

Mayor & Board of Aldermen – Regular Meeting

Meeting Minutes

June 19, 2025

Present: Mayor Adrain Wiggins
Vice Mayor Cates
Aldermen Austin, Bailey, Campbell and Hummel

Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

1. Call to order by Mayor Wiggins

2. Establish Quorum

All present

3. Prayer & Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

4. Approval of Agenda

Alderman Hummel requested to add “Discussion of Workshop” under *XVI Other Items of Business*.

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

5. Reading and Correction/Approval of Minutes

May 15, 2025– Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Vice Mayor Cates made a motion to approve May 15, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes. Alderman Austin seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. The motion passed.

May 9, 2025– Work Session Minutes

Vice Mayor Cates made a motion to approve May 9, 2025 Work Session Minutes. Alderman Hummel seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. The motion passed.

May 14, 2025– Work Session Minutes

Vice Mayor Cates made a motion to approve May 14, 2025 Work Session Minutes. Alderman Bailey seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. The motion passed.

6. Special Item: None

7. Citizen's Comments

A. Amy Carloni, Hwy 64 - Expressed three concerns; (1) the direction that the Town of Oakland is headed, (2) having received a grass citation without consideration to the amount of rainfall that's occurring, and (3) the unprofessional tactics used in calling for Chief Earl's removal as Oakland Police Chief.

B. Donna Orlich – Bluffwood Cove – Advised the Board of a recent Rottweiler attack on her and a friend as they were walking their dog in the park (Lakewood Drive) on a public walkway. She requested that someone take responsibility to see the property owner of 20 Harbor Oaks Cove, repair their fence that backs up to that walking area. She added, this is the third attack they have encountered. The Board members were provided pictures of the broken fence where the attack took place. Mayor Wiggins asked Town Manager Ellis and Attorney Minor to meet with her immediately following tonight's meeting.

C. Roy Neuhauser, Countryside Dr.- Referring to Ordinance 25-08 Gypsum Board, requested the Board to consider an ordinance stating the gypsum board used must be manufactured in the USA.

8. Communications from the Mayor

Mayor Wiggins thanked all in attendance of the meeting and for taking time out of their schedules.

9. Communication from the Aldermen

Vice Mayor Cates addressed overgrown property located at 160 Suzzane. He was advised that the legal process is currently underway.

Vice Mayor Cates also inquired about the recycle center being locked in the afternoons and on weekends. Public Works Director stated it belonged to Fayette County, but as a courtesy, he (Director Mullins) opens it at 7:30am and locks it up at 3pm, otherwise, it's up to Fayette County.

Alderman Campbell acknowledged everyone in attendance.

Alderman Hummel reminded everyone of Oakland's Annual 4th of July Fireworks display, Saturday, June 28th. She commended the Oakland Police Department for posting on their Facebook page describing the flow of traffic when entering and exiting the event. She also announced a free event that will be held at the Oakland Activity Center where Hal Rounds will be presenting "*Why We Celebrate the Fourth of July*". It is scheduled for July 4, 2025, beginning at 11 am with light snacks provided.

10. Department Head Reports

Fire Chief Walls stated that last year there were issues that took place which resulted in citizen concern. To ease the minds of those who are contemplating attending this year's 4th of July Celebration, he

assured the Oakland Fire and Police Departments have been meeting with emergency service units throughout Fayette County, including the Sheriff's Department, Emergency Management Service, and Fire Department as a coordinated effort to ensure safety during the event.

Chief Walls reported to the Board that five Oakland Firefighters have successfully completed *Swift Water Rescue Training* at the Ocoee River in East TN. This training is not only challenging, but demanding and dangerous.

Police Chief Earl responded to the allegations that were made against him and his department during the May 15, 2025 Regular Board Meeting. He first addressed the accusation that *he and the Sheriff do not get along*. He was adamant in stating that it was untrue, emphasizing they have a good working relationship providing one another assistance anytime needed.

He then spoke to the claim of *road safety is the main function/ writing tickets* (in a 180-day period 2,300 citations were issued). He reminded the board that police department statistics are provided to them monthly. He stated that TDOT recently performed a study on east bound Highway 64 to Highway 194 which resulted in 17,000 vehicles a day. Using the 180-day measurement, that equates to 3,060,000 vehicles traveling daily on just that stretch of highway. Considering 2,300 citations out of 3,060,000 vehicles the percentage comes to 0.0751. Chief Earl then provided the actual breakdown for the 2,300 citations that the alderman had referenced to: 211- arrest, 13 DUI, 30 Revoked Licenses, 53 Suspended Licenses, 71 Vehicle Crashes, 1,000 Warning Violations, 223 Incident Reports, and in that same 180-day period, 5,679 Calls for Service were handled.

He touched on *visibility in the neighborhoods*, stating the department receives texts and emails from citizens acknowledging the patrolling that is taking place. At night, there are extra patrols done by the "Delta-Shift". There are approximately 29 subdivisions patrolled in combination with Hwy 64 that the department patrols.

Chief Earl turned attention to the issue that was raised regarding *transparency within the Oakland Police Department*. He reported the following: the shooting that took place on Cypress Point August 2023, was determined as a premeditated incident; since that time, the suspect was shot and killed in Memphis in a drive by shooting. May 7th car thefts reported at Cambridge Pass & Cambridge Cove were committed by Shelby County criminals, a handgun was found and a partial recovery of 1 of the vehicles was made. February attempted ATM robbery was placed on OPD Facebook with the description of the vehicle and a request for citizen's assistance. April ATM robbery is an on-going investigation, and no further information can be given at this time. Response to school threats, Fayette County Sheriff's Department has jurisdiction over them, if OPD assistance is needed, they will notify us, and we will respond immediately. High-speed pursuit going through Oakland was the TN Highway Patrol and the Sheriff's Department pursuing suspects, nothing to do with Oakland's Police. Writing parking tickets on Beau Tisdale at and near DMV, that was done at the request of citizens living in the subdivision. There were complaints about driveways & mailboxes being blocked.

Chief Earl asserted, "You can see there is nothing wrong with the mechanics of the police department, or the leadership, I might add. So, there must be some other issue behind all this. The town may have growing pains and problems, but I can assure you the police department is not one of them". He encouraged them to pick a shift, sign up for a ride-along to see firsthand officers in action. He reminded

everyone that Oakland is ranked in the top 5 out of 346 municipalities, recognized for “Safest Town”. That doesn’t happen by chance, it’s because our officers take pride in their jobs, keeping Oakland safe.

In closing regarding the allegations, Chief Earl made it known that his door is always open; and until the May 15, 2025 meeting, he was unaware that his leadership or the department’s reputations were in question.

Lastly, Chief Earl introduced Drenden Rainey as a kind, responsible young man with a strong sense of community. In recognition of his respect for others and setting a great example to his peers, 10-year-old Drenden Rainey was presented with a Junior Police badge symbolizing he is now part of the extended family of the Oakland Police Department.

Parks & Rec Director Weston reported that Oakland’s Annual July 4th Celebration will be held at West Junior High June 28, 2025. The festivities will begin at 5pm, with fireworks at 9pm. Alderman Austin inquired of the progress at the new park facility. It was stated the rough-in plumbing is completed for the concession area and on the backside, they are working on the sewer pump station and a sewer line to the north.

Building Codes Director McDonald was commended by Alderman Hummel, on the report presented to the Board.

11. Town Manager Report

Town Manager Ellis stated he and staff had met with a couple of veterans related to ideas for a Veteran’s Day Event, at Cypress Creek Veteran’s Park. He encouraged public input.

12. Old Business: Ordinances Second and Final Reading w/ Public Hearing - None

13. New Business: Ordinances First Reading

A. Ordinance 25-03 – PODs (Portable Storage Containers) –Establishing Permit Requirements

Alderman Hummel made a motion to hear Ordinance 25-03. Vice Mayor Cates seconded the motion.

Alderman Austin questioned if “shipping container” should be added to the ordinance. Attorney Minor opined, a shipping container would fall under the definition in Ordinance 25-03.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Cates to approve the 1st Reading of Ordinance 25-03. The motion was seconded by Alderman Hummel. All were in favor, none opposed. The 1st Reading of Ordinance 25-03 passed.

B. Ordinance 25-04 – Parking on Streets -Municipal Code Amendment

Alderman Bailey made a motion to hear Ordinance 25-04. Vice Mayor Cates seconded the motion.

Town Manager Ellis stated the existing Ordinance 18-01 required an amendment to close a loophole that caused confusion with parking trailers, recreation vehicles, motor homes & etc. on residential streets.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Cates to approve the 1st Reading of Ordinance 25-04. The motion was seconded by Alderman Campbell. All were in favor, none opposed. The 1st Reading of Ordinance 25-04 passed.

C. Ordinance 25-08 – Gypsum Board - Amending Municipal Building Code

Vice Mayor Cates made a motion to hear Ordinance 25-08. Alderman Bailey seconded the motion.

Fire Chief Walls stated the cost would be equal to or less than 5/8 sheetrock. The gypsum board improves the structural stability of the home in general and in soundproofing, while providing 1 hour fire rating.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Cates to approve the 1st Reading of Ordinance 25-08. The motion was seconded by Alderman Campbell. All were in favor, none opposed. The 1st Reading of Ordinance 25-08 passed.

14. Consideration of Resolutions: Old Business - None

15. Consideration of Resolutions: New Business

A. Resolution 25-18 – 2025 Roadway Improvements- Contract Award

Alderman Hummel made a motion to hear Resolution 25-18.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Cates to approve Resolution 25-18. The motion was seconded by Alderman Campbell. Four were in favor, with Alderman Austin abstaining. Resolution 25-18 passed.

16. Other Item of Business:

A. Tri-State Armature – Requesting Approval of Credit Application

A motion was made by Alderman Hummel to approve the Tri-State Armature credit application. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Cates. All were in favor, none opposed. The motion passed.

B. Food Truck Update

Building Codes Director McDonald advised the Board of the compliance measures that are being taken and further procedures that are needed. It was determined this item should be referred to as a workshop discussion.

C. Workshop

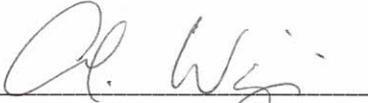
Alderman Hummel requested a date for a workshop be set. She cited the need to clear up issues related to campaign signs before petitions are pulled in the fall.

The consensus of the Board was to schedule a workshop for Thursday, July 17th at 6pm prior to the Regular Board Meeting.

17. Meeting Adjourned

Vice Mayor Cates made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Date: June 19, 2025



Adrian Wiggins, Mayor



K. Yvonne Bullard, Town Recorder