



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
December 19, 2022

The City Council of the City of The Village, Oklahoma, met in regular session at City Hall on Monday, December 19, 2022, at 6:30 p.m., at 2304 Manchester Drive.

**COUNCIL PRESENT**

Sonny Wilkinson, Mayor  
Wynter Griffis, Vice-Mayor  
David Glover, Council Member  
Sean Cummings, Council Member

**STAFF PRESENT**

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

**ABSENT:**

Bubba Symes, Council Member

**ITEM I: CALL TO ORDER.**

Mayor Wilkinson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**ITEM II. INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**

Mayor Wilkinson gave the Invocation and led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ITEM III: APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON DECEMBER 5, 2022.**

The mayor asked if there were any corrections, additions, or deletions to the Minutes of the meeting held on December 5, 2022. There were none and the Minutes of the meeting held on December 5, 2022, were approved as written.

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

Abigail Stout, The Village Library Manager, gave the Council a report on library programs and activities.

Jane Lowther wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Ms. Lowther stated that her choice for Best Decorated Home in Ward 3 is Trey Shelton, III who resides at 1909 Lanesboro.

Ms. Lowther said she noticed Public Works working with plumbers at City Hall over the weekend. Mr. Stone advised that the fire sprinkler line ruptured under the floor and that workers had to jack hammer the floor to replace the line. Mr. Stone advised that the parking lot



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
December 19, 2022

was a complete mess but was promptly cleaned up by Public Works. Mr. Stone stated that the preliminary cost estimate is approximately \$6,000.

Ms. Lowther asked if the Special Meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> would be closed to the public. The city attorney advised that they would Executive Sessions and, therefore, closed to the public.

Ms. Lowther asked if park improvements would be discussed this evening. The city manager advised that this topic is on the agenda.

Carol Jensen thanked the Council for the speed cushion on Kent Drive.

Mayor Wilkinson announced the Best Decorated Homes for 2022 and stated that plaques would be presented on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, as follows:

- Ward 1: 1738 Westchester, Ron Bashant*
- Ward 2: 3001 Carlton Way, Christopher Goldsworthy*
- Ward 3: 1909 Lanesboro, Trey Shelton, III*
- Ward 4: 3004 Sunset Lane, Samuel Albert*
- Ward 5: 2625 Chaucer Drive, Greg & Nancy Petromilli*

**ITEM V: CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 12-19-2022 (A) AMENDING SECTION 3.80 OF THE CITY OF THE VILLAGE EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK PERTAINING TO POSITIONS IN GRADE AND EMPLOYEE PAY PLAN.**

City Manager Bruce Stone explained that this Resolution would make formal changes to the authorized Positions in Grade and to the Employee Pay Plan. Mr. Stone advised that the mid-year 5% pay increase requested by Chief Landon for telecommunications staff is reflected in amendments to the Positions in Grade and Pay Plan. Mr. Stone further advised that pending retirements necessitate some changes to the chain of command in the administrative office and that a new pay grade is needed between the Billing Clerk Pay Grade and the Payroll/Benefits Clerk Pay Grade.

After a brief discussion, Mayor Wilkinson moved to approve Resolution 12-19-2022 (A). Council Member Cummings seconded the motion. The vote: Yea – Cummings, Griffis, Wilkinson, and Glover. Nay – none.

**ITEM VI: CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 12-19-2022 (B) AWARDED A BID FOR PARK IMPROVEMENTS PHASE III AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE CONTRACT DOCUMENTS.**



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
December 19, 2022

City Manager Bruce Stone advised the bids for Phase III Park Improvements were opened on December 15<sup>th</sup> and that all bids were over budget.

Representatives of LAUD Studio were present to review the bids and to discuss options for reducing the scope of work and the cost of the improvements.

Jessica Lerner told the Council that the mark-up on some of the playground equipment was a primary reason for the bids being higher than expected. Ms. Lerner showed the Council an illustration depicting LAUD's recommendations for reducing project costs including the following:

- 1. Remove off-street parking on Victoria Place and add the parking to the upcoming street resurfacing project (G.O. Bond).*
- 2. Eliminate three fitness stations due to the high cost of the safety surface.*
- 3. Eliminate rubberized safety surface for some of the play areas and substitute engineered wood fiber.*
- 4. Eliminate lighting around the sidewalk.*
- 5. Eliminate renovations to the stage.*
- 6. Eliminate topsoil for the soccer field.*
- 7. Eliminate Duffner Park lighted signage.*

Ms. Lerner advised that Rudy Construction was the low bidder and would still be low bidder with the proposed changes to the scope of the project. Ms. Lerner recommended that the Council authorize staff and the design team to negotiate with Rudy Construction to revise the project. Ms. Lerner also asked the Council to consider adding \$75,000 to the budget from other funding sources to provide some added flexibility in the final plan.

The Council discussed the various ideas for reducing costs but there could not reach consensus on what to change, whether the project should be re-bid, or if the project should be delayed pending a fundraising effort to obtain private funds to pay for a portion of the project.

City Attorney Jeff Sabin advised that the Competitive Bidding Act requires the bid award to be made no later than thirty (30) days from bid opening.

Staff and the design team members all expressed concern that re-bidding the project would result in even higher costs and the City getting less.



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
December 19, 2022

Mayor Wilkinson tabled this agenda item pending further review.

**ITEM VII: REPORTS, CORRESPONDENCE, ETC.**

a) **Review of Expenditures:** *The Council reviewed the expenditure reports. The city manager explained several of the items on the expenditure list.*

b) **Manager's Report:** *City Manager Bruce Stone reported as follows:*

***TIF Project:*** *Weather has put a damper on progress over the past week. In spite of the cold weather, soil compaction and stabilization for the library parking lot and Vineyard Boulevard should be able to be done. Wynn Construction is making the parking lot a priority in order to get things more back to normal for the library sooner rather than later.*

***Meadowbrook Oil.*** *The meeting with Meadowbrook Oil went well. The parties have agreed to stake the curb line for the proposed cul-de-sac and the company's oil truck will make a test run to ensure that there is adequate turning radius for the trucks that service the common tank battery next to City Hall. Additional steps can be taken, if necessary, without great expense, but engineers believe that what has been designed will prove to be adequate.*

***Britton & Stratford Pedestrian Crossing.*** *The new pedestrian crossing on Britton is fully functional.*

***Sales & Use Tax Report.*** *Sales Taxes were up by \$87,697 or 15.92% and Use Taxes were up by \$41,706 or 34.84% as compared with the same period last year.*

***Application for Variance:*** *Reggie Daniels has filed an application for a variance but does not have the money for the application fee. The Council agreed that payment should be made in full before processing the application.*

***G.O. Bond Street Resurfacing Map:*** *The plans for street improvements are 65% complete and the project should be ready to bid in February. The map is provided to remind the Council which streets will be resurfaced with 2022 Series G.O. Bond proceeds.*

***Cracks on Harrison Park Tennis Court:*** *The cracks are reflective cracks that cannot be corrected but can be sealed in order to prevent further damage to the underlying concrete. The cost to seal the cracks is approximately \$5,400. The Council indicated their desire to proceed with sealing the cracks. (Note: This court*



## CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

December 19, 2022

*was renovated with a new surface but cracks in the old concrete surface tend to show through (reflective cracking) over time).*

***Gladstone Drainage Project:*** *Brewer Construction will start the Gladstone Drainage Project on January 3<sup>rd</sup> and has provided a traffic control plan for the first phase of construction at Village Drive and Gladstone. The Council asked that residents in the area be provided written notification of the project and the proposed street closures.*

### ***c) Reports from Council***

*Vice-Mayor Griffis told the Council that she would like to attend the National League of Cities conference in Washington, D.C. in March. The city manager advised that funds should be available in the budget to cover the costs of attending the meeting.*

*Council Member Glover reminded everyone that filing period for City Council Wards, 1, 2 and 3 would be on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> at the County Election Board.*

*Eric Oesch noted the Fire Marshal's report about Dollar General. The city manager advised that Major Hodges has been working with the company to resolve some fire safety issues at the local stores.*

*The Council discussed the need to provide citizens information about the arctic weather forecast for later in the week. Council Member Cummings agreed to record a robocall message to send out this week urging residents to take severe winter weather precautions.*

*The Council discussed issues regarding certain (non-cooperative) prisoners being rejected by MWC Jail and the need for alternatives for dealing with situations such as this. After a brief discussion, the Council asked that Chief Landon come to the next meeting to discuss the types of problems that the police department is encountering and to discuss alternatives that the Council might consider.*

*Council Member Cummings and Glover both stated that the Christmas Party was great and thanked Beverly Whitener and staff for all of the hard work in putting the party together.*

*Vice-Mayor Griffis asked about office closures during the upcoming Christmas holiday weekend. The city manager advised that the administrative offices would close early on Friday and be closed on Monday.*



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
December 19, 2022

*Vice-Mayor Griffis asked about garage sale signs and how many can be purchased. Beverly Whitener stated that two (2) signs can be purchased from the city. The city manager advised that each resident may place one (1) sign on the main thoroughfare and one (1) at the location of the sale to advertise the sale. Mr. Stone advised that the standardized sign must be purchased from the city at cost, and that this requirement was adopted to prevent a Hodge podge of homemade signs cluttering the rights of ways. Mr. Stone also noted that makeshift signs can be an indication to patrol that the resident has not obtained a garage sale permit.*

*City Attorney, Jeff Sabin, advised that an Executive Session is scheduled for the meeting on January 3<sup>rd</sup> to continue the process of selecting a new city manager. Mr. Sabin stated that the Executive Session is likely to be long.*

*City Treasurer, Beverly Whitener, announced the city manager's retirement party would be held on January 24<sup>th</sup> from 1:30 to 4 p.m.*

**ITEM VIII: ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Wilkinson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Vice-Mayor Wynter Griffis

\_\_\_\_\_  
Council Member Symes

\_\_\_\_\_  
Council Member Cummings

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Council Member Glover