



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
January 17, 2020

The City Council of the City of The Village, Oklahoma, met in special session at City Hall on Friday, January 17, 2020, at 11:30 a.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

Cathy Cummings, Mayor
Dave Bennett, Vice-Mayor
Adam Graham, Council Member
Bubba Symes, Council Member
Sonny Wilkinson, Council Member

STAFF PRESENT

Bruce K. Stone, City Manager

ITEM I: CALL TO ORDER.

Mayor Cummings called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

ITEM II: WORK SESSION TO REVIEW AND DISCUSS THE PRELIMINARY PLAN FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN TAX INCREMENT DISTRICT #1.

The Council discussed citizen input on proposed improvements in the TIF area using the written “likes and dislikes” submitted by several residents representing nearby housing additions.

The following summary of the discussion was provided by Council Member Sonny Wilkinson:

“When the City Council meet during a work session on Friday, January 17, 2020 the following opinions and direction where developed for the proposed TIF plans dated August 1, 2019.

The council expressed its desire to create a civic park area that isn’t overly programmed, accessible to all citizens of The Village, and for the first time in the city’s history, a true gathering place for its citizens.

The idea for this area was set in motion with the first TIF which was created October 31, 2006 and plans for a civic area have been discussed actively by the Council since. In January 2017 the City Council commissioned “The Village Vision” which established a long-term development plan for the city through a 20-member committee, consisting of residents, business owners, professional experts, corporate executives and members of the planning commission and council. The plan laid out many of the ideas which are expressed and brought to light in the TIF project plan. In 2018, the Council commissioned “The Village Parks Plan” which gave the city a long-term plan for the redesign of its parks and creation of a new civic area. This plan was developed by industry experts and sought input from citizens through surveys and public meetings. The TIF Project Plan was completed in late-summer 2019 and was developed from these two prior studies.



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The idea isn't to create a festival area that's hosting event after event, but an area that can take pressure off of the neighborhood park system when a larger space is needed. The council desires to transform the area into a more walkable environment, activate people into a healthier lifestyle, and tie that into the larger trail system -first started with the multi-path along Britton. The area will not play host to large concerts or festivals, but with the right controls in place could become a gathering place for our city.

<i>ASAP YES Preference</i>	<i>ASAP No</i>	<i>City Council Opinion</i>
<i>Senior Area Park</i>	<i>Linear, carnival-style park</i>	<p><i>The linear park will create a connected, walkable area between the library and post office along Vineyard Blvd.</i></p> <p><i>The section along Vineyard Blvd. will not be programmed, but will be home to a walking path, benches, and trees. As the area transitions at the pond near the Statesmen Club, the path will be protected and painted. There are possible considerations to ask the Post Office about shifting its south entrance closer to Hefner Rd.</i></p> <p><i>The only new playground being constructed is near the library where an existing playground is. There could be the possibility of installing some equipment geared towards seniors in this area or elsewhere. However, the whole area of the TIF will be dedicated to everyone in The Village and not one age group.</i></p> <p><i>The tents and food trucks shown on existing renderings aren't an accurate description of how this area will be used 360 days (just a guess!) out of the year.</i></p> <p><i>The council desires to still host city wide festivals, movie nights, etc. a few times a year with the expressed desire that these events be controlled and regulated. This</i></p>



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		<p><i>area, if activated correctly, could be an economic driver for the city at times.</i></p> <p><i>Acknowledging the security and parking issues that might arise during something like the “Fall Festival” being moved to the civic area, the council would like to assure the neighborhoods surrounding the area it will do all it can to regulate parking (no on street parking in the neighborhoods or along Vineyard) and provide additional officers to patrol the area during those times.</i></p>
<i>Park designed to serve the senior neighborhood population</i>	<i>Park designed to bring in people of all ages into the neighborhood</i>	<i>Again, this park is being designed differently than a neighborhood style park. The desire of the council has been to create a civic area as part of our parks master plan which was completed in 2018 after numerous surveys of the public and public meetings. The area will not be overly programmed and will be flexible enough for a wide variety of uses. By its very nature of not being overly programmed, when not in use for a specific function, the park will be a welcoming, quiet area.</i>
<i>Areas with peaceful gardens and perhaps waterfalls</i>	<i>Areas for children activities such as splash fountains</i>	<i>The council has identified a concern about the ongoing cost to operate a “splash” style fountain. Instead, the council would like to pursue a more traditional water fountain which will provide a nice physical and ambient aesthetic to the civic park area.</i>
<i>Areas with shaded seating and gazebos</i>	<i>Areas for lawn seating for large crowds</i>	<i>Planting trees in TIF area is a core idea. Trees will be planted along Vineyard and through the civic park (2). There will be benches throughout the area. Near City Hall on the Civic Park there will be a more open area.</i>
<i>Landscaping with grass, trees and walking paths</i>	<i>Covered pavilion for bands, concerts and</i>	<i>The pavilion will not have a permanent stage. From time to time there may be a need to bring in a stage or a rented</i>



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	<i>giant outdoor movie screen</i>	<p><i>movie screen. Screens have already been used on site for movie nights throughout the Summer of 2019.</i></p> <p><i>Primarily, the pavilion will be a place for families to host birthdays parties, HOAs to host picnics or potlucks, or just a shaded area for the reading of a good book.</i></p> <p><i>The council also discussed the possibility of installing tables in the civic park similar to what is found in the Myriad Gardens where a game of checkers or chess can be played.</i></p>
<i>Outdoor exercise equipment designed for seniors</i>	<i>Food trucks</i>	<i>Food trucks are not a permanent feature of the park. However, the council reserves and city reserve the right to have food trucks in the area for the few festivals that may occur. Food trucks will not be a daily feature. But the city needs an area where they can park and pedestrians can safely access them.</i>
<i>Recreational areas for senior yoga, tai chi groups</i>	<i>Farmers markets</i>	<i>Farmers markets, while a long-time thought for the area aren't feasible and won't be actively pursued. The area by the pavilion will place host to rec. groups looking for areas to host yoga in the park, tai chi, etc.</i>
<i>No bike path through Hawthorn</i>	<i>10' wide bike path through Hawthorn</i>	<p><i>The path through the green area in Hawthorn is a critical connector to the larger bike path/trail system the city is creating. The path would be built on existing easement. Other improvements to this area would be better landscaping, more trees and benches.</i></p> <p><i>The council is also considering seeking an agreement with the Hawthorn HOA to maintain the area on a permanent basis if the improvements are made.</i></p>



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<p><i>Keep Vineyard Blvd 4 lanes with median</i></p>	<p><i>Reduce Vineyard Blvd to only 2 lanes with no median</i></p>	<p><i>The road will be reduced to 2 lanes which will be wide enough to allow for emergency vehicles to pass if necessary. The council also recognizes an emergency could quickly access the north end of the area by traveling through Hefner/Penn and similarly access the neighborhoods to the south via Village Dr.</i></p> <p><i>The city has met with Love's and an independent traffic engineer regarding this. Traffic counts and expected traffic counts confirm that the "road diet" will not result in significant traffic congestion.</i></p>
<p><i>Keep 5 lanes for entry/exit at Vineyard Blvd & Penn</i></p>	<p><i>Only 3 lanes for entry/exit at Vineyard Blvd and Penn</i></p>	<p><i>An independent traffic engineer confirmed that the proposed design is more than adequate to meet future demands.</i></p> <p><i>The council would like to continue meetings with The Metropolitan Library System to evaluating closing the north entrance. The council hasn't made a final recommendation on this.</i></p>
<p><i>Extend current sidewalk from Hawthorn Village to Library</i></p>	<p><i>Art walk along north edge of Hawthorn Village up to library</i></p>	<p><i>The sidewalk will be extended as part of the linear park. The Art Walk is a low-priority (phase 3) project in the council's opinion due to cost. Should it be built, there are possible partnerships with local nonprofits to help offset cost, maintenance and art installation.</i></p>
<p><i>Dog park north of Tuscany Village Nursing Home, if completely landscaped with dedicated parking (i.e. no street parking)</i></p>	<p><i>Dog park north of Tuscany Village Nursing Home, without landscaping or dedicated parking</i></p>	<p><i>The council would like to proceed with the construction of the dog park as this was a very popular item in the 2018 Village Parks Survey. There is also a private donor who has indicated they'd be willing to donating a significant portion of the construction cost. The council expressed a desire to regulate the use of this dog park to ensure its proper use and safety for the animals.</i></p>



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The Council took no formal action.

ITEM III: ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Mayor adjourned the meeting at 1:15 p.m.

Mayor Cummings

Vice-Mayor Bennett

Council Member Symes

Council Member Graham

City Clerk

Council Member Wilkinson