

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

Present: Randy Anderson, Judy Dvorsak, Laura Backes, Stephanie Finnegan, Tim Thornbloom
Others Present: Lynnette Swenstad, Kyle Kostrzewski, Craig Dropik, John Swenstad, Laura Ostlie, Nichole S. (Bollig), Jonathan Ries, Carlene Dean, Dave Zerr

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

Motion by Anderson, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve the agenda as presented with removing item #458 (Facebook) and adding MAPE letter. All Ayes

Finnegan requested to pull the overtime report and Planning & Zoning minutes for clarification.

Finnegan – asking to change the meeting and public hearing to October 29th not October 22nd to give the school as much time as possible to get their information ready.

Finnegan – on the overtime report there was a lot of on-call pay that went out.

Mayor Dvorsak mentioned that Gulbranson was short on officers for 2 pay periods. Becker and Breer both had time off.

Discussed on-call hours to put into comp hours.

Mayor Dvorsak – not a fan of comp – like to keep to a minimum.

Anderson commented that we can only do so much about it. Can talk about it at when discussion the contract.

Motion by Finnegan, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve the general consent items, including the August city bills in the amount of \$558,382.92, and meeting minutes from August 10, 2026 and August 24, 2026. All Ayes

PROJECT #299: BONDS

Jason Murray (via phone) thanked the council for accommodating him for not being in attendance due to another meeting.

Murray commented it was a good sale but with a little higher rate. Annual payment will be about \$181,000 for the years 2028-2042.

Resolution 2026-33 was presented by Anderson, seconded by Thornbloom. to approve the resolution for Bond Series 2026A in the amount of \$1,985,000 at 6:21 p.m. When put to a vote, the resolution passed unanimously.

PROJECT #84: BUDGET 2027

Council received the expenditure and revenue budget for 2027. The budget was balanced with a 4% preliminary increase.

Motion by Finnegan, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve the 2027 preliminary budget as presented. All Ayes

Resolution 2026-32 was presented by Finnegan, seconded by Anderson, to approve the preliminary levy amount with an increase of 4% or \$36,792.00. When put to a vote, the resolution passed unanimously.

PROJECT #192: TRUTH IN TAXATION

Finnegan had a schedule of the school events for December.

Council discussed the school concerts and suggested moving the date of the meeting.

Motion by Finnegan, seconded by Thornbloom, to move the December regular meeting and set the Truth in Taxation meeting on Wednesday, December 16th, 2026. All Ayes

PROJECT #24: LIQUOR STORE

Council received Liquor Store reports for August including the gambling rent from June in the amount of \$6,395.46.

Mayor Dvorsak is working with Troy Benning on inventory. Next month they should have a better inventory list to bring to the council meeting.

Benning is looking at hiring another part-time bartender and then should have enough to help him.

Motion by Finnegan, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve hiring Desirae Hendricks as part-time bartender at the Liquor Store pending background approval. All Ayes

PROJECT #74/13: FIRE / FIRE RELIEF

Craig Dropik was in attendance – had 5 calls for the month of August. 51 calls for year to date. Also mentioned that Mark Pomerleau retired as of August 31, 2026 having 35 years of service.

Fire Department is looking for 2 to 3 new members.

Kyle Kostrzewski discussed PERA Firefighter Plan:

- Currently at \$6,600 – requesting to be at \$7,600 for 95% funded.

Mayor Dvorsak asked when the council would have until for approval. Kostrzewski said by the December meeting to get all the paperwork in.

Mayor Dvorsak has been reviewing the numbers and wants to make sure the timing is right. Issues came last year in the last few months of the year – she is looking at \$7,200.

Finnegan asked about the vested percentage – 100% or higher. Dvorsak stated we want to be at 100% or as close as we can.

Motion by Thornbloom, seconded by Finnegan, to table the discussion of the PERA Fire Retirement until the October meeting. All Ayes

PROJECT #76: POLICE

Chad Gulbranson was not in attendance.

Mayor Dvorsak spoke with Gulbranson and he stated everything went good for Taste of Osakis – had enough officers on and not too many problems.

PROJECT #205: PUBLIC WORKS

Council received the Public Works report. Discussed the proposed public works building and locations.

Mayor Dvorsak – RFP process would take the project and get us through with the design phase.

Finnegan asked how the RFP went for the Park Board. Dvorsak said they had 6 applicants.

Discussed budgeting for the project for next year – have to go out for bids the first of the year if we want to start next spring.

Mayor Dvorsak – see no other alternative.

Motion by Finnegan, seconded by Anderson, to approve to start the RFP process for the public works building. All Ayes

PROJECT #312: BEAUTIFICATION TEAM

Amber Kral was not in attendance – no items to update and act on.

PROJECT #501: PARK & RECREATION MEETING

Dvorsak said that they received 6 proposals for the project RFP. Al Larson, Judy Dvorsak and Clerk Jacobson will review them.

Mayor Dvorsak – the archaeological review found no findings.

Mayor Dvorsak also mentioned they are looking for new members for the Community at Large member position.

PROJECT #510: 2ND AVENUE EAST AND PIKE STREET EAST PROJECT

Council received a memo from Laura Ostlie (Bollig) requesting the council approve to apply for EPA-CAWAG Technical Assistance. Outlined in the memo, this assistance would help offset the costs associated with planning for the MPCA Facility Plan and related planning activities.

Ostlie gave an update on the funding – turn around is very quickly now.

Motion by Finnegan, seconded by Anderson, to approve the invoice from Bollig #10054 Task 4 Grant application in the amount of \$5,000 and #10080 Task 3 in the amount of \$6,533.25 for the 2nd Avenue and Pike Street project. All Ayes

Motion by Anderson, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve Bollig to apply for the EPA-CAWAG Technical Assistance funding for the facility planning and other related planning. All Ayes

PROJECT #49: MAIN STREET PROJECT – SANITARY SEWER REPLACEMENT

Mayor Dvorsak reviewed the project:

- Letters were sent to 27 properties that need to have their lateral line replaced.
- The deadline set by the council for installation of the lateral lines is October 30, 2026.

At a special meeting on August 24th, 2026, WSB stated they would provide updates to the project webpage and send notifications to residents who have signed up to receive construction updates. WSB had been asked to improve communication during the project and help keep residents and others affected informed.

Garbage collection is being coordinated by placing garbage cans at the end of the streets in the areas where the construction is taking place. Public Works employees are assisting with this.

Temporary mailboxes also have been installed to ensure residents continue to receive their mail.

Mayor Dvorsak said the project is moving along pretty much on schedule. 8th Avenue to 6th Avenue should be pretty much complete by the end of the week.

PROJECT #60: ORDINANCE – ADMINISTRATIVE CITATION

Council received a memo to explain the next steps in the process of the property at 310 1st Avenue West. It is recommended to send a follow up letter giving an additional 14 days to correct the violations.

Mayor Dvorsak stated that Gulbranson should send out the letter tomorrow.

Motion by Anderson, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve to proceed with sending the letter to Toby Wiebye with a notice of 14 days to correct the violations at 310 1st Avenue West. All Ayes Abstain: Backes

PROJECT #489: MAIN LIFT STATION

Killmer Electric has been working to complete the main lift station project and also on the backup generator for the water plant. No pay application was received.

PROJECT #373: POLICIES

Mayor Dvorsak and Clerk Jacobson are still working on the language for the policy change for the use of city vehicles.

Mayor Dvorsak stated that this has not gotten done but will by the October meeting.

PROJECT #196: FEE SCHEDULE

Mayor Dvorsak informed the council that they should look over the fee schedule and discuss any changes before the December meeting. The 2027 fee schedule will be adopted at the December meeting.

PROJECT #310: BLACKS RESORT BLOCKING LAKE STREET

Motion by Thornbloom, seconded by Finnegan, to approve to allow Blacks Resort to block Lake Street East on October 3rd, 2026 to remove docks. All Ayes

PROJECT #433: SAUK RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

Mayor Dvorsak and Finnegan will attend the SRWD meeting on September 15th, 2026.

PROJECT #124: BANK SIGN

Council discussed the First National Bank sign located by Osakis Community Center. The sign is under a 25-year lease and will expire June 2027.

Mayor Dvorsak said the bank is looking at replacing the sign and asked the city what we want to see for landscaping – she would like to see the landscaping reduced in size and have a single pole.

Anderson asked how easy is it to put events on the sign.

The bank does all the updates on the sign.

Anderson also liked the idea of making the landscaping smaller.

PROJECT #382: MAPE LETTER

Backes stated that she preferred to not have a closed meeting.

Mayor Dvorsak commented that going forward we all need to follow language in the personal policy that refers to council.

Backes commented that she has always acted in the best interest for the city. This happened on July 13th and we now only have 16 days to respond. Backes said that her resolution will be that she will not comment on police items for the next 3 months.

Backes commented about the MAPE letter and wanted them to know the timeline was not fair at all to have a response by and gender was included in the letter. MAPE should be more aware and they should use they or them.

Backes stated that she will not apologize for having the cities best interest in mind.

Backes will give to them with highlighted errors in the letter we send.

Mayor Dvorsak said again, that going forward we need to concentrate on our training.

OTHER ITEMS: Next Council meeting – October 12, 2026.

Dave Zerr was in attendance and asked if he could get a copy of the preliminary budget.

Will check with Clerk Jacobson.

Anderson asked if it should be posted. Jonathan Ries and John Swenstad also requested a copy be emailed to them.

Motion by Thornbloom, seconded by Finnegan, to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. All Ayes