

City of Odessa, Missouri
Board of Aldermen
Odessa Community Building | 601 W. Main Street
Regular Meeting ~ Monday, August 24, 2026 | 6:00 p.m.
Meeting Minutes

[@OdessaMO](#)

CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Bruce Whatsitt called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Karen Findora, City Clerk, called the roll and confirmed a quorum.

Mayor Bruce Whatsitt	Present	Alderman Forest Palmer	Present
Alderman Karla Polson	Present	Alderman Mickey Starr	Present
Alderman Mike Plachte	Present	Alderman Amy Finch	Present
Alderman Rachel Wrenn	Present		

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Shawna Davis, City Administrator	Troy Woutzke, Electric
Karen Findora, City Clerk	Darrin Lamb, Streets/Water
Cathy Thompson, Finance Director	Kenny Snider, Wastewater
Leland Liese, Assist. Police Chief	Jeff Deane, Lauber Municipal Law

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

Hannah Sparr, The Odessan	Joey McLiney, McLiney and Company
Mark Stair, BergankDV	Bradlee Falls
Tony Easter	

WELCOME OF VISITORS

Mayor Whatsitt welcomed visitors and those viewing on YouTube.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the consent agenda.

- August 10, 2026 – Regular Session
- Finance July Rpt.
- Change Order Request #1: Add Two-Hour Fire Wall / Maintenance Bldg.

Alderman Finch moved to approve the August 10, 2026 meeting minutes as submitted along with the July Finance report and the Change Order Request #1: Add Two-Hour Firewall / Maintenance Bldg., seconded by Alderman Starr.

Motion carried 5-Aye, 0-No, 1-Abstain.

MAYOR REPORT

Mayor Whitsitt stated that the Puddle Jumper Days event was a huge success. He said he enjoyed participating in the dunk tank. Mayor Whitsitt recognized Alderwoman Mickey Starr for the hard work and dedication she put into the Puddle Jumper Days event. He said she is part of what makes Odessa great!

ALDERMEN REPORTS

- Alderman Plachte provided an update on the recent Planning Commission meeting. He stated that officers were elected, with Matthew Modlin as Chair and Steve Nance as Secretary of the Commission. He went on to say that the parking discussion with the group is coming to an end and that a final ordinance should be presented soon.
- Alderwoman Wrenn – No Rpt.
- Alderwoman Polson stated that she has received several reports regarding the downtown sidewalks. She noted concerns that things are completed and finished but not right when there are places where it's not wide enough for ADA accessibility. She asked whether the concrete has been tested, etc. Shawna Camp, City Administrator, stated that CFS Engineering inspects the project daily. In the second block, some issues were noticed after the fact. Staff meets every other week with the contractor and the engineer, and the issues will be corrected. Alderwoman Polson stated that the change orders are expensive. Mayor Whitsitt stated that they will be going back to correct the issues. Ms. Camp stated that there are two major corrections that need to be completed on the second block and one on the third. Alderwoman Polson asked whether the engineer inspecting the project would be responsible for payment of the change, even though the city paid them. Ms. Camp said no.
- Alderman Palmer stated that at the Finance Committee meeting, the ECA Credits process was discussed and found to be almost complete, and that new rates will be applied to utility billing at the end of this month. He went on to say that the city audit has been completed. He stated that there has been significant progress since the last audit. He stated that sales tax is up 11%, which proves the city is doing well as far as retail business goes.
- Alderwoman Starr stated that the Puddle Jumpers Days event was challenging but thanked all of the city departments for the work they put in to help make the event a success. She also thanked all the businesses, volunteers, and people who donated raffle items.
- Alderwoman Finch stated that the new street project that was recently micro surfaced looks great. That project was completed last week. She encouraged people to drive around and see the progress.

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 2026

NOTE: Clerical Error in Published Notice corrected Notice attached and made part of the minutes.

Open: 6:24 p.m.

Close: 6:27 p.m.

The current-year assessed valuation for personal property and resulting total assessed valuation were published with scrivener's errors. The correction of the entries does not affect the proposed tax levy, the proposed tax rate, or any other calculation contained in the notice. The corrected figure has been provided to the governing body and is made part of the record of this hearing. (corrected published notice to public attached)

- Personal Property 18,513,144 corrected total 18,514,144
- Total Assessed Valuation 79,384,285 corrected total 79,394,285

In Favor: None
Opposed: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Presentation ~ 2025-2026 Audit

Mark Stair, CPA, of BergankDVB, presented on the 2025-2026 Audit. To hear the entire presentation, please visit the city's website.

Recommendation & Appointment ~ Planning Commissioner

Mayor Whitsitt recommended Tony Easter (Appointment – 2028) as Planning Commissioner to replace David Badgely's term of office.

Motion was made by Alderman Plachte to appoint Tony Easter as Planning Commissioner, seconded by Alderwoman Wrenn.

Motion carried 6-Aye, 0-No

Recommendation & Appointment ~ Planning Commissioner

Mayor Whitsitt recommended Marty McDermid (Appointment – 2028) as Board of Adjustment member to replace Stan Jones term of office.

Motion was made by Alderwoman Finch to appoint Marty McDermid as Board of Adjustment member, seconded by Alderwoman Starr.

Motion carried 6-Aye, 0-No

Bill No. 2026-30 Introduction and 1st Reading ~ Proposed Tax Levy Rates for Year 2026

Mayor Whitsitt read the proposed Ordinance, Bill No. 2026-30, of the proposed ordinance setting the tax levy for the year 2026 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. 2026-30, upon its first reading, and proceed to the second reading. Motion seconded by Alderwoman Finch, and carried with the following vote.

Motion carried 6-Aye, 0-No.

The current-year assessed valuation for personal property and resulting total assessed valuation were published with scrivener's errors. The correction of the entries does not affect the proposed tax levy, the proposed tax rate, or any other calculation contained in the notice. The corrected figure has been provided to the governing body and is made part of the record of this hearing. (corrected published notice to public attached)

- Personal Property 18,513,144 corrected total 18,514,144
- Total Assessed Valuation 79,384,285 corrected total 79,394,285

Bill No. 2026-30 Introduction and 2nd Reading ~ Proposed Tax Levy Rates for Year 2026

Mayor Whitsitt read the proposed Ordinance, Bill No. 2026-30, of the proposed ordinance setting the tax levy for the year 2026 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 Finch to adopt Bill No. 2026-30, of the proposed ordinance setting the tax levy for the year 2026 for the City of Odessa, Missouri, and designating the amount to be used for general and park purposes in accordance with state requirements, as amended, second reading, and approve the bill as an ordinance. Motion seconded by Alderwoman Starr, and carried with the following vote.

Roll call vote as follows:

Alderman Plachte	yes	Alderwoman Wrenn	yes
Alderman Palmer	yes	Alderwoman Polson	yes
Alderwoman Starr	yes	Alderwoman Finch	yes

Motion carried 6-Aye, 0-No.

Bill No. 2026-30 became **Ordinance No. 3194**

Bill No. 2026-31 Introduction and 1st Reading ~ Electric Classes of Service

Mayor Whitsitt read the proposed Ordinance, Bill No. 2026-28, amending the City Code regarding Electric Classes of Service, first reading.

Motion was made by Alderman Plachte to adopt Bill No. 2026-31, upon its first reading, and proceed to the second reading. Motion seconded by Alderwoman Finch, and carried with the following vote.

Motion carried 6-Aye, 0-No.

Discussion: Shawna Camp, City Administrator, stated that staff entered all the numbers into Incode, and once that was complete, staff realized they needed to take another look at how the classifications are defined. Given the timeline, staff has a one-week window to ensure the classifications are entered correctly before the September billing goes out this week. Ms. Camp noted that from here on out, staff will conduct an annual audit to determine each classification and ensure every business is where it needs to be. Classifications will be based on usage and load factor, not on the type of business. Ms. Camp stated that the formula will be a part of the ordinance.

Ms. Camp stated that the industrial and large commercial rates are both based on anything over 25 kilowatts of demand. To take it one step further, industrial is anything over 25% load. The load factor is how much of your total load path is possible as a business, how much of that are you using. In order to change your load factor, you can reduce your usage to reduce the load, or you can upgrade your transformer, which would give more capacity and a reduced load factor percentage.

The other two requested changes were toward refunds and new customers.

Alderwoman Finch favored the fact that the city will be conducting annual audits and that the customer can request an audit of their usage at any time.

Alderwoman Starr asked if a notice would be sent to the businesses prior; Ms. Camp stated that she will work with the city's PR Coordinator on that notice.

Requested Changes:

Sec. 48-603. Commercial service. (b) Character of service
Change the 20% to 35%

Sec. 48-604. Industrial service. (b) Character of service
Unstricken of 35%
Change the 20% to 35% on last sentence

Sec. 48-607. Reclassification of service.
Add at the end of the paragraph, "New small commercial, large commercial and industrial customers shall be reviewed after six (6) months of service for reclassification. There shall be no refunds for any reclassifications."

Bill No. 2026-31 Introduction and 2nd Reading ~ Revised Electric Rates

Mayor Whitsitt read the proposed Ordinance, Bill No. 2026-28, amending the City Code regarding Electric Classes of Service, first reading, second reading.

Motion was made by Alderwoman Finch to adopt Bill No. 2026-31, amending the City Code regarding Electric Classes of Service, second reading, and approve the bill as an ordinance. Motion seconded by Alderwoman Starr, and carried with the following vote.

Roll call vote as follows:

Alderman Plachte	yes	Alderwoman Wrenn	yes
Alderman Palmer	yes	Alderwoman Polson	yes
Alderwoman Starr	yes	Alderwoman Finch	yes

Motion carried 6-Aye, 0-No.

Bill No. 2026-31 became **Ordinance No. 3195**

Resolution No. 2026-26 ~ Disposition of Records

Mayor Whitsitt read the proposed Resolution No. 2026-26 authorizing the destruction and disposition of records that have met the required retention periods in accordance with Chapter 109, RSMo, and applicable state retention schedule.

Motion was made by Alderman Plachte to approve Resolution No. 2026-26, authorizing the destruction and disposition of records that have met the required retention periods in accordance with Chapter 109, RSMo, and applicable state retention schedule, seconded by Alderman Palmer.

Motion carried 6-Aye, 0-No.

Resolution No. 2026-27 ~ UKG Ready

Mayor Whitsitt read the proposed Resolution No. 2026-27 authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with UKG Ready for human resources, payroll, timekeeping, scheduling, accruals, leave, and related services; authorizing the Mayor to execute the agreement and related documents; and authorizing the expenditure of budgeted funds.

Motion was made by Alderwoman Finch to approve Resolution No. 2026-27, authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with UKG Ready for human resources, payroll, timekeeping, scheduling, accruals, leave, and related services; authorizing the Mayor to execute the agreement and related documents; and authorizing the expenditure of budgeted funds, seconded by Alderwoman Polson.

Motion carried 6-Aye, 0-No.

Motion for Approval ~ Marlow Heights Park Development Fee

Mayor Whitsitt requested a motion to determine if the Marlow Heights Park Development dedication fee is acceptable and in compliance with the requirements of the City of Odessa Code of Ordinances.

Motion was made by Alderwoman Finch to approve the Marlow Heights Park Development Fee, seconded by Alderman Palmer.

Motion carried 6-Aye, 0-No.

Discussion ~ Irrigation – Wastewater Adjustment

Alderman Plachte requested that discussion be added to this agenda for irrigation – wastewater adjustments. Alderman Plachte attempted to contact a few cities on their policies. He then turned to google for information. He found that there were several options. The first option was to install a new water meter and backflow preventer, which could be very costly. The second city, Blue Springs, gets an estimate from the first four months of the year for an average. That average applies to everyone, whether you have an irrigation system or not. The third city, Higginsville, takes November, December, and January sewer usage and averages that out for the rest of the year. Richmond requires a secondary dedicated irrigation meter. Alderwoman Wrenn said she also did a Google search and found the same results.

Alderwoman Finch stated that she would be interested to know how that would affect our sewer systems and our debt repayments. Staff will run 12 months of numbers after the September billing cycle, and will provide those numbers to the board in October.

Aldermen ~ Request for New Items

Alderman Palmer would like to discuss speed limits on OO Hwy and 131. Shawna Camp, City Administrator, stated that Police Chief Josh Thompson can present his prior findings to the board at the September 28th meeting.

Alderman Palmer requested information on the weekend utility disconnection process. Ms. Camp stated that the city has after-hours phone numbers that connect to utilities. Daupler answers the phones and redirects to the appropriate staff. Ms. Camp stated that staff can confirm online that someone has paid. Residents can obtain more information by visiting the city's website and clicking on Utilities. Robo calls are sent before the 15th and before the disconnect day.

Motion to Cancel Regular Meeting

Monday, September 14, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. Regular Session

Motion was made by Alderman Plachte to cancel the Monday, September 14, 2026 regular board meeting due to Mayor and Aldermen attending the annual MML Conference, seconded by Alderwoman Polson.

Motion carried 6-Aye, 0-No.

Next Regular Scheduled Meeting:

Monday, September 28, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. Regular Session

Adjourn to Closed Session

Pursuant to RSMO 610.021 (1) Legal actions, causes of action, litigation, or confidential attorney/client communication.

&

Pursuant to RSMO 610.021 (12) Sealed bids and related documents, until bids are open; and sealed proposals and related documents or any documents related to a negotiated contract until a contract is executed, or all proposals are rejected.

Alderman Finch made a motion to adjourn to closed session at 7:55 p.m., Pursuant to RSMO 610.021 (1) Legal actions, causes of action, litigation, or confidential attorney/client communication and Pursuant to RSMo 610.021 (12) Sealed bids and related documents, until bids are open; and sealed proposals and related documents or any documents related to a negotiated contract until a contract is executed, or all proposals are rejected, seconded by Alderman Palmer.

Motion carried 6-Aye, 0-No.

Roll call vote as follows:

Alderman Plachte	yes	Alderman Wrenn	yes
Alderman Palmer	yes	Alderman Polson	yes
Alderman Starr	yes	Alderman Finch	yes

Motion carried 6-Aye, 0-No.

Motion to Resume to Open Session

Alderman Palmer made a motion to resume to open session at 8:32 p.m., seconded by Alderman Polson.

Roll call vote as follows:

Alderman Plachte	yes	Alderman Wrenn	yes
Alderman Palmer	yes	Alderman Polson	yes
Alderman Starr	yes	Alderman Finch	yes

Motion carried 6-Aye, 0-No.

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Board of Aldermen, a motion was made by Alderman Plachte, seconded by Alderman Finch, to adjourn the meeting at p.m.

Motion carried 6- Aye, 0-No.

*The foregoing minutes are a summary of the proceedings of the meeting. For a complete verbatim record, including audio/video recording, please refer to the official meeting recording available on the City's website.
<https://www.cityofodessamo.com/>*

Approved:

September 28, 2026

CITY OF ODESSA

Bruce Whitsitt
Bruce Whitsitt, Mayor

ATTEST

Karen Findora
Karen Findora, City Clerk

CORRECTED
PUBLIC NOTICE
2026 Property Tax Levy
City of Odessa, Missouri

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Odessa, Missouri, is publishing this corrected notice to provide the public with the correct property tax levy information for the 2026 tax year.

The City of Odessa previously held a public hearing on the proposed 2026 property tax rates on August 24, 2026. The figures contained in the previously published notice contained errors. This publication is intended solely to provide the public with the corrected levy information and does not constitute a new public hearing.

The City of Odessa appreciates the public's attention to this correction and regrets any confusion caused by the incorrect figures appearing in the previous publication.

The corrected property tax rates are as follows:

Assessed Valuation	Prior Tax Year		Current Tax Year	
		June 30, 2025		June 30, 2026
<i>Personal Property</i>				
Personal	\$	15,765,733	\$	18,514,144
Railroad & Utilities				
State	\$	158,072	\$	128,685
Local	\$	27,136	\$	24,671
Total Personal	\$	15,950,941	\$	18,667,500
<i>Real Property</i>				
Real Estate	\$	58,256,043	\$	60,007,544
Railroad & Utilities				
State	\$	467,478	\$	506,476
Local	\$	7,290	\$	212,765
Total Real	\$	58,730,811	\$	60,726,785
Total Assessed Valuation	\$	75,681,752	\$	79,394,285

THE FOLLOWING 2026 TAX RATES ARE PROPOSED

	Levy		Amount Generated	
General Fund	\$	0.5364	\$	425,871
Park Fund	\$	0.1416	\$	112,422
Total	\$	0.6780	\$	538,293

CITY OF ODESSA

Mayor and Board of Aldermen Submitted by:
Karen Findora, City Clerk

Published in *The Odessan*, Odessa, MO., August 27, 2026 ~ CORRECTED

Posted at City Hall, [City of Odessa Website](https://www.cityofodessa.com/) on August 25, 2026