

MINUTES OF THE PONCA CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD 8.25.25

Mayor DJ Smith called the meeting to order after the Public Hearing that started at 7:00 PM on Monday, August 25th, 2025, and referenced the meeting recording process, optional sign-in sheet and Open Meetings Law posting. All those present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Council members, Kristie Henjes, Josh Blatchford, Eric Bevelhymmer, Dillon Rickett, and Ron Mahler were present for Roll Call. Excused was Dacia Jensen. Prior notice of the meeting and agenda were provided to the Mayor and all Members of the Governing Body. Notice of the meeting was distributed and posted at the Ponca City Hall, US Post Office-Ponca, Ponca City Library, Bank of Dixon County, Keller's Pharmacy, and the Dixon County Courthouse.

Mayor Communications

None.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Smith stated to the Governing Body that the City Clerk-Finance Directors' August Claims & Accounts Payable Report, Fund Balance/Treasurers Report, City Budget Cash Report, General Journal Entry Report, Bank Statements and Check Register Report, and NPAIT statements were included in the Council Meeting Package sent out. A Motion was made by Blatchford and a second by Mahler to approve the Consent Agenda. The following Councilmembers voting "YEA": Henjes, Blatchford, Rickett, Mahler, Bevelhymmer. Councilmembers voting "NAY": None. Motion passed 5-0.

Proclamations, Presentations. Appointments, Affirmations & Introductions

Reports & Updates

Travis Olander gave the City Administrator's Update and Street Update. He has been working with Chad and Steve on the Water Project and West Street. Employee evaluations are completed. He has reached out to the tree board for their removal and replanting decision for 2025-2026. He has also reached out to technology and security companies for bids to apply for a grant to secure the water tower. Mowing has continued and new planters that were ordered are in place on East Street and trees have been trimmed. Johnson service has been to town and worked on clearing culverts on Fourth street.

Steve Brinkmann updated the council on the water/sewer department. He has had 24 one calls. Johnson Service also cleaned out meter pits and some sewer manholes. Met with Chad to discuss filling new water tower while old tank is still in service. Electricians have been to the water tower and power has been hooked up. P&E will hook water up to Friendship Park bathrooms with the new meter. Along with repairing a couple of curb stops. He has submitted a new Lead Service Line Inventory to NEDEE. That must be updated every year, and letters have been sent out to property owners who still need to inform the city of their service line material. He had helped lay asphalt and worked on Well #2 behind the Blacksmith Shop. The valve is leaking and will work on getting it replaced as it is too old to repair. It is currently shut off at the main by Third Street.

Code Enforcement was not present, nothing was submitted.

The library board was not present, nothing was submitted.

The Volunteer Fire and Rescue submitted their report.

City Attorney's Report

Matt states that he has worked with City Staff on zoning questions and personnel issues and public records request.

Public Hearings

None.

Unfinished Business

None.

Agenda Comments/Speakers

None.

New Business

Discussion continued about garbage services for the city. Council members were asked to gather more public input and discuss at this meeting. Public opinion was gathered by council members by researching google reviews, looking at communities that other trash collectors serviced, by going door to door to receive input, or just by talking to residents. There was a mixture of pros and cons with this discussion. For as many good comments about our current service there were as many complaints. A motion was made by Mahler to continue with Gill Hauling for trash service. There was not a second on the motion. The motion died. A motion was made by Blatchford to end trash services with Gill Hauling at the end of our contract and utilize S2 Refuse and Recycling for trash collection. The motion was seconded by Henjes. Councilmembers voting "YEA": Bevelhymer, Blatchford, Henjes, Rickett. Voting "NAY": Mahler. Motion passed 4-1.

Smith presented a proposal to purchase .32 acres from Doug Rickett that the City is currently utilizing at the dump. The property has been surveyed, and the .32 acres is owned by Rickett. Rickett proposed that the city purchase the property for 2 thousand dollars and closing costs. After discussion, a purchase agreement will be presented to the Council at the September meeting. No Action Taken.

Schweers presented Pay Estimate 10 to Maguire Iron for \$186,300.00. Chad Kehrt stated this payment will be contingent on the following requirements: trash needs to be removed, the tornado siren needs to be installed, and the erosion control needs to be addressed. A motion was made by Henjes and seconded by Blatchford to approve Pay Estimate 10 with the added requirements. Councilmembers voting "YEA": Bevelhymer, Blatchford, Henjes, Mahler, Rickett. Voting "NAY": none. Motion passed 5-0.

Schweers presented Pay Estimate 3 to Steve Harris for \$225,397.94. This is the balance up to the 10% that was held until all work is completed. A motion to approve Pay Estimate 3 was made by Rickett and seconded by Bevelhymer. Councilmembers voting "YEA": Bevelhymer, Blatchford, Henjes, Mahler, Rickett. Voting "NAY": none. Motion passed 5-0.

Schweers presented a change order on the water tower portion of the project submitted by Chad Kehrt. With the changes, the city will be credited \$3,764. A motion to approve the change order was made by Bevelhymer and seconded by Henjes. Councilmembers voting "YEA": Bevelhymer, Blatchford, Henjes, Mahler, Rickett. Voting "NAY": none. Motion passed 5-0.

Brinkmann submitted a bid from Electric Pump in the amount of \$11,618.16. This is to replace the recirculation pump at the sewer plant. This is normal maintenance of the plant. A motion to approve the bid for \$11,618.16 was made by Blatchford and seconded by Rickett. Councilmembers voting "YEA": Bevelhymer, Blatchford, Henjes, Mahler, Rickett. Councilmembers voting "NAY": none. Motion passed 5-0.

Olander presented 2 bids for replacing the Street Truck. The goal is to keep his current truck so that there are 3 trucks able to move snow. The white truck will then be discussed to go to sale via sealed bid. A motion was made by Blatchford and seconded by Rickett to accept the bid from Ford in the amount of \$47,700. Councilmembers voting "YEA": Bevelhymer, Blatchford, Henjes, Mahler, Rickett. Councilmembers voting "NAY": none. Motion passed 5-0.

Olander presented the current lease for Bobcat. The lease is the same as the last 2 years and the total is \$6,250.00. A motion was made by Rickett and seconded by Henjes to approve the bobcat lease. Councilmembers voting "YEA": Bevelhymer, Blatchford, Henjes, Mahler, Rickett. Voting "NAY": none. Motion passed 5-0.

Schweers presented Resolution 2025-04; Signing of the Municipal Annual Certification of Program Compliance. This resolution is signed every year so we can keep up to date with Highway Allocations. A motion was made by Bevelhymer and seconded by Rickett to approve Resolution 2025-04. Councilmembers voting "YEA": Bevelhymer, Blatchford, Henjes, Mahler, Rickett. Councilmembers voting "NAY": none. Motion passed 5-0.

Schweers presented Resolution 2025-05; Adopting Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Update. This was drafted by the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resource District and the Lewis and Clark Natural Resource District. All communities in their district are being asked to update to this mitigation plan. A motion to approve Resolution 2025-05 was made by Bevelhymer and seconded by Blatchford. Councilmembers voting "YEA": Bevelhymer, Blatchford, Henjes, Mahler, Rickett. Voting "NAY": none.

Schweers presented to the council that Fire and Rescue would like to open a CD in the amount of \$25,000 at the Bank of Dixon County. They have had more revenue with the new billing service that was hired, and this amount is after operating expenses are met. A motion to open a CD at the Bank of Dixon County in the amount of \$25,000 was made by Henjes and seconded by Bevelhymmer. Councilmembers voting "YEA": Bevelhymmer, Blatchford, Henjes, Mahler, Rickett. Voting "NAY": none. Motion passed 5-0.

Schweers presented 2 bids for Christmas Lights for downtown. The current lights are 15 plus years old and not all of them are working. A motion to approve the bid for \$9,241.90 was made by Blatchford and seconded by Henjes. Councilmembers voting "YEA": Blatchford, Henjes, Mahler. Voting "NAY": Bevelhymmer, Rickett. Motion passed 3-2.

Schweers presented final draft of the Ordinance 489, 2025-2026 Wages to be in effect on October 1st, 2025. A motion to waive the 3-reading rule was made by Bevelhymmer and seconded by Rickett. Councilmembers voting "YEA": Bevelhymmer, Blatchford, Henjes, Mahler, Rickett. Voting "NAY": none. Motion passed 5-0. A motion was made by Bevelhymmer and seconded by Rickett to approve Ordinance 489 effective October 1st, 2025. Councilmembers voting "YEA": Bevelhymmer, Blatchford, Henjes, Mahler, Rickett. Voting "NAY": none. Motion passed 5-0.

Schweers presented Ordinance 490, 2025-2026 Utility Rates to be in effect October 1, 2025. A motion to waive the 3-reading rule was made by Blatchford and seconded by Bevelhymmer. Councilmembers voting "YEA": Bevelhymmer, Blatchford, Henjes, Mahler, Rickett. Voting "NAY": none. Motion passed 5-0. A motion was made by Blatchford and seconded by Bevelhymmer to approve Ordinance 490; 2025-2026 Utility Rates to be effect October 1, 2025. Councilmembers voting "YEA": Bevelhymmer, Blatchford, Henjes, Mahler, Rickett. Voting "NAY": none. Motion passed 5-0.

Schweers presented the current fee schedule. Discussion was had on what to change for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. Changes will be made and presented for vote in September. No Action Taken.

Schweers presented date and time for the Public Hearing for the 2025-2026 fiscal year budget. A motion was made to set the date for September 29th, 2025, at 630 PM for Public Hearing by Bevelhymmer and seconded by Blatchford. Councilmembers voting "YEA": Bevelhymmer, Blatchford, Henjes, Mahler, Rickett. Voting "NAY": none. Motion passed 5-0.

Schweers suggested moving the Council Meeting in December from December 29th to December 22nd to allow time for claim payments to arrive to the payee with the holiday season affecting the mail. A motion to move the Council meeting to December 22nd, 2025, was made by Henjes and seconded by Rickett. Councilmembers voting "YEA": Bevelhymmer, Blatchford, Henjes, Mahler, Rickett. Voting "NAY": none. Motion passed 5-0.

Governing Body Comments and Correspondence

Mayor Smith asked if there were any future agenda requests for consideration or administrative action. Next Ponca City Governing Body Meeting scheduled for Monday, September 30th following the Public Hearing that starts at 6:30 PM.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Blatchford at 8:14 PM and seconded by Bevelhymmer. Councilmembers voting "YEA": Bevelhymmer, Blatchford, Henjes, Mahler, Rickett. Voting "NAY": none. Motion passed 5-0.

Mayor; DJ Smith

City Clerk- Finance Director; Jaime Schweers

