



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
October 5, 2020

The City Council of the City of The Village, Oklahoma, met in Regular Session on Monday, October 5, 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.

Council Member Graham led the Council in the invocation and pledge of allegiance.

ITEM III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 21, 2020.

The Mayor asked if there were any corrections, additions or deletions to the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on September 21, 2020. Council Member Graham moved to approve the minutes as written. Vice-Mayor Wilkinson seconded the motion. The vote: Yea – Cummings, Symes, Graham, 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.

Council Member Cathy Cummings introduced Thomas Johnson, candidate for County Sheriff. Mr. Johnson told the Council that he is a Master Patrolman for the Norman Police Department but resides in Oklahoma County. Mr. Johnson told the Council about his vision for the County Sheriff's Department and how he would improve the department. Mr. Johnson answered question from the Council about the County Jail, "Defunding the Police", and the State Questions on the ballot this year. Mr. Johnson thanked the Council for this opportunity to share his credentials and his goals if elected County Sheriff.

Council Member Cummings introduced Chelsey Branham candidate for reelection to the House of Representatives for District 83. Representative Branham told the Council that she lives



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in The Village and represents portions of The Village, Nichols Hills, Oklahoma City and Edmond in the State House of Representatives. Representative Branham stated her qualifications for office and talked about her goals if reelected. Representative Branham told the Council that she has been the sponsor of many bipartisan bills and tries to reach across the aisle to pass legislation in the interest of her constituents. Representative Branham answered question from the Council and commented on the state questions that are on the ballot this year.

Jane Lowther told the Council that she is encouraging her neighbors in Casady Manor to put blue lights on their porch in November to show support for law enforcement. Jane stated that she would like to put posters up in various areas of The Village including local businesses. Ms. Lowther asked if temporary yard signs could be used. The city manager advised that each residence or business could have two temporary yards signs as long as they are placed at least four (4) feet back from the edge of the street.

Jane Lowther talked about plans to have a Trick or Treat event at City Hall from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 31st. Ms. Lowther said that cars would bring the children and volunteers would pass out candy as the cars queue and make their way through a designated path through the parking lot.

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

City Manager Bruce Stone told the Council that the proposed agreement is the same as approved for FY 2019-20 with the exception for certain new provisions for paying for the transport of municipal prisoners for medical reasons and for prisoner watch services. Mr. Stone noted that the proposed charges are reasonable and would only occur on very rare occasions. Mr. Stone advised the Council that the daily prisoner boarding cost would remain the same at \$44.61.

Mr. Stone told the Council that Council Member Graham had expressed an interest in delaying the vote on the agreement until October 19 and advised that a delay would probably not present any problems.

Police Chief Paul Kinman attended the meeting to answer questions from the Council. Chief Kinman advised that it has been department policy for many years to cite and release offenders of most charges except the most serious and violent crimes. Chief Kinman added that only four (4) people have been taken to the County Jail in 2020 on Municipal charges.

Council Member Graham stated that he is working on other options for jail services and urged the Council to delay action on this agreement until the meeting on October 19th.



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Vice-Mayor Wilkinson stated that the Council should move forward with the agreement but also voice the Council's displeasure with the operation and condition of the jail.

After a discussion, Vice-Mayor Wilkinson moved to approve the Jail Services Agreement with the Board of County Commissioners (while acknowledging that the County needs to work to improve conditions and the operation of the jail). Council Member Symes seconded the motion. The vote: Yea – Cummings, Symes, Wilkinson and Bennett. Nay – Graham.

ITEM VI: CONSIDERATION OF FIRE EQUIPMENT AGREEMENT WITH THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

City Manager Bruce Stone advised that this is the renewal of a long-standing agreement with the County for use of County-owned (brush pumper) equipment by The Village Fire Department. Mr. Stone advised that the County furnished the City with this brush pumper approximately 17 years ago and the County is looking to replace the truck. Mr. Stone noted that the County would only replace the truck and chassis and the City would equip the vehicle.

Mr. Stone told the Council that he would ask Chief Hamill to come to the next City Council meeting to explain the changes in the County rural firefighting program and see if the Council would like to proceed with obtaining a new truck from the County.

After a brief discussion, Vice-Mayor Wilkinson moved to approve the Fire Equipment Agreement with the Board of County Commissioners. Council Member Symes seconded the motion. The vote: Yea – Cummings, Symes, Graham, Wilkinson and Bennett. Nay – none.

ITEM VII: CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 10-05-2020 (A) AMENDING THE CITY OF THE VILLAGE DEFINED CONTRIBUTION AND VARIABLE LONGEVITY RETIREMENT PLAN.

City Manager Bruce Stone explained the proposed amendment to the City's retirement plan and advised that the changes only apply to employees who have funds that were rolled over from another retirement plan. Mr. Stone told the Council that the changes remove the \$1,000 minimum on the withdrawal of rolled over funds and would allow two in-service withdrawals a year instead of just one.

After a brief discussion, Council Member Cummings moved to approve Resolution 10-05-2020 (A). Vice-Mayor Wilkinson seconded the motion. The vote: Yea – Cummings, Symes, Graham, Wilkinson and Bennett. Nay – none.



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ITEM VIII: REPORTS, CORRESPONDENCE, ETC.

a) ***Review of Expenditures.*** *The Council reviewed the expenditure reports.*

b) ***Manager's Report.***

City Manager Bruce Stone reported that the Open House for the animal shelter would be on October 15th from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. and that it would be by invitation only. Mr. Stone advised that the Oklahoma Humane Society and volunteers are handling all the details.

The city manager reported that the pre-bid meeting for the Britton and Penn Signalization project would be at 2:00 p.m. on October 6th and that bids would be opened on October 13th.

Mr. Stone reported that LAUD Studio plans to have the Bidding Documents and Specifications for the Phase II Park Improvements ready by November 1st. Mr. Stone noted that LAUD Studio and staff met with representatives of Casady Manor to consider input from the residents who live near Meeker Park.

The city manager reported that Barbend Fit Lifestyles has rated The Village #7 in the State for fitness and health. Mr. Stone advised that Piedmont topped the list.

Mr. Stone reported that the burned house on Carlisle and Stratford is scheduled to be demolished later this week.

c) ***Reports from Council.***

Council Member Graham told the Council that Braum's LED sign is really bright. The city manager advised that the light is supposed to have a photocell to adjust the brightness of the light depending on the ambient lighting conditions. Mr. Stone also advised that the PUD requires evergreen trees are to be planted along the south property line to screen the first two houses on the east side of Penn from the light of the sign.

Council Member Graham reported that Coffee Jerks opened up today in Uptown Grocery.

Vice-Mayor Wilkinson stated that city employees have been doing a great job.



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Council Member Cummings thanked the candidates for taking the time to come to the meeting to tell the Council about their goals, if elected or reelected.

Council Member Cummings announced that free drive-through notary service would be provided at Vito's Restaurant for the next two Sundays.

The Council discussed the recent Facebook post in which a resident claimed he had received a citation for children's bicycles in the yard. The city manager advised that the resident did not receive a citation but received a field correction notice. Mr. Stone advised that the notice asked the resident to "please" remove bags of trash, limbs and other discarded items on the side of the house and that the notice did not mention bicycles.

Assistant City Attorney Jeff Sabin advised the Council that he would have an Ordinance addressing temporary structures for the Council to consider at either the meeting on October 19th or the meeting on November 2nd.

ITEM IX: NEW BUSINESS.

There was no New Business to come before the Council.

ITEM X: ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business and Mayor Bennett adjourned the meeting at 9:25 p.m.

Mayor Bennett

Vice-Mayor Wilkinson

Council Member Graham

Council Member Symes

City Clerk

Council Member Cummings