

MINUTES OF THE PONCA CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD 2.19.26

Mayor DJ Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM on Thursday, February 19th, 2026, 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, Josh Blatchford, Dillon Rickett, Dacia Jensen, Kristie Henjes, and Dillon Rickett were present for Roll Call. Excused was Mahler. 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

Mayor gave thanks to Jaime and Travis for the strategic planning session held on February 7th. Mayor Smith is having "Muffins with the Mayor" at Ponca Public School with the Third graders.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Smith stated to the Governing Body that the City Clerk-Finance Directors' February 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 Bevelhymmer and a second by Rickett to approve the Consent Agenda. The following Councilmembers voting "YEA": Blatchford, Rickett, Jensen, Henjes, Bevelhymmer. Councilmembers voting "NAY": None. Motion passed 5-0.

Proclamations, Presentations, Appointments, Affirmations & Introductions

Reports & Updates

Travis Olander gave an update on the street and admin. The tree board is meeting on March 23rd to discuss future replanting. He has worked on building permits and garbage, and issues with Matt. He helped install items in the council chambers for the strategic planning session.

Steve Brinkmann gave report on water and sewer department. He states that the water tower is completely taken down. He has been working with Chad to disconnect the old supply line. There was an issue with the diggers and a line that went from the old tower to the new. Steve, Travis, and Ashley had worked earlier tonight to fix it. There were 10 one calls; he updated Emergency Response Plan and fixed 2 water leaks.

The library board did not submit a report.

The Volunteer Fire and Rescue submitted their report.

City Attorney's Report

Matt was absent.

Public Hearings

None.

Unfinished Business

None.

Agenda Comments/Speakers

None.

New Business

Schweers presented Ordinance 493; Setbacks on Corner Lots, for second reading. A motion to approve Ordinance 493 was made by Rickett and seconded by Bevelhymmer. Councilmembers voting "YEA": Bevelhymmer, Blatchford, Henjes, Jensen, Rickett. Voting "NAY": none. Motion passed 5-0.

Schweers presented two bids for weed spraying for summer of 2026. The first bid submitted was from Jay-Lan in the amount of \$8818.26. A bid was submitted by Jeremiah Hughes in the amount of \$8304.00. A motion to approve the lower bid from Jeremiah Hughes was made by Jensen and seconded by Henjes. Councilmembers voting "YEA": Bevelhymmer, Blatchford, Henjes, Jensen, Rickett. Voting "NAY": none. Motion passed 5-0.

Olander told the council that NRCA will be coming to Ponca on Sunday May 31st. They are bringing around 400 cars that morning and will be in town that morning. Travis has already spoken to business to see if they would be willing to be open for business that morning and they all agreed. They have sent their information packet, and they will be in touch as the event gets closer. No Action Taken.

Schweers presented Resolution 2026-02; Highway Closure for NRCA car show on May 31st. As discussed above, the NRCA will bring around 400 cars, and we will need to close a portion of the highway in Ponca. A motion to approve Resolution 2026-02 was made by Bevelhymer and seconded by Blatchford. Councilmembers voting "YEA": Bevelhymer, Blatchford, Henjes, Jensen, Rickett. Voting "NAY": none. Motion passed 5-0.

Olander presented to council that we are wanting to hire 2 part-time summer employees. Council discussed the hourly rate and hours. They decided on \$15.50 per hour and roughly 20 hours per week. No Action Taken.

Olander opened discussion on the playground at the ballfield. He was contacted by a resident willing to donate a playhouse with climbing wall, deck, and slide. The council agreed that would be a good solution for the upcoming season. No Action Taken.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Bevelhymer at 7:23 PM and seconded by Blatchford. Councilmembers voting "YEA": Bevelhymer, Blatchford, Jensen, Henjes, Rickett. Voting "NAY": none. Motion passed 5-0.

Mayor; DJ Smith

City Clerk- Finance Director; Jaime Schweers