

City of Odessa, Missouri
Board of Aldermen
Odessa Community Building | 601 W. Main Street
Regular Meeting ~ Monday, August 25, 2025 | 6:00 p.m.
Meeting Minutes

[@OdessaMO](#)

CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Bryan Barner called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., and led in the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Shawna Davis, City Administrator called the roll and confirmed a quorum.

Mayor Bryan Barner	Present	Alderman Bruce Whitsitt	Present
Alderwoman Karla Polson	Absent	Alderwoman Donna Ehlert	Present
Alderman Mike Plachte	Present	Alderwoman Mickey Starr	Present
Alderman Collin Carrigan	Present		

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Shawna Davis, City Administrator
Karen Findora, City Clerk
Cathy Thompson, Finance Director
Josh Thompson, Police Chief
Jeff Deane, Lauber Municipal Law

Troy Woutzke, Electric
Darrin Lamb, Streets/Water
Kenny Snider, Wastewater

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

Hannah Sparr, The Odessan
Sara Hawthorne
Tracey Peters
Curtis & Terrica Jones

John Carmody
Gene Collins
Adam Couch
Arline Hayes

WELCOME OF VISITORS

Mayor Barner welcomed visitors and those viewing on YouTube.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of minutes and consent agenda.

- August 11, 2025 – Regular Session

Alderwoman Ehlert provided an update on the recent Finance Committee meeting. Key items discussed included:

• **Credit Card Fees:**

The City currently pays approximately \$26,000 per month in credit card fees to Global Payments, the City's credit card provider. Finance Director Cathy Thompson met with Global Payments and successfully negotiated a 31%

reduction in these fees. The Finance Committee further recommended that the Board consider passing these fees on to customers, as is common practice in many other cities.

- **2024 Audit:**

The 2024 Audit has been submitted to the City. Traditionally, the auditors present the report directly to the Board; however, they have notified City Administrator Shawna Davis that they will not be able to attend Board meetings.

- **Pre-Audit Planning:**

A pre-audit meeting with the City's new audit firm, BerganKDV, is scheduled for Wednesday, August 27. Staff will begin gathering the necessary documentation in preparation for their review.

- **Tax Levy:**

The committee reviewed the tax levy. Alderman Whitsitt presented calculations showing that the new levy is projected to generate approximately \$15,000 more than originally budgeted. Due to delinquent accounts, however, a budget adjustment will not be necessary at this time.

- **Investment Policy:**

The committee discussed establishing a formal investment policy. Ms. Thompson will reach out to local banks to explore investment proposals, with an emphasis on keeping investments within the community.

- **Business Licenses:**

A list of current 2025–2026 Business Licenses was distributed to the Board for review.

Alderwoman Ehlert, moved to approve the consent agenda along with the August 11, 2025, meeting minutes as submitted, seconded by Alderman Carrigan.
Motion carried 5-0

MAYOR REPORT

Mayor Barner reported that he has now recorded five (5) podcasts. The most recent episode addresses apathy and negativity and also includes an update on the development of the new police facility.

ALDERMEN REPORTS

- Alderman Plachte reported on the recent Planning Commission meeting. The Commission recommended approval of the 1912 Building preliminary plat as well as a Planned Unit Development ordinance. He expressed appreciation to the Commission members and City staff for their hard work in developing the ordinance.
- Alderman Carrigan provided an update on the recent Ward 3 community meeting. Concerns raised by residents included sewage issues along Cox School Road, matters related to a local bar, and questions regarding how these issues are being addressed. Additional concerns were expressed regarding allegations of bullying and threats directed at community members who speak out or challenge the City. Alderman Carrigan acknowledged that such incidents occur, noted that it is

unfortunate they take place within the community, and expressed his hope that they will not continue.

- Alderwoman Polson – No Rpt.
- Alderwoman Ehlert – No Rpt.
- Alderwoman Starr – No Rpt.
- Alderman Whitsitt – No Rpt.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Shawna Davis, City Administrator, provided a brief update on city events.
(visit the [city website](#) to hear update.)

PUBLIC HEARING

Tax Levy Rates for 2025 ~ No one spoke in favor or opposed.

Open: 6:24 p.m.

Closed: 6:25 p.m.

Planned Unit Development ~ No one spoke in favor or opposed.

Open: 6:25 p.m.

Closed: 6:26 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Water at 4-Way Stop: Sara Hawthorne, representing the Odessa Garden Club, along with Tracey Peters and Arline Hayes, requested that the Board consider providing a water source for the downtown planters that will be installed after completion of the new sidewalks. Ms. Hawthorne noted that, at present, water must be hauled from private homes or from Railroad Park, which places an undue burden on volunteers' time and personal water bills.

Tracey Peters shared that a 1977 Odessa High School classmate, who is a landscape designer, has offered assistance. The Garden Club would like to enhance the appearance of the Community Building and the Pool. To accomplish this, the club will require both funding and volunteers. Ms. Peters noted that three (3) options for beautifying the areas are under consideration.

OHS FFA Fundraiser: Gene Collins, Lead FFA Department with the Odessa School District, presented information regarding a new fundraiser. Modeled after a program in Holden, students will paint school mascots in front of homes and businesses that make donations, with 100% of the proceeds going to FFA.

Mr. Collins explained that the stencil size is approximately 18 inches wide by 16 ½ inches tall. The paint, similar to parking lot striping paint, will last about one year before fading. If desired, businesses or homeowners may request a refresh.

Alderman Carrigan asked about the mascot size, and Alderwoman Ehlert inquired whether written permission forms would be provided. Mr. Collins indicated that he would look into developing a permission form. Alderman Whitsitt raised a question about slip-

and-fall risks, to which Mr. Collins responded that the paint would not create a significant hazard, since it's the same type of paint that is used for the stripping of parking stalls.

City Attorney Jeff Deane advised that if the School District works with City Administrator Shawna Davis to establish a formalized process for any painting on public property, including a liability waiver or similar agreement, the program should be permissible. The Board delegated authority to Ms. Davis to formalize the process, provided she reports back to the Board on its progress.

PRESENTATIONS

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Bill No. 2025-17 Introduction and 1st Reading ~ “Proposed Tax Levy Rates for Year 2025”

Mayor Barner read the proposed Ordinance setting the tax levy for the year 2025 for the City of Odessa, Missouri, and designating the amount to be used for general and park purposes in accordance with state requirements, first reading.

Motion was made by Alderman Plachte, to adopt Bill No. 2025-17 upon its first reading and proceed to the second reading. Motion seconded by Alderman Carrigan, and carried with the following vote.

Motion carried 5-0.

Bill No. 2025-17 Introduction and 2nd Reading ~ “Proposed Tax Levy Rates for Year 2025”

Mayor Barner read the proposed Ordinance setting the tax levy for the year 2025 for the City of Odessa, Missouri, and designating the amount to be used for general and park purposes in accordance with state requirements, second reading.

Motion was made by Alderwoman Ehlert, to adopt Bill No. 2025-17 upon its second reading and approve the bill as an ordinance. Motion seconded by Alderman Carrigan, and carried with the following vote.

Roll call vote as follows:

Alderman Plachte	yes	Alderwoman Ehlert	yes
Alderman Whitsitt	yes	Alderwoman Polson	absent
Alderwoman Starr	yes	Alderman Carrigan	yes

Motion carried 5-0.

Bill No. 2025-17 became **Ordinance No. 3157**

Bill No. 2025-18 Introduction and 1st Reading ~ “Planned Unit Development (PUD)”

Mayor Barner read the proposed Ordinance amending Chapter 50 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Odessa, Missouri, to establish regulations for Planned Unit Developments (PUD), first reading.

Motion was made by Alderman Plachte, to adopt Bill No. 2025-18 upon its first reading and proceed to the second reading. Motion seconded by Alderman Carrigan, and carried with the following vote.

Motion carried 5-0.

Bill No. 2025-18 Introduction and 2nd Reading ~ “Planned Unit Development (PUD)”

Mayor Barner read the proposed Ordinance amending Chapter 50 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Odessa, Missouri, to establish regulations for Planned Unit Developments (PUD), second reading.

Motion was made by Alderwoman Ehlert, to adopt Bill No. 2025-18 upon its second reading and approve the bill as an ordinance. Motion seconded by Alderman Carrigan, and carried with the following vote.

Roll call vote as follows:

Alderman Plachte	yes	Alderwoman Ehlert	yes
Alderman Whitsitt	yes	Alderwoman Polson	absent
Alderwoman Starr	yes	Alderman Carrigan	yes

Motion carried 5-0.

Bill No. 2025-18 became **Ordinance No. 3158**

Contract Extension Request ~ “1912 Building”

Adam Couch, representing the 1912 Development Group, requested a 180-day extension of the development contract. Mr. Couch reported that the preliminary plat was recently approved by the Planning Commission, incorporating the requested variances. The engineers were able to expand green space and restore the five (5) requested parking spaces. The revised plan now consists of seven (7) buildings instead of eight (8), and no variances are required at this time. Mr. Couch stated that the final plat will be submitted soon for approval.

Alderwoman Ehlert expressed appreciation for the work done to reach compromise and to collaborate with the City. Alderman Plachte also noted the significant effort that went into the revised plan and expressed his appreciation.

Motion was made by Alderman Whitsitt, to extend the contract an additional 180 days, from September 2, 2025, to March 2, 2026, seconded by Alderwoman Ehlert.

Motion carried 5-0.

Next Regular Scheduled Meeting:

Monday, September 8, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. Regular Session.

Alderman ~ Request for New Items:

Water Source for Garden Club & Park Upgrades:

Alderwoman Ehlert requested that the city review the cost of providing a water source at the 4-Way Stop for the Odessa Garden Club, as well as potential upgrades to two park areas, at a future meeting.

Action: Alderwoman Ehlert made a motion to place this discussion on a future agenda, seconded by Alderman Carrigan. Motion carried 5-0.

Credit Card Fees Review:

Alderman Carrigan requested that credit card fees be reviewed at a future meeting. City Administrator Shawna Davis confirmed that this topic will be included on a future agenda.

Adjourn to Closed Session

Alderwoman Ehlert made a motion to adjourn to closed session at 7:10 p.m. Pursuant to RSMO 610.021 (1) Legal actions, causes of action, litigation, or confidential attorney client communication. As well as, Pursuant to RSMO 610.021 (12), Sealed bids and related documents, until the bids are opened; and sealed records, proposals, are related documents or any documents related to a negotiated contract until a contract is executed, or all proposals are rejected, seconded by Alderman Carrigan.

Motion carried 5-0.

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Board of Aldermen, a motion was made by Alderwoman Ehlert, seconded by Alderman Carrigan, to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

Approved:

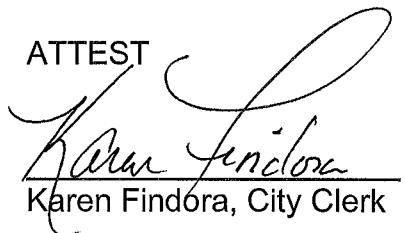
September 8, 2025

CITY OF ODESSA



Bryan D. Barner, Mayor

ATTEST



Karen Findora, City Clerk