



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
January 19, 2021

The City Council of the City of The Village, Oklahoma, met in Regular Session on Tuesday, January 19, 2021, at 7:30 p.m., at 2304 Manchester Drive, The Village, OK 73120.

COUNCIL PRESENT

David Bennett, Mayor
Adam Graham, Council Member
Cathy Cummings, Council Member

STAFF PRESENT

Bruce K. Stone, City Manager
Beverly K. Whitener, City Treasurer
Jeff Sabin, Assistant City Attorney

ABSENT

Sonny Wilkinson, Vice-Mayor
Bubba Symes, Council Member

ITEM I: CALL TO ORDER.

Mayor Bennett called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

ITEM II: INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Mayor Bennett led the Council in the invocation and pledge of allegiance.

ITEM III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 4, 2021.

The Mayor asked if there were any corrections, additions or deletions to the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on January 19, 2021. City Manager Bruce Stone noted that he had corrected a misspelling of the Mayor's name. Council Member Graham moved to approve the minutes as corrected. Council Member Cummings seconded the motion. The vote: Yea – Cummings, Graham, and Bennett. Nay – none.

ITEM IV: CITIZENS DESIRING TO BE HEARD, PROCLAMATIONS & PRESENTATIONS.

Mayor Bennett announced that this is the time for citizens to address the Council on any matter not listed on the agenda.

Carol Jensen told the Council that The Village Fire Department is "wonderful". Ms. Jensen mentioned the Fire Department program to put house keys of elderly residents and shut-ins in a "Knox Box" for Fire Department access to the home in emergency situations.



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Stephen Melsh, a new resident of Hawthorn, appeared before the Council. Mr. Melsh told the Council that paint has been dumped in the channel and is unsightly. The city manager advised that he was unaware of any “dumping” and that the only paint he is aware of is paint used by the City many years ago to cover up graffiti. Mr. Stone advised he would investigate and see what, if anything, can be done.

Eric Oesch introduced himself to the Council. Mr. Oesch told the Council that he is a reporter for Friday OKC and would be covering The Village City Council meetings. Mr. Oesch stated that he reported on The Village for the paper from 1983 to 1989. Mr. Oesch told the Council that he is a former resident of The Village and lived on Lakeside Drive for 15 years.

Jane Lowther told the Council that she also thinks the Fire Department is wonderful and told the Council the story about a water leak in her home and prompt action by the Fire Department to shut her water off. Ms. Lowther suggested picking a month to honor firefighters.

Ms. Lowther told the Council that the street sign at Meeker and Penn has been replaced and that the resident with the large fallen tree on Lanesboro acted expeditiously to remove it from the property.

ITEM V: CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 01-19-2021 (A) AMENDING THE CITY OF THE VILLAGE EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION PLAN TO ADJUST EMPLOYEE PAY FOR INFLATION (COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT)

City Manager Bruce Stone advised that, due to the pandemic and the related financial uncertainties, the Council decided to defer consideration of a cost-of-living adjustment for City employees until mid-year. Mr. Stone told the Council that over the last six (6) years, the Council has given cost of living increases (COLA) totaling 10.5%. Mr. Stone stated that this falls ½ percent shy of the CPI over the same six-year period. The city manager stated that a 1% COLA, effective January 1, 2021 would correct for the deficiency. Mr. Stone told the Council that the City has weathered the pandemic well and, in spite of the ice-storm, the City’s financial position is strong and stable. Mr. Stone noted that at least 75% of the City costs for storm debris removal would be reimbursed by FEMA.

The Council briefly discussed the annual budgetary impact of different percentage COLAs.

After a brief discussion, Council Member Graham moved to adopt Resolution 01-19-2021 (A) with a 1.5% COLA for all full time City employees to be effective retroactive to January 1, 2021. Council Member Cummings seconded the motion. The vote: Yea – Graham, Cummings and Bennett. Nay – none.

Council Member Cummings expressed an interest in giving a higher COLA and asked that this matter be revisited later in the fiscal year.



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ITEM VI: REPORTS, CORRESPONDENCE, ETC.

a) ***Review of Expenditures.*** *The Council reviewed the Expenditure Report. The city manager explained and commented on several expenditures in the report.*

b) Manager's Report.

City Manager Bruce Stone reported that the monthly sales tax check was for \$549,880, which represents an increase of \$52,326 or 10.52% over the same period last year. Mr. Stone also reported that Use Tax was \$173,960 which is an increase of 100.85% over the same period last year.

Mr. Stone reported that bids for both the Phase II Park Improvements and Signalization Improvements at Lakeside and May are to be opened on February 9th.

The city manager reported that Public Works Director Larry Walton is back to work after testing positive for coronavirus. Mr. Stone stated that it was fortunate that his symptoms were not serious.

Mr. Stone reported that in order to serve the Mulford Lakeside Addition, the water main had to be extended from the west side of Lakeside Drive. Mr. Stone told the Council that circumstances made boring of the street impractical and, therefore, a street cut was approved.

The city manager reported that he has been looking at software to modernize the City budget process. Mr. Stone told the Council that the software would be beneficial in making financial information accessible to the public and would significantly reduce the time it takes to do the budget. Mr. Stone further reported that the software would be of help in doing and updating the City's five-year Capital Improvement Plan. Council Member Graham stated that he is aware of several other cities in Oklahoma that are using this software. The city manager told the Council that since he is just two budgets away from retirement, the Council might want to defer on this. After a brief discussion, the consensus of the Council was that the software would be beneficial to have in place before the transition.

c) ***Monthly Department Reports.*** *The Council reviewed the Monthly Department Reports for December. The city manager explained and commented on several graphs and reports.*



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d) Reports from Council.

Council Member Graham stated that now that the election is over, he hoped the country could come together and move forward.

Council Member Cummings expressed her appreciation that the right-of-way adjacent to the new curb and gutter on Westchester had been backfilled and sodded. The city manager advised that there is still one outstanding issue on Greystone for the contractor to correct before final payment can be made.

Council Member Cummings told the Council that she and her husband would be doing a weekly radio show on KOKC that features cooking and things made in Oklahoma.

Council Member Cummings stated that there is a bottleneck just to the east of May Avenue where eastbound traffic on Britton Road merges left. Council Member Cummings stated that she thought the signage needed to be improved. After a brief discussion, the city manager advised that Public Works would add additional signage and/or pavement markings to alleviate the problem.

Mayor Bennett gave a brief report on the recent ACOG meeting and programs and activities of the association.

ITEM VII: NEW BUSINESS.

There was no New Business to come before the Council.

ITEM VIII: ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business and Mayor Bennett adjourned the meeting at 8:37 p.m.

Mayor Bennett

Vice-Mayor Wilkinson

Council Member Graham

Council Member Symes

City Clerk

Council Member Cummings