Town Manager Ellis updated the Board, stating the "Paving Project" has been completed, and anticipates the next paving project to be bid in the spring of 2025; and, the SCADA bid opening for the Water Treatment Plant has taken place, with the lowest bid at \$214,435; and, bids were opened on the "Park Project", with the base bid coming in at approximately \$6.3 million.

## **12. Old Business: Ordinances Second and Final Reading**

### **A. Travel Expense Report**

Alderman Sutton referring to the report presented at the September 19, 2024 Regular Board Meeting inquired of aldermen expenses to a TML conference held in Nashville, March 2023. He questioned the differences in hotel and per diem amounts of two aldermen attending the same conference, specific to Alderman Fisher & Hummel/Rounds.

Town Manager Ellis assured the Board all travel will be scrutinized much more than has been in the past, going forward.

Alderman Frank Cates requested proof from the state these conferences are required to be attended by elected officials as was stated by Alderman Fisher.

## **13. New Business: Ordinances First Reading/ Public Hearing**

### **A. Ordinance 24-10 Amending Municipal Code Title 9, Business, Peddlers, Solicitors, ETC., Creation of Section 5 Titled "Mobile Food Preparation Vehicles"**

The public hearing was declared open to those who wish to speak. With no one approaching the Board, the public hearing was closed.

A motion to hear Ordinance 24-10 was made by Alderman Fisher. Vice Mayor Wiggins seconded the motion.

A motion was made by Alderman Sutton to approve the 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance 24-10. Alderman Hummel/Rounds seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. The 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance 24-10 passed.

**B. Ordinance 24-11 – Amending Municipal Code Title 4, Chapter 4 – Travel Reimbursement Regulations**

The public hearing was declared open to those who wish to speak. With no one approaching the Board, the public hearing was closed.

A motion to hear Ordinance 24-11 was made by Alderman Cates. Alderman Hummel/Rounds seconded the motion.

A motion was made by Hummel/Rounds to approve the 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance 24-11, with a change of the flat amount .67 to read “current State per diem” rate. Alderman Sutton seconded the motion. Four (4) in favor, one (1) opposed. Alderman Cates cast the opposing vote. The 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance 24-11 passed.

**14. New Business: Consideration of Ordinance on First Reading**

**A. Ordinance 24-13 Amending Compensation for Mayor and Board**

This item was removed from agenda.

**15. Consideration of Resolutions: New Business**

**A. Resolution 24-53 Asset Management Request for Proposal**

A motion to hear Resolution 24-53 was made by Alderman Sutton.

A motion to approve Resolution 24-53 was made by Alderman Sutton. Alderman Cates seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. Resolution 24-53 passed.

**B. Resolution 24-54 Amending Employee Handbook**

A motion to hear Resolution 24-54 was made by Alderman Fisher.

A motion to approve Resolution 24-54 was made by Alderman Cates. Alderman Fisher seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. Resolution 24-54 passed.

**16. Old Business:**

None

**17. Other Item of Business:**

**A. Establish Work-Session - \_\_\_\_\_ 2024 @ \_\_\_pm**

Due to election, there will not be one scheduled.

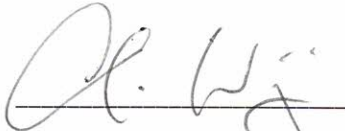
**15. Approval of Invoices**

None

**16. Meeting Adjourned**

Alderman Cates made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Date: October 17, 2024



Adrian Wiggins, Vice Mayor



K. Yvonne Bullard, City Recorder