

MINUTES OF THE PONCA CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD 1.27.25

Mayor DJ Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM on Monday, January 27th, 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. Councilmembers Ron Mahler, Kristie Henjes, Josh Blatchford, Eric Bevelhymmer, Dillon Rickett, and Marcus Burki were present for Roll Call. 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 Smith spoke about the contract with the Dixon County Sheriff's Department for dispatch services. Explained that when the ordinance was signed under past administration, it was never paid. The Sheriff's Department never billed the City for services until November 2024. With the ball being dropped on both sides, the Sheriff signed a repayment plan for the past balances. It will be paid to current with the 2025-2026 Budget.

Consent Agenda

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

Proclamations, Presentations. Appointments, Affirmations & Introductions

Reports & Updates

Travis Olander gave the City Administrator's Update. He has been busy with gas paperwork, reports and surveys. Working with Chad and Jeff on the Meters Replacement Project that will be underway this year. He has also emailed the council an updated sketch of Union Street.

Travis Olander gave the Street Report. There has been minimal snow so as of right now, he is good on salt. The Yield sign has been switched to a Stop sign. There have been updates made to City Hall and the final garage door was replaced in the Community Center.

Mahler had stated a concern about the materials that Steve Harris had left unlocked at the City Yard. If it is stolen or tampered with, it is not the City's liability.

Steve Brinkmann updated the council on the water/sewer department. There have been 5 one calls; he helped with abandoning utilities. Some residents' water lines had frozen with extreme temperatures in January. The sewer screen had an issue that was fixed and the generator at the booster pump was serviced. Next month the generator at the well house will be serviced.

Bill Persinger gave a report on the Police Department. There were 47 calls for service.

Melissa Kebaili spoke on behalf of the library. She handed out surveys to the council prior to the meeting. They are going to be purging about 200 inactive memberships. They have redirected their programming. They offer 4-5 live events per month that are recorded and can be viewed online.

The Volunteer Fire and Rescue submitted their report.

Jim Litchfield was not in attendance, but Jaime Schweers spoke about the number of surveys that have been turned in to NENEDD. At their last count, they had roughly 70 turned in and are starting to compile data. They will still take some stragglers.

City Attorney's Report

Matt Munderloh was not in attendance.

Public Hearings

Unfinished Business

There has been no progress or updates on the status of either the Dixon County Courthouse or Community Center.

Agenda Comments/Speakers

None.

New Business

Schweers opened the 2016 Polaris Ranger bids for the Fire Department. The results will be turned into the Fire Department, and they will decide if they will continue to go out for bid or accept an offer. No Action Taken.

Cedar Hills had submitted an SDL to be approved for Pheasants Forever held at Ponca State Park on February 15th. Mayor Smith signed the SDL if needed to be approved by the City, since it is out of city limits it needs to be approved by the County. A motion to approve SDL for Cedar Hills if requiring city approval was made by Blatchford and seconded by Bevelhymmer. Councilmembers voting "YEA": Rickett, Henjes, Blatchford, Burki, Mahler. Voting "NAY": none. Motion passed 6-0.

Mayor Smith wanted to address the council about the Dixon County Courthouse. The board of supervisors is regrouping to have just a courthouse built and deciding on a location. They are in the very preliminary stages of planning and do not have location or cost or form of financing in place. Mayor Smith was asking the council if they are willing to help with any portion of the utilities or roads to the courthouse. Many concerns were raised and at this point in time, they cannot give an answer as the supervisors do not have location or financing planned. No Action Taken.

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 THURSDAY February 27th at 7:00PM.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mahler at 7:45 PM and seconded by Bevelhymmer. Councilmembers voting "YEA": Mahler, Rickett, Henjes, Blatchford, Burki, Bevelhymmer. Voting "NAY": none. Motion passed 6-0.

Mayor; DJ Smith

City Clerk- Finance Director; Jaime Schweers