



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
April 5, 2021

The City Council of the City of The Village, Oklahoma, met in Regular Session on Monday, April 5, 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
Bubba Symes, Council Member

STAFF PRESENT

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

ABSENT:

Adam Graham, Council Member

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 15, 2021.

The Mayor asked if there were any corrections, additions or deletions to the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on March 15, 2021. There were none. Council Member Cummings moved the approval of the minutes of the March 15, 2021 meeting, as written. Council Member Symes seconded the motion. The vote: Yea – Symes, Wilkinson, Bennett, and Cummings. 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.

Robin Sears and Sherry Fare appeared before the Council to present information about Prevent Child Abuse America and Child Abuse Prevention Month. The representatives told the Council about various programs that would take place in April to raise awareness about Child Abuse and its negative impact on children, which includes severe, costly, and lifelong problems affecting all of society, physical and mental health problems, school failure and criminal behavior.



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The Council discussed ways to get this message out to the community and to help raise public awareness of the need to prevent child abuse and neglect by promoting awareness of healthy child development and positive parenting practices.

a) Proclamation 04-05-2021 (A) – Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Mayor Bennett read aloud Proclamation 04-05-2021 (A) proclaiming April as Child Abuse Prevention Month in The Village.

Kate Sanders from The Village Library gave the Council a report on upcoming programs and activities at The Village Library.

Jane Lowther told the Council that one of the park benches in Meeker Park is splintered and needs repair. Ms. Lowther also asked if it would be possible to keep the large slide in the park as she still sees many children enjoying it. After a brief discussion, the Council agreed to consider either keeping the slide as is, upgrading it, or obtaining a new, large slide for the park.

Carol Jensen stated that she also would like to see the slide preserved.

The Council discussed various needs for the parks including more pickleball courts and lighting and practice backboards for the tennis courts.

Melodie Moore, 9421 North Georgia, appeared before the Council and asked about sanitation trucks working on Saturday. The city manager advised that sanitation trucks (The City's contractor) may run on Saturdays but not before 6:00 a.m. Ms. Moore also told the Council that she noticed bulk waste was not picked up in her area as scheduled today. The city manager advised that the company had a substitute driver on the route and that might be the reason the area was missed. Mr. Stone advised residents to keep their bulk trash at curbside and that Waste Connections would catch up as soon as possible.

ITEM V: CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 04-05-2021 (A) DECLARING A 1986 CHEVROLET PICKUP TRUCK SURPLUS AND OBSOLETE AND AUTHORIZING ITS SALE OR DISPOSAL.

City Manager Bruce Stone told the Council that The Village Police Department acquired a 1986 Chevrolet Pickup Truck about thirty (30) years ago in connection with a drug arrest and that the vehicle became City property pursuant to asset seizure and forfeiture regulations and laws in effect in at that time. Mr. Stone advised that the vehicle was used many years by undercover investigators and then was transferred to the Building & Code Department where it was used until earlier this year. Mr. Stone advised that the vehicle is no longer needed for use by the City and should be sold.



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After a brief discussion, Vice-Mayor Wilkinson moved to approve Resolution 04-05-2021 (A) declaring a 1986 Chevrolet pickup surplus and obsolete and authorizing its sale. Council Member Cummings seconded the motion. The vote: Yea – Symes, Wilkinson, Bennett, and Cummings. Nay – none.

ITEM VI: CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 04-05-2021 (B) AUTHORIZING A PILOT PROGRAM FOR THE INSTALLATION OF SPEED HUMPS ON CERTAIN RESIDENTIAL STREETS.

The city manager advised that the Council approved \$15,000 in the current Capital Improvement Budget for the acquisition of (3) speed humps (speed cushions) to test their effectiveness and acceptance by the public. Mr. Stone advised that the Chief of Police has suggested several locations where the Council might wish to test the speed control devices.

After a discussion, the Council decided to place the speed cushions in areas where numerous speeding complaints have been received from residents and directed that speed cushions not be placed on new pavement at this time. The locations designated by the Council were in the 2100-2200 Block of Carlton Way and in the 2400-2500 Block of Carlton Way. The Council briefly discussed other locations where speed cushions might be considered in the future including Nichols Road both north and south of Britton. Ridgeview, Sunnymeade, Lakeside Drive (West of May), Stratford Drive and Hidden Village Drive were also mentioned as possible streets for speed cushions.

Vice-Mayor Wilkinson moved to approve Resolution 04-05-2021 (B) authorizing the placement of three speed cushions on Carlton Way as a pilot program to test their effectiveness and acceptance by the public. Council Member Cummings seconded the motion. The vote: Yea – Symes, Wilkinson, Bennett, and Cummings. Nay – none.

ITEM VII: REPORTS, CORRESPONDENCE, ETC.

a) ***Review of Expenditures.*** *The Council reviewed the Expenditure Report and highlighted certain expenditures that might be of interest to the Council.*

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

City Manager Bruce Stone reported that Traffic Signals, Inc. is finally making some progress with the installation of new signalization at Britton & Penn. Mr. Stone told the Council that all four (4) of the foundations for the new poles have been poured. Mr. Stone further advised that four (4) damaged concrete drain inlets on the southeast corner of the intersection need to be replaced with ones using steel hoods. Mr. Stone advised that these are not in the contract with TSI and that the City is seeking bids to have them installed.



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The city manager reported that the City's request to FEMA for Ice Storm reimbursement was approximately \$1,341,000 and that the paperwork has been reviewed by State Emergency Management and approved for submittal to FEMA for payment. Mr. Stone advised that this request exceeds \$1 million and that the project will, therefore, be subject to mandatory audit. Mr. Stone advised that the City's reimbursement from FEMA is expected to be \$850,500 and that he does not expect the state to participate in the local match as was typical for previous disasters. Council Member Symes stated that the lack of state participation should be explained.

Mr. Stone reported that Rudy Construction plans to begin Sidewalk Project #1 on Wednesday, April 7. Mr. Stone advised that work would start at Ridgeview and proceed south on Penn to Westchester. Mr. Stone told the Council that there are two trees which must be removed on Penn between Fremont and Gladstone.

The city manager showed the Council charts that illustrate sales tax collections during the month of March. Mr. Stone told the Council that the large increase in sales tax for the month of March can be attributed to the sale of Esperanza's inventory and equipment to the new owner of Uptown Market, Pruett Foods.

Mr. Stone briefly reviewed the monthly finance report. Mr. Stone told the Council that the City quickly made it back into the black by the end of February, even without the anticipated FEMA reimbursement money. Mr. Stone reported that the City's surplus cash balance is up by \$343,629.52 year-to-date. Mr. Stone further reported that expenditures are ¼% over budget and revenue collections are more than 5% over budget.

The city manager reported that the Oklahoma Humane Society will hold a Spay & Neuter Clinic in Duffner Park on May 12th.

Mr. Stone reported that Waste Connections will increase rates for solid waste collection and disposal and residential recycling service by 1.68% effective July 1, 2021. Mr. Stone advised that the City's contract with Waste Connections allows rates to be increase by the Consumer Price Index but not more than 2% in any contract year.

The city manager showed the Council a picture of a new fixture that staff would like to add to the splashpad using Park Bond funds. Mr. Stone advised that the cost of the new fixture would be approximately \$7,000.

c) Reports from Council.

Council member Symes asked about the engineering study for pavement on Lakeside Drive. Assistant City Attorney Jeff Sabin advised that a Zoom teleconference was held last week with Public Works to answer questions from the consulting engineer about the project.



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Vice-Mayor Wilkinson stated that he notices a lot of storm debris left in the streets and wondered if the Street Department could use temporary/seasonal employees to sweep the worst areas. The city manager advised that this has been done before and that funds could be budgeted again for that purpose.

Vice-Mayor Wilkinson told the Council that he sees a lot of cars at the oil lube business across from Britton Square. Mr. Stone advised that the tenant has been advised that car sales are not allowed in this zoning district but, apparently, he is ignoring the regulations. Mr. Stone advised that the Building Inspector will be asked to investigate this matter and to take appropriate enforcement action.

Vice-Mayor Wilkinson asked the Public Works department to look at several concrete channel panels in Hawthorn that might need repair, maintenance, or replacement.

Vice-Mayor Wilkinson asked Code Enforcement to reassess the condition of the two abated properties owned by Jerry Gaines on Greystone and Sunnymede and see what more can be done to clean the properties up.

Council Member Cummings told the Council that the Pine Pantry at Andrew Johnson Elementary School has been vandalized again and that the school's security system does not appear to be working. Council Member Cummings asked for additional police patrol and that information about the Pine Pantry be posted on the City's webpage.

Council Member Cummings told the Council that Movie Night in the Park would return on May 29th in Duffner Park.

Council Member Cummings reported that she participated in a bike ride with Nichols Hills Elementary School children riding from the school to Johnnies. Council Member Cummings advised that the ride was organized by Mary Lou Lutz and that she loves the City's multipath. Mayor Bennett greeted the kids as they arrived at Johnnies.

Mayor Bennett told the Council about the monthly sidewalk sale at Britton Square and stated he was happy to see that The Village Animal Welfare had a booth at the event.

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 9:15 p.m.

Mayor Bennett

Vice-Mayor Wilkinson

Council Member Graham

Council Member Symes

City Clerk

Council Member Cummings