



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
March 15, 2021

The City Council of the City of The Village, Oklahoma, met in Regular Session on Monday, March 15, 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  
Adam Graham, Council Member  
Cathy Cummings, Council Member  
Bubba Symes, Council Member

**STAFF PRESENT**

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

**ABSENT:**

Sonny Wilkinson, Vice-Mayor

**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 gave the invocation and led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ITEM III.        APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MARCH 1, 2021.**

The Mayor asked if there were any corrections, additions or deletions to the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on March 1, 2021. There were none. Council Member Graham moved the approval of the minutes of the March 1, 2021 meeting, as written. Council Member Cummings seconded the motion. The vote: Yea – Cummings, Symes, Graham 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.

Vivian A. Miller, 9612 Nichols Road, appeared before the Council to complain about a situation involving her neighbor at 9617 North Georgia. Ms. Miller told the Council about her inability to get the owner of the home, Mr. Kyle Noe, to help replace the fence between the two properties. Ms. Miller told the Council that she and her husband put a new fence up at her own



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expense, but that Mr. Noe's renters have damaged the fence and that she does not intend to call Mr. Noe because he has been rude and uncooperative in the past.

Ms. Miller also told the Council about past problems with renters who have had dogs that have jumped up against the fence and come into her yard. Council Member Symes asked if the dogs are still a problem. Ms. Miller stated that the dogs belonged to previous renters and were not a problem now.

Council Member Cummings asked if the neighbor's tree branches are still on her fence. Ms. Miller advised that this problem has been resolved.

Assistant City Attorney Jeff Sabin advised that the issue with the fence is a civil matter between the Millers and Mr. Noe and not something the City can do anything about. Mr. Sabin advised that one option would be for Ms. Miller to file a claim against the landlord in Small Claims Court.

Scott Bowen, 2248 Dublin Road, appeared before the Council to make another appeal to be allowed to build a carport at his home. The city manager advised that the setback requirements for carports changed recently and that the Building Inspector should look at this location again to determine if the new regulations make a carport possible.

Jane Lowther shared her idea for citizens to burn a red light on their porch during the month of April to show their support and appreciation for The Village Fire Department.

Jane Lowther read a letter recognizing Larry Walton for his 55 years of service to the City of The Village. *(A copy of the letter is attached to the minutes)*

Carol Jensen told the Council that her neighbor with the Knox Box has fallen two more times since she first reported this to the Council. Ms. Jensen stated that the Knox Box is proving its worth.

The Council all agreed that The Village Police and Fire Departments do a great job serving our community.

**ITEM V: CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 03-01-2021 (A) APPROVING A CHANGE ORDER TO CONTRACT WITH JENCO CONSTRUCTION FOR ADDITIONAL PHASE II PARK IMPROVEMENTS IN DUFFNER AND HARRISON PARKS.**

City Manager Bruce Stone advised that LAUD Studio recommends that a portion of the surplus Phase II park funds be used to make additional improvements to Harrison Park and Duffner. Mr. Stone showed the Council illustrations explaining the proposed additional work. Mr. Stone explained that the change order would provide for the completion of sidewalk at both



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Harrison Park and Duffner Parks and would add a total of 32 trees, 18 of which would be in Duffner Park and 14 in Harrison Park. Mr. Stone told the Council that the Change Order, if approved, would add \$80,218.10 or 15% to the contract with Jenco.

Mr. Stone also advised that the Friendship Swing for Meeker Park would cost an additional \$2,194.50.

After a brief discussion, Council Member Graham moved to approve Resolution 03-15-2021 (A). Council Member Cummings seconded the motion. The vote: Yea – Symes, Graham, Bennett and Cummings. Nay – none.

**ITEM VI. DISCUSSION OF THE DISCONTINUATION OF CERTAIN EMERGENCY MEASURES RELATED TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE RELAXATION OF OR CHANGES TO MANDATORY FACE COVERING/MASK REQUIREMENTS.**

City Manager Bruce Stone advised that he was asked to place this on the agenda for discussion by the Council. Mr. Stone advised that the purpose of the discussion is to attempt to reach consensus on the appropriate timing to relax or discontinue certain emergency measures related to the pandemic.

Council Member Graham stated that he would like the City to continue to follow Oklahoma City's lead on the mandates.

The city manager advised that officials at the Oklahoma City County Health Department (OCCHD) are cautiously optimistic about the statewide numbers, which indicate that the State has met their goal of five (5) percent or less in positive test rates for the coronavirus, however, the officials also say that Oklahoma County still has a way to go before it meets stated goals. Mr. Stone advised that OCCHD is encouraging cities in the County to not rush to end mask mandates at this time as officials are concerned of the spread of new variants of the virus and the possibility of a surge in COVID cases after Spring Break.

Mayor Bennett and Council Member Symes both stated that it would be best to continue to follow Oklahoma City's lead on this issue and to wait until OKC's mandate expires on April 30<sup>th</sup>.

After a discussion, the Council agreed that The Village should continue to follow Oklahoma City's lead on the emergency measures and to wait and see what actions Oklahoma City takes at the end of April when their mask mandate is set to expire.

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

a) ***Review of Expenditures.*** *The Council reviewed the Expenditure Report.*



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**b) Manager's Report.**

*City Manager Bruce Stone reported that the monthly Sales Tax check was for \$784,105.71, which is an increase of \$292,018 or 37.24% over the same period last year. Mr. Stone also reported that Use Tax was \$165,179, which is an increase of \$70,994 or 42.98% over the same period last year.*

*Mr. Stone reported that Traffic Signals, Inc., has started work to install new signalization at Britton and Penn but that progress is slow.*

*They city manager reported that the owner of the home at Village Drive and Andover would be hiring a contractor to remove the tree or fallen portions thereof. Mr. Stone advised that this relieves the City of the need to hire a contractor to abate the nuisance. Mr. Stone told the Council that Code Enforcement did not find a boat parked anywhere in this area.*

*Mr. Stone advised that there is still time to nominate a candidate for election to the OMAG Board of Directors, if so desired by the Council.*

*The city manager showed the Council several graphs illustrating statewide sales and use tax collections for 2019 and 2020. Mr. Stone advised that the graphs were prepared by the Oklahoma City Treasurer's office and show that combined sales and use tax for cities indicate that cities in the state generally fared well financially during the pandemic.*

*Mr. Stone reported that retired police officer, Jim Rossi passed away at the age of 82. The City Treasurer told the Council that graveside services would be held at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> at Memorial Park Cemetery in Edmond.*

*The city manager reported that Terracon performed follow up stormwater sampling on Village Drive and found that elevated levels of chlorine are still present from Carlton Way all the way to Village Drive and Downing. Mr. Stone advised that the samples were taken at a time where there were several large water main breaks in the area. Mr. Stone noted that the Nichols Hills water tower on Greystone could also be causing an issue as the tower's float valve does not always shut the water off when the tower is full.*

*Mr. Stone reported that the Oklahoma Municipal League has provided an estimate of the amount of federal money cities in Oklahoma would receive pursuant to the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. Mr. Stone advised that The Village is expected to receive \$1.54 million over the next year.*



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c) **Monthly Department Reports.** *The city manager reviewed selected portions of the Finance Report, Police Report, Fire Report, Public Works Report and Building & Code reports for the month of February 2021.*

d) **Reports from Council.**

*Council Member Symes asked about progress on the engineering analysis of Lakeside Drive. Mr. Stone advised that core samples have been taken and that the consulting engineers are encouraged by what the data shows. Mr. Stone advised that the engineers plan to schedule a meeting with Public Works to ask a few questions about the project.*

*Council Member Symes asked about the proposed redevelopment on the corner of Britton and May (Village Corner PUD). Mr. Stone advised that he had not heard anything from the developer and did not know the status of the project at this time.*

*Council Member Symes told the Council that his grandson made the winning goal and led his basketball team to victory in the State Championship game.*

*Council Member Cummings asked if there would be a City-Wide Garage Sale this spring. The city manager advised that the City-Wide Garage Sale would be on May 7, 8 and 9<sup>th</sup>.*

*Council Member Cummings asked how the search for a new Court Clerk was going. City Treasurer Beverly Whitener advised that several interviews have been completed and that a few more interviews are to be scheduled before a selection can be made.*

*Mayor Bennett stated that he has had questions about faded street name signs. The city manager advised that Public Works budgets several thousand dollars a year for street sign replacement. Mr. Stone advised that residents may report faded signs and that an effort would be made to get them replaced.*

*Mayor Bennett gave the Council a brief report on the meeting between residents on Georgia Avenue and Casady School pertaining to the widening of the school's service road and the installation of a new fence on the property line between the school and adjacent residences.*

### **ITEM VIII: NEW BUSINESS.**

There was no New Business to come before the Council.



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**ITEM IX: ADJOURNMENT**

There was no further business and Mayor Bennett adjourned the meeting at 9:38 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

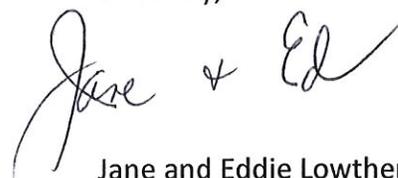
\_\_\_\_\_  
Council Member Cummings

The residents of The Village are honored to have had such a loyal employee as Larry Walton. He has been an employee since March 27, 1966, a total of 55 years! We are bowled over with that amount of time he has diligently come to work and directed his energy and time to a job well done on a daily basis. There hasn't ever been a time when I have asked for his assistance that he doesn't go above and beyond to help. Every single Village Fall Festival he has been present setting up equipment, moving items, installing tents, providing chairs or extra trash receptacles and making each festival a huge success and this is just one example.

On a personal note, the year of my 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, 2009, I worked the festival and was in my tent all day long. Larry and his crew were by several times during the day offering refreshments or bathroom breaks, which was helpful and I appreciated. When the festival concluded, here came Larry with a golf cart and helped to dismantle my area and get equipment squared away in record time. I was through and the area cleaned a lot faster than I expected! Little did I know that my children had planned a surprise party and Larry was in on it and made sure I was out of Duffner Park and on my way home and never gave me a glimpse of what was in store for us! It's a great example of the extra miles he will go, to keep the wheel turning and in constant motion. Later, my husband ran into Larry and he asked about our anniversary and shared that he knew all about the party and had directed everyone to clear our area out FIRST!

Larry Walton is the kind of employee everyone imagines they want (and probably won't ever find). He has all the skills and is conscientious of his job and directs in an easy-going, likeable manner that is admired by all. The men at the Works Department are like family and it is because of Larry's direction. He goes above and beyond and we owe a huge vote of gratitude for all that he has provided to make our fair city such a well-run one. It doesn't matter if you need assistance with a trash can or hauling away the contents of a dilapidated shed, to providing cones at our Halloween drive-through, or whatever, Larry is the man. I so admire and appreciate the loyalty and the job he does on a consistent basis. He has been employed longer than any other Village employee and I wish we had a marquee that others could read as they drive down one of our major thoroughfares, and could note our good fortune in having Larry Walton guide our Works Department. His untiring work ethics speaks volumes and I don't know what The Village provides for that many years of employment but I am afraid it won't be nearly enough. Larry is an institution and a pillar of support in every area of our city. We are grateful he chose to work for our city and our honored for him to have invested so many years with us. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jane & Ed". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed names of the signatories.

Jane and Eddie Lowther

(and many of The Village residents)