

**City of Odessa Board of Aldermen  
Odessa Community Building | 601 W. Main Street  
Regular Meeting ~ December 14, 2020 | 7:00 pm  
Meeting Minutes**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Stephen Wright called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Stephen Wright led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

City Clerk, Peggy Eoff called the roll.

Mayor Stephen Wright	Present		
Alderman Tom McElwee	Present	Alderman Mike Stevens	Present
Alderman Ron Finn	Present	Alderman Ray Harves	Present
Alderman Steve Lockhart	Present	Alderdwoman Mickey Starr	Present

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE**

City Staff: Peggy Eoff – City Clerk, Nici Wilson – City Administrator, Troy Woutzke – Electric Superintendent, Josh Thompson – Police Chief, Kenny Snider – Wastewater Superintendent, Sid Rustman – Finance Director, Jeff Deane – City Attorney

Public: Hannah Spaar – The Odessan,

**WELCOME**

Mayor Stephen Wright welcomed visitors.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

Purchasing Card Report  
Budget Report  
Approval of minutes  
    ➤ November 9, 2020 – Regular Session  
Code Compliance Monthly Report (Info only)  
Police Department Report (Info only)  
Circuit Court Monthly Report (Info only)

Motion was made by Alderman Harves, seconded by Alderman Stevens to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried 6-0.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

The Mayor thanked everyone that was involved with the virtual lighting ceremony.

**ALDERMEN REPORTS**

- Alderman McElwee thanked the water department for their work in repairing the two active water leaks.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments

**NEW BUSINESS**

Appointment – Board of Zoning Adjustments

Mayor Wright asked the board to approve his appointment recommendation of JoAnn Quigley to the Board of Zoning Adjustments. Mayor Wright thanked John Sanders for his services to the board. Quigley’s term would expire April 2025.

Motion was made by Alderman Stevens, seconded by Alderwoman Starr to approve the appointment. Motion carried 6-0.

Bill No. 2020-21 (1st reading) – Calling for the General Election

Mayor Wright read the proposed ordinance of the City of Odessa, Missouri, calling for a General Election in the City of Odessa, Missouri on April 6, 2021, to elect the municipal officers.

Motion was made by Alderman Stevens, seconded by Alderman McElwee to approve bill no. 2020-21, first reading. Motion carried 6-0.

Bill No. 2020-21 (2nd reading) – Calling for the General Election

Mayor Wright read the proposed ordinance of the City of Odessa, Missouri, calling for a General Election in the City of Odessa, Missouri on April 6, 2021, to elect municipal officers.

Motion was made by Alderwoman Starr, seconded by Alderman Lockhart to approve bill no. 2020-21, second reading.

Vote as follows:

Alderman McElwee	yes	Alderman Stevens	yes
Alderman Finn	yes	Alderman Harves	yes
Alderman Lockhart	yes	Alderwoman Starr	yes

Motion carried 6-0.

Bill No. 2020-21 became Ordinance No. 3024

Bill No. 2020-22 (1st reading) – Appointment of a Collector

Mayor Wright read the proposed ordinance of the City of Odessa, Missouri, providing for the holding of an election within and for the City of Odessa, Missouri, on the question of the appointment of a collector and setting the time at which said ordinance shall become effective.

Motion was made by Alderwoman Starr, seconded by Alderman Harves to approve bill no. 2020-22, first reading. Motion carried 6-0.

Bill No. 2020-22 (2nd reading) – Appointment of a Collector

Mayor Wright read the proposed ordinance of the City of Odessa, Missouri, providing for the holding of an election within and for the City of Odessa, Missouri, on the question of the appointment of a collector and setting the time at which said ordinance shall become effective.

Motion was made Alderman Harves, seconded by Alderwoman Starr to approve bill no. 2020-22, second reading.

Vote as follows:

Alderman McElwee	yes	Alderman Stevens	yes
Alderman Finn	yes	Alderman Harves	yes
Alderman Lockhart	yes	Alderwoman Starr	yes

Motion carried 6-0.

Bill No. 2020-22 became Ordinance No. 3025

Bill No. 2020-23 (1<sup>st</sup> reading) – Transient Guest/Lodging Tax

Mayor Wright read the proposed ordinance of the City of Odessa, Missouri, calling for an election to be held on Tuesday, April 6, 2021, imposing a Transient Guest Tax for funding the promotion of tourism.

Motion was made by Alderman Stevens, seconded by Alderwoman Starr to approve bill no. 2020-23, first reading.

- Alderman McElwee asked if the City reached out to the only business that this would effect
- Nici Wilson City Administrator, stated that no, that this does not impose a tax on the hotel, this is only to approve to allow this on the ballot, which allows the voters to decide to impose the tax
- Alderman McElwee asked that shouldn't we reached out to them before we even approve the ordinance and let them know how it would impact them
- Wilson stated that this tax would not be imposed on the business, that this tax if approved is imposed to those that choose to stay there or any other lodging facility that does business in the city limits. The city would prepare additional information for voters about the measure, but had not yet spent time or money on those materials as it had not been approved
- Alderman Lockhart stated that he disagreed with what Wilson said, and ask how can you take it to the voters if you don't call it what it is?
- Wilson said that it is a tax.
- Alderman Finn had concerns that with the pandemic that residents may need to stay there and they would have to pay the tax.
- It was noted that they would have to pay that tax at almost any short-term place they stayed. Most all entities have taken this question to their voters and it has passed. It's an alternative revenue stream that for the most part is not paid for by the local tax base.
- Wilson stated that this is a form of democracy and this is a way for the voters to decide, if they would rather have the additional revenue source or not.

Motion carried 4-3. (nays - Lockhart, McElwee, Finn)

Mayor Wright voted yes to break the tie.

Bill No. 2020-23 (2<sup>nd</sup> reading) – Transient Guest/Lodging Tax

Mayor Wright read the proposed ordinance of the City of Odessa, Missouri, calling for an election to be held on Tuesday, April 6, 2021, imposing a Transient Guest Tax for funding the promotion of tourism.

Motion was made by Alderwoman Starr, seconded by Alderman Lockhart to approve bill no. 2020-23, second reading.

Alderman McElwee asked if they would see the wording that would be on the ballot.

Wilson informed him that the language that is in the ordinance in his packet is what would be on the ballot.

With no other discussion and a motion on the table

Vote as follows:

Alderman McElwee	no	Alderman Stevens	yes
Alderman Finn	no	Alderman Harves	yes
Alderman Lockhart	no	Alderwoman Starr	yes

Mayor Wright voted yes to break the tie.

Motion carried 4-3.

Bill No. 2020-23 became Ordinance No. 3026

Adjourn


There being no further business to come before the Board of Alderman, motion was made by Alderman McElwee, seconded by Alderwoman Starr to adjourn the meeting at 7:19 p.m.

Motion carried 6-0.

Approved:

January 11, 2021

  
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Stephen L. Wright, Mayor

  
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Peggy Eoff, City Clerk