



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
September 8, 2020

The City Council of the City of The Village, Oklahoma, met in Regular Session on Tuesday, September 8, 2020, at 7:30 p.m., at 2304 Manchester Drive, The Village, OK 73120

**COUNCIL PRESENT**

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

**STAFF PRESENT**

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

**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 AUGUST 17, 2020.**

The Mayor asked if there were any corrections, additions or deletions to the Minutes of the Special Meeting held on August 17, 2020. Council Member Cummings moved to approve the minutes as written. Vice-Mayor Wilkinson seconded the motion. The vote: Yea – Cummings, Symes, Wilkinson 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.

Shawn Brunkhorst, 1505 Barclay Road, appeared before the Council pertaining to an Administrative Order to abate an alleged nuisance at his home. Mr. Brunkhorst told the Council that the pop-up tent he leaves over his boat in the driveway is legal under the City Code. After an extended discussion, City Manager Bruce Stone advised Mr. Brunkhorst that his formal appeal of the order is not an agenda item for this meeting and that it will be taken up by the Council for formal consideration on September 21<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Stone advised that the appeal process is specifically provided by law to give the resident an opportunity to dispute the Administrative Order.

Mr. Brunkhorst asked about annual registration of boats, trailers and other oversized vehicles. Mr. Stone advised that the Ordinance adopted by the Council provides for annual re-



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registration of such vehicles and that Code Enforcement has already started the process of contacting all residents who have vehicles on the registration list to see if they still have the same registered vehicle and wish to re-register. Mr. Stone stated that the department is not relying on residents to respond to letters and field officials plan to visit every location before the registration deadline to make sure that no one misses their opportunity to re-register their vehicle.

Melodie Moore, 9421 Nichols Road, appeared before the Council to complain about commercial truck deliveries to Casady School before 7:00 a.m. Ms. Moore told the Council that Ben E. Keith is delivering as early as 5:45 a.m. using the entrance to the campus located on Britton Road. After a lengthy discussion, Council Member Symes asked the city manager to send a letter to the Business Operations Manager of Casady School to let him know that the zoning regulations adopted recently and which require commercial deliveries before 7:00 a.m. to use the school's entrance on Penn, is not being observed. The Council thanked Ms. Moore for keeping them abreast of the situation.

Jason Wiggins, The Village Library Manager, appeared before the Council to advise that the library is now open again with revised hours of operation. Mr. Wiggins advised that masks/face coverings as well as social distancing are being enforced.

Jane Lowther suggested that the community branding effort that the Council had talked about in the recent past might be aided by holding a design contest for kids or other interested citizens. Ms. Lowther provided a written statement with some of her opinions and suggestions, which are attached to the minutes and an exhibit.

Jane Lowther asked about the burned house at Carlisle and Village Drive and suggested that the City buy the house and make the lot into a park. Mr. Stone advised that the owner of the property intends to demolish the house and might be willing to sell the property to the City.

Jane Lowther told the Council that residents in Casady Manor like the park the way it is and that some elements of the Park Master Plan seem inappropriate for the park such as a hammock station and adult-oriented exercise equipment. Ms. Lowther advised that there are more children using the park than in the recent past.

Jane Lowther said that there are many valuable long-time employees of the City who deserve more recognition and asked if a list of long-time employees could be provided so she could find ways to recognize them publicly.

Jane Lowther talked about Halloween and the possibility of having a Trick or Treat from decorated cars at a public or church parking lot. Council Member Cummings volunteered to work with her on putting something together.



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**ITEM V. CONSIDERATION OF JAIL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE BOARD OF OKLAHOMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.**

City Manager Bruce Stone told the Council that this renewal of this agreement is normally routine but is aware that reported deficiencies at the facility have been cause for concern by some members of the Council. Mr. Stone advised that some of the information in his written report was incorrect and that the daily rate for keeping prisoners on municipal charges would not increase this year. Mr. Stone also advised that the County has some new provisions for charging the City for transport of municipal prisoners for medical attention and for “medical watch”.

Council Member Graham stated that he did not feel it was safe to put any prisoners in the Oklahoma County Jail and that the City might be held liable if a prisoner is harmed as a result of their incarceration. Assistant City Attorney Jeff Sabin advised that the City is not liable under Oklahoma Law for the actions or negligence of the County.

Council Member Graham stated that he wanted to explore taking arrestees to the Cleveland County Jail instead and has been told by Cleveland County officials that they can accommodate our prisoners.

Council Member Symes asked how long prisoners charged in municipal court on municipal charges stay at the jail. Mr. Stone advised that only a handful of these types of prisoners are taken to the jail each year and most of the bond out within a few days or are released by the municipal judge on their own recognizance. Mr. Stone advised that between 150 and 200 arrests are made each year in which the prisoners are charged with state or federal crimes. Mr. Stone advised that taking these types of prisoners to another jail such as in Cleveland County would create a significant logistical problem for the department. Mr. Stone advised that, in addition to the wear and tear on city vehicles and fuel costs, police officers would be taken off our local streets for perhaps three or four hours depending on traffic and other circumstances. Mr. Stone stated that this could leave us short-handed or unable to respond in a timely manner to our own emergencies.

After a lengthy discussion, the Council decided that more time is needed to explore other options before the Council votes on the proposed jail services agreement. Council Member Cummings moved to table consideration of this item until October 5th. Vice-Mayor Wilkinson seconded the motion. The vote: Yea – Symes, Graham, Wilkinson, Bennett and Cummings. Nay – none.

**ITEM VI. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 09-08-2020 (A) CONCERNING FUNDING PURSUANT TO THE CARES ACT AND THE CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND, CONFIRMING THAT IT IS THE POLICY OF THE CITY THAT ALL PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL COSTS ARE “SUBSTANTIALLY DEDICATED” TO THE COVID-19**



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**RESPONSE EFFORTS OF THE CITY THROUGHOUT THE ONGOING STATE OF EMERGENCY.**

City Manager Bruce Stone advised the Council that the State of Oklahoma has over \$250,000,000 in CARES Act funds to distribute to tribal governments, counties, cities and schools in Oklahoma. Mr. Stone advised that the City of The Village is eligible to receive up to \$737,195.28. Mr. Stone advised that the U.S. Department of Treasury will now reimburse local governments for public safety salaries and benefits paid between March 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020 as such employees are considered by the rules to have been “substantially dedicated to COVID-19 response.” Mr. Stone advised that the Oklahoma Municipal League recommends that City Councils officially confirm this to be the case by the adoption of a resolution. Mr. Stone advised that the City should be eligible to receive the entire allocation of funds. Mr. Stone further advised that the deadline to apply for the funds is November 1, 2020.

After a brief discussion, Vice-Mayor Wilkinson moved to approve Resolution 09-08-2020 (A). Council Member Cummings seconded the motion. The vote: Yea – Symes, Graham, Wilkinson, Bennett and Cummings. Nay – none.

**ITEM VII. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 09-08-2020 (B) AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH LAUD STUDIO FOR LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES, CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTATION, CONSTRUCTION COST ESTIMATION, COMPETITIVE BIDDING AND CONSTRUCTION OBSERVATION PURSUANT TO THE GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AUTHORIZED BY VOTERS FOR RECREATIONAL AND PARK FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT.**

City Manager Bruce Stone advised the Council that LAUD Studio has submitted a proposal to provide all the necessary professional services for Phase 2 of the Park Improvement Project. Mr. Stone told the Council that the not to exceed cost for services is \$64,750.

Mr. Stone briefly showed Council a preliminary budget for Meeker and Johnson Parks but noted that the plans have yet to be prepared and that the exact allocation of the \$860,000 in bond proceeds cannot be known at this time.

Vice-Mayor Wilkinson reported that he noticed some cracking on the new tennis courts. Mr. Stone advised that he would ask LAUD Studio to look at them as they are still covered under the Maintenance Bond.

After a brief discussion, Council Member Graham moved to approve Resolution 09-08-2020 (B). Council Member Cummings seconded the motion. The vote: Yea – Symes, Graham, Wilkinson, Bennett and Cummings. Nay – none.



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**ITEM VIII. CONSIDERATION OF GRANTING A 60' X 10' UNDERGROUND PIPELINE EASEMENT IN HARRISON PARK TO OKLAHOMA NATURAL GAS COMPANY.**

City Manager Bruce Stone advised the Council that Oklahoma Natural Gas Company has asked the City to grant a 60' x 10' underground pipeline easement in order to serve 9513 Stratford. Mr. Stone told the Council that a large tree in the existing utility easement has damaged the gas line resulting in a possibly dangerous situation. Mr. Stone advised that ONG deems the current conditions unsafe and advises that the preferred and safest solution would be to re-route the pipeline on the West side of the lot in Harrison Park in the area located to the east of the drainage channel. Mr. Stone told the Council that the proposed location of the new pipeline is not in an area likely to interfere with park improvements or otherwise limit the use of the park to its intended purposes.

Council Member Cummings asked if the pipeline work would cause a disruption in service to customers in the area. Assistant City Attorney Jeff Sabin advised that a temporary interruption of service could be expected when the old line is connected to the new one.

After a brief discussion, Council Member Graham moved to grant the underground pipeline easement to Oklahoma Natural Gas Company. Council Member Cummings seconded the motion. The vote: Yea – Symes, Graham, Wilkinson, Bennett and Cummings. Nay – none.

**ITEM IX. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 09-08-2020 (C) AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO OBTAIN COMPETITIVE BIDS FOR SIGNALIZATION IMPROVEMENTS AT BRITTON AND PENN PURSUANT TO THE GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AUTHORIZED BY VOTERS.**

City Manager Bruce Stone reported that plans for signalization improvements at Britton and Penn are very close to completion and that this project would be the first project funded by the Series 2020 bond proceeds. Mr. Stone advised that the intersection poses some challenges because of existing drainage inlets on the Southeast corner of the intersection. Mr. Stone explained that the inlets are located where ADA ramps would normally be installed. Mr. Stone stated that to avoid the expense of relocating the inlets, the plan is to move the crosswalks on the east and south sides of the intersection a few feet back from their current position. Mr. Stone advised that one drainage inlet on the southeast corner of the intersection would need repair due to damage by heavy trucks that frequently cut the corner. Mr. Stone further noted that project will eliminate in-pavement magnetic controller loops by using a new phased-array radar system. The city manager said that the intersection would be distinguished with new back-lighted street name signs using a look similar to the city's exiting street signs. (blue background with white-lighted lettering). Mr. Stone also noted that the specifications provide for a base bid of galvanized arms and masts and an Add Alternate for arms and masts that are black powder coated.



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After a brief discussion. Council Member Graham moved to approve Resolution 09-08-2020 (C) authorizing the city manager to obtain competitive bids for signalization improvements at the intersection of Britton & Penn. Vice-Mayor Wilkinson seconded the motion. The vote: Yea – Symes, Graham, Wilkinson, Bennett and Cummings. Nay – none.

**ITEM X:**        **NEW BUSINESS.**

- a) *Review of Expenditures. The Council reviewed the expenditures reports.*
- b) *Manager's Report.*

*City Manager Bruce Stone reported that he met with officials of the Metropolitan Library System concerning the on-going moisture problem in a portion of the library floor. Mr. Stone advised that the City would extend the existing French drain system to the southeast corner of the building with the hope that this eliminates the problem.*

*The city manager gave the Council an update on various code enforcement issues at 10400 Sunnymeade, 9515 Greystone and pertaining to the Churches Chicken sign.*

*Mr. Stone reported that legal counsel for Crossland Heavy Construction has provided a settlement offer for substandard work done by the company on Lakeside Drive. Mr. Stone advised that the offer is not acceptable, and that legal counsel is working with staff and the city engineer to formulate a response. The Council briefly discussed possible steps that might be taken if an agreement cannot be reached with the company.*

*The city manager reported that the temporary pickle ball striping placed on the tennis court in Bumpass mysteriously disappeared after the first week it was installed. After a brief discussion, the Council directed staff to permanently stripe for a pickle ball court. The Council also discussed the possibility of building a dedicated pickle ball court in one of the parks.*

*Mr. Stone reported that the animal shelter is nearing completion and the volunteers would like to have an Open House. Mr. Stone advised that staff needs more time to furnish the shelter and put on the finishing touches before holding the event. Mr. Stone advised that several possible dates for the Open House have been discussed.*

*The city manager reported that A-Tech Construction would start work on street improvements on Monday, September 21. Mr. Stone advised that the project would be mostly south of Britton Road and would involve curb replacement, base repair and resurfacing on Greystone, Westchester, Wellington and Ridgeview Court. Mr. Stone also advised that the project would complete the island at Britton Plaza that was*



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*abandoned by the Oklahoma Department of Transportation in conjunction with the Britton Road project.*

*c) Reports from Council.*

*Assistant City Attorney Jeff Sabin advised that the City's mask mandate ended today and that he has drafted a new Proclamation extending the mandate for the Mayor to consider. The Proclamation provided for the mandate to be extended indefinitely and to be lifted by the Mayor when conditions warrant and in coordination with the actions of other metro cities (primarily Oklahoma City). The Mayor reviewed and signed the Proclamation.*

*Council Member Symes reiterated that a nice letter be sent to Casady School regarding commercial truck deliveries to the campus before 7:00 a.m.*

*Vice-Mayor Wilkinson stated that a black Mercedes has been parked in the street on Gladstone for quite some time.*

*Vice-Mayor Wilkinson noted the City's new white patrol car.*

*Council Member Cummings reminded the Council of the food distribution event at the Chabad this coming Thursday. Council Member Cummings stated that volunteers are needed for the event.*

*Council Member Cummings told the Council about the lost dog on her block (over the weekend) and that the owner has been located.*

*Council Member Cummings stated that many children engaged in remote learning are going outdoors for their breaks and that motorists should be alert for kids playing during these unusual times. Council Member Cummings asked the Police to do extra patrol in certain areas.*

*The Council briefly discussed the possible need to regulate vegetable gardening in the front yard of residences. The assistant city attorney advised that the City's landscaping code might be the appropriate chapter in which to provide additional guidelines and regulations to address this issue.*

*Mayor Bennett gave a brief report on ACOG activities and told the Council that he has inquired about grant funding (in conjunction with Oklahoma City) to provide a walk-bridge over the Lake Hefner Parkway.*

There was no other New Business to come before the Council.



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**ITEM X: ADJOURNMENT**

There was no further business and Mayor Bennett adjourned the meeting at 10:21 p.m.

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Mayor Bennett

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Vice-Mayor Wilkinson

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Council Member Graham

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

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City Clerk

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



**My comment:** by Jane Irwin Lowther

This should become The Village's motto and I think it would be neat if residents printed these off and put them on their front door or prominent place to spread the word! Kindness and being considerate always holds a special place in our hearts!

My suggestion is the one above or perhaps have people submit their own ideas through word of mouth, through a news source like The Friday newspaper, contests or internet and allow the citizens and/or council to vote on their choice.

Info on burnout house located at 2126 Churchill Way owned by Sandra (Salsman) Olandese, who resides at 2006 Oak Circle, Piedmont, OK 73078.