

MINUTES OF THE PONCA SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD 12.8.2025

Mayor DJ Smith called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM on December 8th, 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 Dacia Jensen, Ron Mahler, and Josh Blatchford, were present for Roll Call. Absent were Kristie Henjes, Eric Bevelhymmer, and Dillon Rickett. 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, Bank of Dixon County, Keller's Pharmacy, and Dixon County Courthouse. Also present were members of Summer Rec.

Smith opened the meeting stating that our insurance company had done playground inspections in October. The findings were provided in a packet given to Summer Rec attendees. The equipment had been discussed at the past 2 council meetings, and the council thought it best to get Summer Rec's input. Within the packet were 2 emails. The first with a cost of 35 thousand dollars to do the required repairs, and the second stating that they did not want to take on the liability of the repair due to age. Since the equipment is a liability, it is currently fenced off to keep kids off of it. Both parties agreed that the best option is to take the equipment down and plan for something to take its place. There were ideas thrown around as to what the best option would be to replace the equipment with. Smith and Schweers stated that there is no money in the budget to have something put back this fiscal year. There was also discussion on fundraising and grants.

Smith ended the discussion by stating that the equipment will go to a vote at the December meeting on its removal, knowing that it will be replaced, just not fully within this year. The city will look for grant opportunities.

A motion was made by Mahler to adjourn the meeting at 6:54 PM and seconded by Jensen. Councilmembers voting "YEA": Jensen, Mahler, Blatchford. Voting "NAY": none. Motion passed 3-0.

DJ Smith, Mayor

Jaime Schweers, City Clerk-Finance Director