

Osakis City Council – Regular Meeting
Osakis City Hall – 14 Nokomis Street East
March 9, 2026
6:00 PM

Present: Judy Dvorsak, Randy Anderson, Laura Backes, Stephanie Finnegan

Absent: Tim Thornbloom

Others Present: Angela Jacobson, Troy Benning, Calvin Uhl, Jason Schultz, Kevin Kruger (WSB), up to four people via YouTube.

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Dvorsak at 6:00 p.m.

Motion by Finnegan, seconded by Backes, to approve the agenda as presented with the additions of Project #69 – Info to the Council and Project #462 – Fishing Tournament. All Ayes Absent: Thornbloom

Motion by Backes, seconded by Finnegan, to approve the general consent items, including the February city bills in the amount of \$246,855.41 and meeting minutes from February 9, 2026, February 24, 2026, Planning & Zoning minutes from February 19, 2026. All Ayes Absent: Thornbloom

PROJECT #468: SPECIAL EVENT / TASTE OF OSAKIS

Jason Schultz was in attendance to discuss the Taste of Osakis event. Travis Middendorf and Schultz are in charge of the event.

The City of Osakis received a special event application requesting approval to close the downtown streets for the proposed event of Taste of Osakis. This event is intended to celebrate the community and brings in bull riding, food trucks, outdoor concert, food and craft vendors and other activities.

The event is located in the downtown area, including Main Street and Central Avenue, the boat landing, 1st Avenue East and Hensley's open lot and the Panther Distillery lot in the Industrial Park.

Schultz indicated that they want to block off the same as last year.

It is recommended that the council approve the street closures and the Taste of Osakis event, subject to compliance with all applicable ordinances, including liquor laws, insurance coverage, necessary permits, and timely payment of application fees.

Motion by Finnegan, seconded by Anderson, to approve the Taste of Osakis event that is outlined by the staff report and application subject to standard conditions to include insurance and all items discussed. All Ayes Absent: Thornbloom

PROJECT #60-1: ORDINANCE / RENTAL

Council received a draft rental ordinance prepared by Steve Jones.

Council discussed how to proceed with this ordinance.

Motion by Finnegan, seconded by Backes, to approve to not proceed with a rental ordinance unless something arises and there are complaints on rental properties. All Ayes Absent: Thornbloom

PROJECT #102/509: EDA / MN HOUSING GRANT TIER II

The City of Osakis has been awarded a Tier II grant through Minnesota Housing. The grant was submitted in the amount of \$150,000 to support the construction of new homes within the city.

Funding of up to \$30,000 per home will be available to qualifying individuals who build a home in the City of Osakis. This incentive is in addition to the existing \$25,000 housing program currently administered by the EDA.

Motion by Anderson, seconded by Finnegan, to approve the grant agreement with MN Housing Tier II grant in the amount of \$150,000 when it is finalized as long as no change with the grant agreement is made. All Ayes Absent: Thornbloom

Motion by Finnegan, seconded by Backes, to approve the EDA minutes from February 23, 2026. All Ayes Absent: Thornbloom

PROJECT #76: POLICE

Calvin Uhl had requested to move to part-time status. Council action was needed to approve Uhl's return as a part-time employee and to set the applicable hourly wage.

Calvin Uhl was present – worked for the city for 23 years and 7 months. Uhl thanked the city for the years of service he had with the department but with his new job, the workload is too much to be able to put in time for police work.

Motin by Anderson, seconded by Backes, to accept the resignation from Calvin Uhl. All Ayes Absent: Thornbloom

The city will be putting the old squad truck and white SUV for sale on an online auction. This information will be published in the Long Prairie Leader next week.

PROJECT #24: LIQUOR STORE

Council received the February Liquor Store reports.

Troy Benning was present;

- Reviewed draft copy of the Liquor Store pull-tab policy.
 - Policy is needed for what will happen with shortages in the POS System.
 - Login, all money is in one box and just select the game to get the card out.
- POS System is more accurate which leaves more time to do tabs.

Motion by Backes, seconded by Finnegan, to approve pull-tab, e-tab policy pending any major changes after final review. All Ayes Absent: Thornbloom

Parking lot will be rebid and will have the information for the April meeting.

PROJECT #205: PUBLIC WORKS

Darrin Quistorff would like to purchase new equipment:

- John Deer 5115M tractor and mower used for ditch mowing, pond mowing and will be used for lawn spraying. Cannot get parts for the current side mower.
 - Price is \$47,500. Trade-in for the old tractor is \$6,500.
- Z970R lawn mower to replace the oldest lawnmower we have. Price is \$16,758.82 with trade-in value at \$9,600. Total cost to upgrade is \$7,158.

Public works building – Quistorff provided Jacobson with an updated equipment list for the building size. A workshop meeting will be setup when we have a revised plan.

The Public Works report noted that copper and lead samples were performed on both wells and no contaminants were found.

Motion by Backes, seconded by Finnegan, to approve to purchase the John Deere 5115M tractor in the amount of \$47,500 with trade-in of \$6,500 for the old side mower and the Z970R lawn mower in the amount of \$16,758.82 with trade-in of \$9,600 for the old mower. All Ayes Absent: Thornbloom

Motion by Backes, seconded by Finnegan, to approve using the budget funds to purchase the tractors. All Ayes Absent: Thornbloom

PROJECT #46: WATER AND SEWER EDU CHARGE

The EDA continued their discussion regarding availability charges for vacant properties. At their February 23, 2026 meeting, the EDA approved to recommend that the city charge the base availability rate to each vacant property. This would mean that any commercial or residential property that is sitting vacant would be assessed the base availability charge. Currently, the seasonal base rate is \$37.75 and is reviewed annually. No response from the city attorney if an ordinance amendment would be required to implement this change.

Council will discuss this at the April meeting after the city attorney responds.

Motion by Finnegan, seconded by Backes, to table until the April meeting. All Ayes Absent: Thornbloom

PROJECT #49: MAIN STREET PROJECT – SANITARY SEWER REPLACEMENT

Kevin Kruger and Eric DeSmith met with the council on February 24th, 2026 to review the project area and proposed layout. Proposed assessment ranges were discussed at that time but were not finalized for council review.

Johnson Jet-Line televised the sewer lines in this area and found that a majority of the properties were experiencing inflow issues and many lateral lines are in poor condition. The Main Street East area was determined to be in need of replacement.

Clerk Jacobson received the proposed assessment information from Kruger. There are questions regarding vacant lots and double lots that the assessment needs to be clarified. This will be reviewed with our financial consultant.

Information from Jason Murray:

- PFA on PPL not on IUP – get 1% money for 20 years.
- 2.6M project – cannot be used for 2026.
- Water/sewer portion at 1% to 1.5% only.
- Bond for street, storm, gutter & curb – 4% to 4.5%.
- Assessments – follow the assessment process. These are estimated numbers from the engineer. Changed per benefited property.
- Can have initial assessment hearing with proposed numbers for hearing. Council can get the feel for the preliminary on moving forward with the project.

- Option to bid the project and have the final assessment hearing before starting the project so we have true numbers to go off of – or can bid and have final assessment hearing at the end of the project – this will help to guide anyone who appeals their assessment.
- Typical assessments are 15 to 20 years. If the city borrows at 4.5%, the city can charge 1% more for financing costs.

Motion by Finnegan, seconded by Backes, to approve the WSB's bills in the amount of \$944.00 and \$26,450.25. All Ayes Absent: Thornbloom

Motion by Anderson, seconded by Finnegan, to approve the feasibility and move forward with scheduling a public hearing. All Ayes Absent: Thornbloom

PROJECT #441: PARK BOARD

The DNR grant for Phase 1 is still being processed. To keep moving with the project, the Park Board is requesting council approval to proceed with the bidding process for Phase 1.

As part of the grant process, a cultural resource assessment and geotechnical report were required. Council received these reports and once the DNR reviews the documents, they will finalize the DNR grant agreement.

Clerk Jacobson contacted the DNR regarding Phase 2 – the DNR indicated that additional grant funds would not be approved until the initial grant funds have been substantially used.

The Park Board will hold off on requesting and applying for Phase 2 of funding at this time.

Bid project – open bids on March 24th. The Park Board meeting has been moved to March 31st.

Motion by Finnegan, seconded by Backes, to approve the Park Committee meeting minutes from February 5, 2026. All Ayes Absent: Thornbloom

PROJECT #312: BEAUTIFICATION TEAM

Amber Kral was not in attendance. Kral will provide additional bids for the overlook area when available.

The Decades Party had an excellent turnout.

PROJECT #261: WATER PROBLEM

Letters were sent on January 14, 2026 and again on February 17, 2026 to all property owners on the Central Avenue block requesting they call with available dated for a March meeting. Only three property owners had responded.

Motion by Backes, seconded by Anderson, to approve to not hold a meeting unless more responses are received.

PROJECT #7: COMMUNITY CENTER

Interviews for a new janitor will be held on March 12, 2026. Completing the interviews will be Mayor Dvorsak, Anderson and Clerk Jacobson. Council will receive information at the April meeting.

PROJECT #43: BOARD OF REVIEW

Board of Review meeting will be held Tuesday, April 7, 2026. Todd County at 9 a.m. and Douglas County at 10:30 a.m. at city hall.

Finnegan, Mayor Dvorsak and Backes will be present for the meeting.

PROJECT #42: CLEAN UP DAY

City Clean Up Day has been scheduled for May 16, 2026 form 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Volunteers who donate their time include the Osakis Lions, STS Todd County and West Central Sanitation (up to the contracted amount of \$1,000 in dumping fees).

In 2025, the Council approved a one-year trial allowing members of the Osakis Lake Association to participate in Clean Up Day. Last year, fewer than 10 Lake Association members participated.

Motion by Finnegan, seconded by Anderson, to approve Osakis Lake Association to participate in Clean Up Day like last year. All Ayes Absent: Thornbloom

Motion by Finnegan, seconded by Backes, to keep the prices the same as 2025. All Ayes Absent: Thornbloom

PROJECT #4387: CROSSWALKS

Motion by Backes, seconded by Anderson, to approve to purchase crosswalks for Central Avenue/Hwy 82 and for 2 other intersections on Hwy 82 for a cost of \$630.00 each. All Ayes Absent: Thornbloom

PROJECT #260: COUNCIL INFORMATION

Council discussed live streaming the council meetings. Typically, only 1 to 6 individuals view the live stream. After the meetings are posted to YouTube, the average times viewed is 36. Of those views, the average watch time is 17 minutes per meeting and not the entire meeting.

Motion by Anderson, seconded by Finnegan, to approve to purchase 1 single mic for the table and to try live streaming for 1 more year. All Ayes Absent: Thornbloom

PROJECT #321: VISITOR'S CENTER

Last year, the Visitor's Center operated on a part-time basis. Funding from local organizations and gambling funds helped with staff expenses.

Due to budget constraints, the Council budgeted \$6,000 for staffing costs with the expectation that \$6,000 can be raised through donations.

Motion by Backes, seconded by Finnegan, to table until the April meeting. All Ayes Absent: Thornbloom.

PROJECT #213: BEACH / LIFEGUARDS

The beach is open from the beginning of June to Labor Day. Over the past several years, the city has experienced difficulty in hiring lifeguards. For the 2025 season, Quistorff and Clerk Jacobson met with the lifeguards to clearly review the job requirements and expectations. Last year was better with the three lifeguards that were hired.

Last year the head lifeguard wage was \$17.00 per hour with returning lifeguards at \$16.00 per hour.

The city also pays for lifeguard training.

Motion by Finnegan, seconded by Anderson, to approve a \$1.00 per hour raise for returning staff, otherwise start at \$15.00 for new lifeguards. All Ayes Absent: Thornbloom

PROJECT #69: INFORMATION TO THE COUNCIL

An open house for the City Council is scheduled for April 7th, 2026 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Osakis City Hall.

Information for the open house will be put on the city website and Facebook.

PROJECT #462: FISHING TOURNAMENT

John Wicki from North Country Bass Tournament will be having a bass tournament on August 21st to 22nd or August 22nd to 23rd. They would like to use the park area by the public landing for the weigh-ins. Council has no issues.

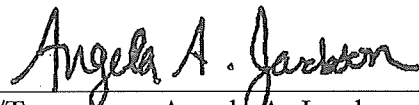
OTHER ITEMS:

Next Council meeting will be April 13th, 2026.

Motion by Backes, seconded by Finnegan, to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. All Ayes Absent: Thornbloom



Mayor – Judy Dvorsak



City Clerk/Treasurer – Angela A. Jacobson