



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
February 6, 2023

The City Council of the City of The Village, Oklahoma, met in regular session at City Hall on Monday, February 6, 2023, 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
Bubba Symes, Council Member

STAFF PRESENT

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

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 JANUARY 17, 2023.

The mayor asked if there were any corrections, additions, or deletions to the Minutes of the meetings held on January 17, 2023. There were none and the Minutes were approved as written.

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

Abigail Stout, The Village Library Manager, reported on issues with lighting and parking during the construction of a new parking lot for the library. Ms. Stout asked if there is an estimate for completion. Mr. Stone advised that he does not have an estimate and that completion of the project is dependent on weather conditions. Ms. Stout gave the Council a report on ongoing library programs and activities including the Holocaust exhibit and the upcoming calligraphy program.

A resident asked about the status of Officer Avery. Mr. Stone advised that his case is still pending and that whether the case goes to trial will depend on the newly elected District Attorney.

Mayor Wilkinson read a Proclamation proclaiming the month of February as Bruce Stone month in The Village.



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ITEM V: PRESENTATION OF THE ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 20, 2022, HBC CPAs.

Chris Heim with HBC CPAs appeared before the Council to present the audit report for the year ending June 30, 2022.

Mr. Heim provided corrected copies of the audit and explained changes to the audit report pertaining to the way General Obligation Bonds were reported in the original version of the report. Mr. Heim walked the Council through the report and explained the methodology used to test internal controls. Mr. Heim advised that it is the firm's opinion that the financial statements fairly represent the financial position of the City as of June 30, 2022, and that no problems with internal controls were found.

The Council thanked Mr. Heim for the report. No formal action was taken.

ITEM VI: DISCUSSION PERTAINING TO A PROPOSED CHANGE IN SCOPE OF WORK FOR TIF PROJECT #1 VILLAGE GREEN IMPROVEMENTS - ADD ALTERNATE #1.

Brent Wall, Jessica Lerner, and Hannah Bellew with LAUD Studio attended the meeting to give the Council a report on the status of the TIF Project. Jessica Lerner advised that the current construction timeline will require some decisions to be made regarding the Add Alternate for The Village Green Improvements at this time rather than at a later stage of construction. Ms. Lerner explained the proposed revisions to the scope of the Add Alternate that are needed to reduce the cost of the alternate bid. Ms. Lerner advised that the original plan to remove and relocate donor bricks would be very expensive. Ms. Lerner told the Council that the cost to carefully remove the bricks, clean them (remove mortar, etc.) and then reinstall the bricks would be more than the amount raised initially from the sale of the bricks in 1990. Ms. Lerner told the Council that many of the bricks were bought as memorials for deceased family members and that the elimination of the bricks could be emotional for some donors.

The Council discussed the various options for preserving the bricks. After a discussion, the consensus of the Council was to proceed with removal of the bricks but to provide high resolution photographs of the bricks for historical purposes and to provide a plaque with the names of donors for installation at an appropriate place in The Village Green. The Council also discussed the feasibility of keeping the bricks at Public Works for donors to pick up within a specified time range.

Ms. Lerner advised that she is hopeful that enough of the budget will remain unexpended to do a reduced-scope Add Alternate, which would include the covered amphitheater. Ms. Lerner advised that, for the time being, the excess funds should be kept in reserve for contingencies that arise during construction.



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Ms. Lerner reviewed the most recent construction field report and showed the Council pictures of the work in progress. Ms. Lerner advised that the firm now has a drone which is extremely useful in reviewing and documenting the status of construction.

The Council took no formal action.

ITEM VII: DISCUSSION AND UPDATE OF OPTIONS PERTAINING TO CHANGE IN THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR PARK PHASE III IMPROVEMENTS.

Brent Wall, Jessica Lerner, and Hannah Bellew with LAUD Studio attended the meeting to give the Council a report on the status of negotiations with Rudy Construction to reduce the scope of Phase III Park Improvements to bring project costs under budget. Jessica Lerner told the Council that various options were being explored including purchasing the playground equipment directly from the supplier under state contract. Ms. Lerner advised that Rudy Construction is still working on numbers for the revised scope of work and that it might be appropriate to re-bid the project if the cost is excessive.

The Council took no formal action.

ITEM VIII: REPORTS, CORRESPONDENCE, ETC.

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

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

Britton Road Drainage Project: *The contract for this project was awarded in October 2021 but the company (SAC Services) could not start because gas and fiber optic lines were in the way. Gas lines were relocated in April 2022 and fiber was relocated at the end of July 2022. In the meantime, prices for materials have skyrocketed. SAC Services does not want to do the project unless they can adjust unit prices to cover increased costs. Unfortunately, the Competitive Bidding Act will not allow this and SAC Services has asked to be released from the contract. The City could file a claim with their bonding company, but the delay in the project was not their fault and the best course of action to get this project completed is to release SAC Services from the project and to add this project to the contract with Brewer Construction for the Gladstone Drainage Project. Unit prices for most, if not all, of the items needed to do this project are included in Brewer's contract. The cost of the project will almost certainly be more than what has been budgeted, but the budget could be supplemented with unobligated ARPA funds as needed. The Council did not object to the idea of exploring the possibility of adding the project to the contract with Brewer Construction for the Gladstone Drainage Project.*



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Resignation Letter: *Mr. Stone told the Council that City Engineer Bryan Coon has submitted his resignation letter effective January 31, 2023. Mr. Stone advised that Mr. Coon is retired and that he and his spouse are travelling extensively.*

Retirement Letter: *The city manager noted his retirement letter to the City Council which is attached to the minutes.*

c) **Reports from Council**

Council Member Symes gave the Council a report on his recent health problems and stated that he is glad to be back.

Council Member Symes thanked Bruce Stone for the great job as city manager.

Council Member Cummings asked about the dog park behind the Vineyard Climate Controlled Storage (Old Walmart). Mr. Stone advised that the park belongs to David Austin, owner of Vineyard Climate Controlled Storage, and that it is available for anyone to use free of charge.

Council Member Cummings reported that he had received several complaints about the Village Baptist Church chimes, which sound every hour on the hour. Council Member Cummings stated that he visited the church and asked them to reduce the volume of the chimes. The city manager advised that church bells and chimes and other things such as emergency sirens are exempt from noise regulations in The Village. Mr. Stone stated that the provisions can be changed as desired by the Council.

Mayor Wilkinson told the Council that Steve Lackmeyer, reporter for the Daily Oklahoman, wants to do a story on speed cushions.

Mayor Wilkinson stated that the former Mayor of Nichols Hills thanked him for all The Village is doing.

Mayor Wilkinson reported that he had been contacted by a person who wants to donate a park bench in Johnson Park. Mr. Stone advised that this could be done but the type and location of the bench should be consistent with the Park Masterplan to ensure that standardized equipment and furnishings are used in all parks. Jessica Lerner advised that one of the problems at Johnson Park is that the locations for benches in future phases of park improvements have not been established yet.



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Jeff Sabin told Mr. Stone that it has been an honor to work him over the past several years and that he is looking forward to working with the new city manager, Dave Slezigkey.

Mayor Wilkinson thanked the city attorney for all of his hard work during the recruitment process.

Mayor Wilkinson thanked Bruce Stone for his thirty-seven years and eight months service as city manager.

ITEM XI: ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

Mayor Wilkinson

Vice-Mayor Wynter Griffis

Council Member Symes

Council Member Cummings

City Clerk

Council Member Glover