



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
March 1, 2021

The City Council of the City of The Village, Oklahoma, met in Regular Session on Monday, March 1, 2021, at 7:30 p.m., at The Village City Hall located at 2304 Manchester Drive, The Village, OK 73120.

**COUNCIL PRESENT**

David Bennett, Mayor  
Sonny Wilkinson, Vice-Mayor  
Cathy Cummings, Council Member  
Adam Graham, Council Member  
Bubba Symes, 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 Symes gave the invocation and led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ITEM III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 15, 2021.**

The Mayor asked if there were any corrections, additions or deletions to the Minutes of the Special Meeting held on February 15, 2021. There were none. Council Member Graham moved the approval of the minutes of the February 15, 2021 meeting, as written. Council Member Cummings 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.

**a) Proclamation 03-01-2021 (A) – Autism Awareness Day and Month in The Village.**

Mayor Bennett read aloud Proclamation 03-01-2021 (A) proclaiming April as Autism Awareness Month and April 2 as Autism Awareness Day in The Village. After a brief discussion, Council Member Cummings moved to approve Proclamation 03-01-2021 (A). Council Member Graham seconded the motion. The vote: Yea – Cummings, Symes, Graham, Wilkinson, and Bennett. Nay – none.



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Carol Jensen told the Council about a neighbor who had a “Knox Box” installed and that it was used almost immediately by the Fire Department in making an emergency call to the residence. *(Note: A Knox Box is a secure container that contains the key to a home, and which allows emergency services to enter a home without forcing entry and causing damage to the door.)*

Ms. Jensen also praised the Police Department for helping to retrieve her newspaper from deep snow.

Jane Lowther told the Council that she knows an elderly woman who has a difficult time putting her trash cart at curbside and asked if the City offered a smaller container. The city manager advised that the City used to offer 65-gallon carts, but Waste Connections discontinued them due to lack of demand. Mr. Stone advised that the best solution for this problem would be for the resident to apply for free house side service.

Ms. Lowther mentioned a large tree at Andover and Village Drive that has partially fallen. Ms. Lowther further stated that she saw a boat parked there as well. The city manager advised that he would ask Code Enforcement to check into these two issues.

Ms. Lowther stated that it would be nice to recognize and honor the Fire Department by encouraging citizens to put red lights on their porch. Ms. Lowther asked what month the Council thought would work best. After a brief discussion, April seemed to be fine with the Council.

**ITEM V: CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 03-01-2021 (A) AWARDING A BID FOR SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT #1 AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE CONTRACT DOCUMENTS.**

City Manager Bruce Stone advised that three (3) bids for the sidewalk project were received as follows:

Rudy Construction	\$155,750.00
A-Tech Paving	\$176,419.85
EMC Services	\$186,439.50

The city manager showed the Council an illustration of the project area. Mr. Stone advised that the sidewalk starts at the City limits on Pennsylvania and goes north on the west side of Pennsylvania all the way to Vineyard Boulevard. Mr. Stone further advised that the sidewalk would then go down the north side of Vineyard Boulevard and would then go west on the south side of Manchester to Ridgeview. Mr. Stone talked briefly about the sidewalk projects that are to go to bid next and how the sidewalks all tie together. Mr. Stone told the Council that the new



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sidewalk would only fill in the gaps between existing sidewalks on Pennsylvania, Vineyard and Manchester.

Council Member Graham asked if Rudy Construction had ever done work for The Village. The city manager advised that Rudy Construction has done repair work for Oklahoma City on local streets damaged by OKC water breaks. Mr. Stone advised that the company has a good reputation and is prequalified to bid on Oklahoma City projects.

Council Member Graham told the Council that dozens of people walk past his home (on the grass) on Pennsylvania each day and that he is excited to see the sidewalk go in.

Council Member Cummings asked when work on the project would start. Mr. Stone advised that the Contract provides for work to begin by April 15, 2021 and to be completed by July 15, 2021.

After a brief discussion, Vice-Mayor Wilkinson moved to approve Resolution 03-01-2021 (A) awarding the bid for Sidewalk Project #1 to Rudy Construction and authorizing the city manager to execute contract documents. Council Member Cummings seconded the motion. The vote: Yea – Cummings, Symes, Graham, Wilkinson, and Bennett. Nay – none.

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

a) ***Review of Expenditures.*** *The Council reviewed the Expenditure Report. The city manager explained several items on the report including the quarterly EMSA Subsidy payment and a lease payment for a Code Department vehicle. Mr. Stone talked about the EMSACare program and the ambulance coverage provided by the City for all residents of The Village.*

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

*City Manager Bruce Stone briefed the Council on two job openings, one for Animal Welfare Officer and the other for Court Clerk.*

*Mr. Stone reported that Traffic Signals, Inc., expects to start work on the new signalization at Britton and Penn next week.*

*The city manager reported the Ms. Berry has advised that she will provide an accessory building to house her rabbits as required by City Code. Council Member Symes asked if rabbits can be kept legally in The Village. Mr. Stone advised that rabbits are not a "prohibited animal" and can be kept inside a home or in an approved accessory building.*

*Mr. Stone reported that Avery, a fourteen-year-old girl in Pennsylvania, sent \$5.00 gift certificates to approximately 2,400 animal shelters across the country including The*



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*Village. Mr. Stone advised that Avery is under treatment for a rare type of bone cancer and is a remarkable young lady. Council Member Graham stated that he would share Avery's Facebook Page with the various Facebook groups in The Village.*

*The city manager reported that LAUD Studio found a suitable friendship swing like the one suggested by Jane Lowther. Mr. Stone advised that the friendship swing is made for the new swing set planned for Meeker Park. Mr. Stone showed a video of the swing and advised that it can be substituted for the original swing for an additional \$1,000. The Council commended Ms. Lowther for her suggestion and agreed that the substitution would be a great addition to the park.*

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

*Council Member Symes asked the Assistant City Attorney if there has been any progress on the engineering analysis of Lakeside Drive paving. Mr. Sabin advised that his colleague working on this has not provided any updates at this time.*

*Council Member Graham stated that the snowstorm and water breaks have resulted in quite a few messes around the city. Council Member Graham advised that the water break at 2230 Barclay was just repaired by OKC Water Department. The Council briefly discussed several water breaks in Casady Square including leaks that occurred in spaces formerly leased by Naifeh's Fine Jewelry and Fitness 19.*

*Council Member Graham thanked Public Works for all their work on Barclay to clear the thick ice from the street.*

*Council Member Graham told the Council that his is excited to serve another two-year term on the City Council.*

*Vice-Mayor Wilkinson told the Council that one of his colleagues at OMRF donated a pit smoker to The Village Fire Department.*

*Vice-Mayor Wilkinson stated that he has not received any negative feedback so far about the hair style salon approved on Chesterton.*

*Council Member Cummings asked the Assistant City Attorney about hiring applicants who have a medical marijuana license. Mr. Sabin advised that he would need to research the current laws pertaining to Medical Marijuana in the Workplace. The city manager advised that OMAG and/or OML issued a publication recently that covered this topic in depth. Mr. Stone briefly explained his understanding of the current law as it relates to recruitment in Oklahoma.*



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*Council Member Cummings commented on a recent demonstration by a pro 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment organization. Council Member Cummings stated that the demonstration caused a stir as the group passed through The Village carrying American flags and automatic weapons.*

*Council Member Cummings asked if it would be appropriate to have an Easter Egg Hunt this year. The city manager advised that it might be okay to have this kind of outdoor event provided certain precautions are taken. Mr. Stone further advised that the Emergency measures still in effect would need to be reviewed before a decision is made to move forward with such an event.*

*Mayor Bennett stated that he noticed that one of the new curbs on Wellington had already been damaged. The city manager advised that large trash and delivery trucks have a difficult time making turns on this half street and, unfortunately, curb damage like this occurs all too often.*

**TEM 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 8:30 p.m.

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Mayor Bennett

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Vice-Mayor Wilkinson

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Council Member Graham

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Council Member Symes

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City Clerk

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Council Member Cummings