

# Mayor & Board of Aldermen – Regular Meeting

## Meeting Minutes

July 18, 2024

Present: Mayor Michael Brown  
Vice Mayor Wiggins, Aldermen Cates, Fisher, Hummel & Sutton

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

- 1. Call to order by Mayor Brown**
- 2. Prayer & Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag**
- 3. Establish Quorum**  
All present
- 4. Approval of Agenda**

Town Manager Ellis requested an agenda change to “XVI B & C” to reflect the 2 resolution headings; remove “2024 and add FY24-25” Roadway Improvements.

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

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

#### **June 20, 2024 – Regular Board Meeting Minutes**

Vice Mayor Wiggins made a motion to approve the June 20, 2024 Regular Board Meeting Minutes. Alderman Cates seconded the motion. All were in favor, none opposed. The motion passed.

#### **June 29, 2024 – Special Call Board Meeting Minutes**

Alderman Fisher made a motion to approve June 29, 2024 Special Call Meeting Minutes. Alderman Hummel seconded the motion. All were in favor, none opposed. The motion passed.

- 6. Special Item:**

None.

- 7. Citizen’s Comments**

None.

- 8. Communications from the Mayor**

Mayor Brown stated he had received a complaint related to a pothole, located near Oakland Tire and Hwy 64. Mayor Brown requested that Public Director Dennis Mullins report his findings. Mr. Mullins confirmed the pothole is located at the north end of Pierce Road, which is in the state right-of-way and is not the Town of Oakland's responsibility. Mr. Mullins also commented, the state was contacted about the pothole issue.

Mayor Brown commented on a 2023 property tax comparison of municipalities near Oakland. Referencing the property tax amount of a home valued at \$429,950 in unincorporated Shelby County, Arlington, Bartlett, Lakeland and Memphis, compared to paying taxes on the same home in Oakland. Memphis was the highest at \$6,457 and Oakland the lowest at \$2,070.

In pointing out the variances in the property taxes, he reiterated a past comment, that a future property taxes increase is inevitable and necessary to provide the needs of the town and services to its citizens.

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

Vice Mayor Wiggins expressed thanks to everyone involved for another successful Fourth of July Fireworks Celebration in Oakland.

Alderman Fisher reminded everyone that a local election is taking place and expressed the need of getting the word out to vote.

Alderman Hummel stated the fireworks display was wonderful and commended the Police Department in their efforts in relieving traffic issues related to the event. Alderman Hummel reiterated Alderman Fisher's comments in getting the word out to vote.

Alderman Cates inquired of the rules in signs being placed on state right-of-way. Attorney Minor stated the state has authority over the state-right-of ways and the right to remove signs. Town Manager Ellis said he would further investigate the issue.

Alderman Sutton called for a moment of silence in remembrance of Cory Comperatore, the retired fire chief who was murdered during the assassination attempt on the former president, Donald Trump.

#### **10. Department Head Reports**

Waste-water Director Coker provided a brief update on the waste-water project. The contractor has made progress with the concrete pours, with more to come in weeks ahead. He encouraged those interested to contact him for an on-site visit. He reported the contractor has been very good to work with and is committed in producing a good product for Oakland.

Vice Mayor Wiggins, referring to Director Coker's monthly report, asked Mr. Coker if there are any concerns or consequences in Oakland pumping more than 1 million gallons a day, citing numbers of 1.1m and 1.3 m. Director Coker explained the state determines excessive

violations, not necessarily by volume, but on the number of times the state permit is violated. Director Coker commented his belief, we would be fine until the completion of the plant.

Alderman Hummel remarked on the excellent report provided by Water Director Armstrong, in response to a citizen's concern (last month) of fluoride in the town's water supply. She addressed Director Armstrong of possibly going through the procedure of having it removed and requested a workshop to address the cost and allow the citizens to voice their opinion.

Alderman Cates expressed concern of the increased number of "No Driver's License" offences.

Alderman Fisher inquired of impounding vehicles. Police Chief Earl explained that vehicles are impounded for violations related to drugs, revoked DUI, things of that nature, but not for the violation of No Driver's License.

Alderman Sutton requested Fire Chief Walls to comment on the fire hazard related to lithium batteries. Chief Walls noted most of the fire calls in his department are garage fire related, recommending heat detectors as a means of fire protection in such instances.

#### **11. Town Manager Report**

Town Manager Ellis provided a progress update on the park complex project. He stated the drainage survey is in progress, once that's done, the civil drawings will get underway, with the final plans expected in 4-6 weeks after the civil drawings have been completed.

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

None

#### **13. New Business: Ordinances First Reading**

##### **A. Ordinance 24-08 Amending Municipal Code Title 12 International Energy Conservation Code**

Alderman Fisher made a motion to hear Ordinance 24-08. Vice Mayor Wiggins seconded the motion to hear.

Alderman Cates made a motion to approve the 1st Reading of Ordinance 24-08. Alderman Hummel (Rounds) seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. The motion passed.

#### **14. Consideration of Resolutions: Old Business**

None

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

### **A. Road Paving Priority List**

Town Manager Ellis presented the Board with a list of Proposed 2024 Roadway Improvements indicating road names, type of work and estimated cost of each. He and Public Works Director Mullins prepared the list, recommending the work to be done. The list is comprised of five (5) roads, plus the engineering cost, totaling \$611,558.80.

Vice Mayor Wiggins opposed Wirt Road Extended. He acknowledged it should be fixed, but the burden should not fall on the Oakland taxpayers.

Alderman Sutton proposed that administration should attempt to schedule a meeting with Fayette County, to ask for assistance in the repair of Wirt Road. Fayette County has ownership of Wirt Road up to Hwy 194. He emphasized Tomlin Road was another that Fayette County should share responsibility.

After further discussion it was determined, it would be beneficial to everyone to invite Fayette County Officials to a scheduled workshop, proposing that Oakland take-in Wirt Road if Fayette County makes the repairs.

Vice Mayor Wiggins made a motion to remove Wirt Road Extended from the proposed list, allowing Town Manager Ellis to revise the list with other roads identified as needing repair. The revised list shall not exceed \$611,558.80. Alderman Hummel (Rounds) seconded the motion. Four (4) in favor, one (1) opposed. Alderman Fisher cast the opposing vote. The motion passed.

### **B. Resolution 24-50 Authorizing the Solicitation of Bids for 24-25 Roadway Improvements**

Vice Mayor Wiggins made a motion to hear.

Alderman Sutton made a motion to approve Resolution 24-50, in accordance with the revised road list, and it being provided to the Board members for review. Alderman Cates seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. Resolution 24-50 passed.

### **C. Resolution 24-51 Authorizing A Professional Services Agreement for 2024 Roadway Improvements**

Vice Mayor Wiggins made a motion to hear.

Alderman Fisher made a motion to approve Resolution 24-51. Alderman Sutton seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. Resolution 24-51 passed.

**16. Other Items of Business**

**A. Appointment of Finance Director**

Town Manager Ellis presented Ms. Lorie Rice as his recommendation to fill the vacant position of Finance Director for the Town of Oakland.

Vice Mayor Wiggins made a motion to approve the hiring of Ms. Lorie Rice as Finance Director. Alderman Cates seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. The motion passed.

**B. Establish Time and Date of Work-Session**

Town Manager Ellis was tasked with contacting Fayette County for a date and time convenient for them to attend to discuss Wirt Road. Other topics for the workshop will include Industrial Development Board and Flouridation of the towns water supply.

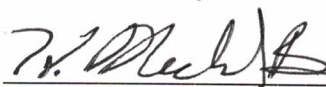
**15. Approval of Invoices**

None

**16. Meeting Adjourned**

Alderman Cates made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Date: July 18, 2024



H. Michael Brown, Mayor



K. Yvonne Bullard, City Recorder