



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
January 17, 2023

The City Council of the City of The Village, Oklahoma, met in regular session at City Hall on Tuesday, January 17, 2023, at 6:30 p.m., at 2304 Manchester Drive.

COUNCIL PRESENT

Sonny Wilkinson, Mayor
Wynter Griffis, Vice-Mayor
David Glover, Council Member
Sean Cummings, Council Member

STAFF PRESENT

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

ABSENT

Bubba Symes, Council Member

ITEM I: CALL TO ORDER.

Mayor Wilkinson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

ITEM II. INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Mayor Wilkinson gave the Invocation and led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM III: APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 3, 2023, AND JANUARY 10, 2023.

The mayor asked if there were any corrections, additions, or deletions to the Minutes of the meetings held on January 3rd and January 10th, 2023. There were none and the Minutes were approved as written.

ITEM IV: CITIZENS DESIRING TO BE HEARD, PROCLAMATIONS, PRESENTATIONS.

Jacob Hershel gave the Council a report on activities and programs at The Village Library.

Jane Lowther reminded the Council of the date and time for the next SALT program and encouraged people to participate in the program.

Ms. Lowther read a letter stating her feelings about the impending retirement of Bruce Stone and Beverly Whitener. Ms. Lowther stated that the two are the “backbone” of our City and that she would miss their presence. Ms. Lowther further stated that she hopes to call on the two to help with the fall festival and to participate in other city events in the future.



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The Mayor skipped to Agenda Item IX.

ITEM V: CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 01-17-2023 (A) DECLARING CERTAIN PROPERTY SURPLUS AND OBSOLETE AND AUTHORIZING ITS SALE OR DISPOSAL.

After a brief discussion, Mayor Wilkinson moved to approve Resolution 01-17-2023 (A) declaring certain property surplus and authorizing its sale or disposal. Council Member Cummings seconded the motion. The vote: Yea – Cummings, Griffis, Wilkinson, and Glover. Nay – none.

ITEM VI: CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 01-17-2023 (B) ACCEPTING A PERMANENT UTILITY EASEMENT GRANTED BY LEGACY ON PENN APARTMENTS, LIMITED PARTNERSHIP.

City Manager Bruce Stone explained that the City's sewage outfall line located near 115th Street must be relocated to make way for a new apartment complex being built just to the south of The Village Public Works facility. Mr. Stone advised that the city engineer has approved the plans for the new line and ODEQ approval is pending. Mr. Stone advised that a new utility easement is needed for the new section of line.

After a brief discussion, Mayor Wilkinson moved to approve Resolution 01-17-2023 (B) accepting a permanent utility easement granted by Legacy on Penn Apartments. Council Member Glover seconded the motion. The vote: Yea – Cummings, Griffis, Wilkinson, and Glover. Nay – none.

ITEM VII: CONSIDERATION OF INTERIM CITY MANAGER AND INDEPENDENT CONSULTING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF THE VILLAGE AND BRUCE STONE.

Mayor Wilkinson asked Mr. Stone if he concurs with the terms of the agreement. Mr. Stone advised that the agreement is fine.

City Attorney advised that the agreement provides for Mr. Stone to act as Interim City Manager effective February 1 to February 28. Mr. Sabin advised that after February 28th, Mr. Stone would serve as Independent Consultant.

After a brief discussion, Mayor Wilkinson moved to approve the agreement with Bruce Stone. Vice-Mayor Griffis seconded the motion. The vote: Yea – Cummings, Griffis, Wilkinson, and Glover. Nay – none.

ITEM VIII: CONSIDERATION OF INDEPENDENT CONSULTING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF THE VILLAGE AND BEVERLY WHITENER.



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After a brief discussion, Mayor Wilkinson moved to approve the agreement with Beverly Whitener. Council Member Cummings seconded the motion. The vote: Yea – Cummings, Griffis, Wilkinson, and Glover. Nay – none.

Vice-Mayor Griffis thanked both Bruce and Beverly for their service to the City of The Village.

ITEM IX: CONSIDERATION OF EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT FOR NEW CITY MANAGER DAVE SLEZICKEY.

Mayor Wilkinson welcomed Dave Slezcicky as the new City Manager.

Incoming City Manager, Dave Slezcicky, briefly addressed the Council and stated that he is excited to be coming on board and being a part of the community. Mr. Slezcicky told the Council that the City of Kingfisher might need him to stay on the job until March 1 in order to give the city time to recruit a replacement and to help make the transition go smoothly.

Mayor Wilkinson told Mr. Slezcicky that the Council was unanimous on the decision to appoint him as the next City Manager of The Village.

City Attorney Jeff Sabin recommended that the employment agreement be amended to leave the start date blank.

After a brief discussion, Mayor Wilkinson moved to approve the Employment Agreement with Dave Slezcicky with the recommended amendment. Council Member Cummings seconded the motion. The vote: Yea – Cummings, Griffis, Wilkinson, and Glover. Nay – none.

The Mayor returned to Agenda Item V.

ITEM X: REPORTS, CORRESPONDENCE, ETC.

a) Review of Expenditures: *The Council reviewed the expenditure reports. The city manager explained several of the items on the expenditure list.*

b) Manager's Report: *City Manager Bruce Stone reported as follows:*

*The monthly **Sales Tax** check for January was \$525,390, which is \$9,743 or 1.89% more than for the same period last year. The **Use Tax** check was for \$166,659, which is an increase of \$22,586 or 15.68% over the same period last year.*

Gladstone Drainage Project. *Brewer Construction started work on the Gladstone Drainage project on January 3 and found a 2" gas line in the middle of the reinforced concrete box*



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to be constructed at Village Drive and Gladstone. Martie Oyler, Regional Manager for ONG, was able to help resolve this problem in just two working days. Brewer Construction will be permitted to put a metal sleeve over the pipe and ONG will relocate the line at a later date. An OKC water line is also in the way, and the conflict is being resolved in a similar way. The bottom of the box has already been poured.

Meeker Channel Stabilization: *CP Integrated Services started work on the Meeker Channel Stabilization Project and recommends that approximately 130 feet concrete channel bottom be replaced. Mr. Stone suggested that unexpended funds for Sidewalk Project 6 be used to replace the broken bottom sections. The cost will be approximately \$30,000. Public Works is also working with the contractor to make changes in the field to move Fleximat where it is needed the most.*

TIF #1 Project: *Vineyard Boulevard has been poured from Manchester all the way to the bridge on Vineyard Boulevard. The contractor started to pour the remaining amount of Vineyard Boulevard from the bridge to Penn this week. The gaps in the paving are on hold until storm drainpipe is delivered. All the curb and gutter and islands for the library parking lot have been poured and the surface is ready for asphalt overlay. Work on the pavilion will start soon. Construction of the cul-de-sac by the tank battery is on hold until at least late February pending the relocation of an abandoned gas line by ONG.*

Beverly's Retirement Letter. *Mr. Stone noted the retirement letter submitted by Beverly Whitener and said it made him laugh and cry.*

Phase III Park Bids. *Changes to the scope of the project will ostensibly bring the cost under budget with some money left for contingencies. Rudy Construction is reviewing the proposed revisions and a meeting with Rudy Construction will take place on January 19th.*

Mr. Stone showed the Council pictures of the Street Department replacing curb on May Avenue and repairing a section of pavement at Lakeshore and Kerry Lane. Mr. Stone told the Council that Street Department workers do great work and Jeremy Dillberg, the new Street Superintendent is a "go getter" and loves to do concrete work.

The Council briefly discussed a letter from the State pertaining to illegal tobacco sales to minors at a local business. Mayor Wilkinson stated that this is a waste of tax dollars by the State and that the funds could be used for a better purpose.

The Village 5-Year Capital Plan. *The city manager reported that the Five-year Capital Plan has been updated. Mr. Stone stated that the plan will change many times as the City goes forward as the result of changing priorities and funding, but the plan provides valuable information about upcoming bond projects and other capital needs, which should be helpful for the new administration. The plan incorporates some of the projects that members of the Council have discussed as improvements they would like to see in the future. The Council briefly discussed the "phasing-in" of a take home car program for The Village Police.*



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Dorothy Henson asked when her street (Downing west of Village Drive) would be resurfaced. Mr. Stone advised that this street is slated for resurfacing in 2024 after the next bond sale takes place. Ms. Henson stated that the City only spends money in the Council's favorite areas. Mayor Wilkinson replied that the City has spent millions of dollars south of Britton Road and many more projects are on the way for that area as well.

Council Member Cummings shared information about an innovative pothole patch material developed by university students using corn starch.

c) Reports from Council

Council Member Cummings told the Council that MWC experimented with RoundABOUTs and found that they did not work.

Vice-Mayor Griffis asked if any members of the Council were using Kroger's delivery service. This led to a discussion of sales tax remittances by the company. Mr. Stone advised that the Oklahoma Tax Commission recently fielded a question about this and advised that the total sales tax remitted by Kroger for the entire state was miniscule and that remittances for the City of The Village were less than \$100 for the entire year.

Vice-Mayor Griffis reminded the Council that Beverly Whitener's retirement party would be on February 8.

Council Member Glover reminded citizens to apply for Absentee Ballots before January 30. Council Member Glover also noted that polling places and precinct boundaries have changed in some cases. Council Member Glover encouraged people to call the County Election Board at 405-713-1515 if they have questions.

The city manager reported the OKC has been made aware of the potential damage to the street in the 2600 Block of Lakeside due to a water break. Mr. Stone advised that OKC has acknowledged the water break and would keep an eye on the street.

Beverly Whitener told the Council that she has enjoyed working with the Council.

Mayor Wilkinson thanked Bruce Stone and Beverly Whitener again for their lengthy service to the City of The Village.



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ITEM XI: ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:02 p.m.

Mayor Wilkinson

Vice-Mayor Wynter Griffis

Council Member Symes

Council Member Cummings

City Clerk

Council Member Glover

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I could discuss other things but wanted to concentrate on what's at hand tonight at this council meeting. Usually, I bring a list of things that I have observed or residents of Casady Manor have called me about but tonight, I have come with mixed emotions as this is Beverly and Bruce's last council meeting that they will attend as the city treasurer and city manager. It's kind of like saying goodbye to a favorite neighbor that you have visited with for many, many years and they are moving away. I have grown attached to them being a part of our city's government, the backbone of our area and both of them will be sorely missed. They are both hard acts to follow and speaking as a resident, I wish them well, and for them to enjoy their retirement but don't disappear. I expect to see them at future events and to keep in touch.

Jane Lowther