

OTTUMWA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

SPECIAL WORK SESSION NO. 12  
Room 8B – Depot Conference Room

March 26, 2024  
5:30 O’Clock P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 P.M.

Present were Council Member Hoffman, McAntire, Caviness, Bossou, Galloway and Mayor Johnson.

Staff present City Admin. Rath, Finance Dir. O’Donnell, PIO Lawrence, Dir. Airport Oper. Wheaton, PW Dir./City Engineer Burgmeier. Human Rights Commission members Dr. Peter Reiter and John Fenner.

Caviness moved, seconded by Hoffman to approve agenda as presented. All ayes.

Items discussed at the work session are listed on the agenda and on file in the office of the City Clerk. No action was taken.

Open Discussion about Boards and Commissions – certain brds/commissions are restricted by IA law (Brd of Library Trustees, Civil Service Commission, Brd of Adjustment, Waterworks Brd of Trustees, Ottumwa Housing Auth (governed by their own bylaws.)) Council wants discussions with each brd/commission about changes they are thinking about (number of individuals serving on commission; term length; term limits); have conversations with members to learn what is working (or not) within their groups to be more productive. Will hold follow up work session to discuss results and develop action.

O’Donnell discussed Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) Ballot Language and Other Fund Revenue Options. LOST is set to expire 12/31/25; to extend, LOST referendum will need to be held; current revenues from LOST 10% property tax relief and 90% street and/or sewer improvements. Does Council want to leave language the same, or more defined use? Change percentage allocation?


Franchise Fees are the only mechanism left to create new revenues for local government. Current gas & electric franchise fees set at 3%; based on FY25 projections, a 0.5% increase would generate additional funds needed to help cover increased expenses.

These items will be in upcoming council packets for legislative action.

There being no further discussion, Galloway moved, seconded by Bossou to adjourn. All ayes.

Adjournment was at 7:43 P.M.

CITY OF OTTUMWA, IOWA

  
Richard W. Johnson, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Christina Reinhard, CMC, City Clerk

Published in the Ottumwa Courier on 4/4/2024.