

# MINUTES OF THE PONCA CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD 7.28.25

**Mayor DJ Smith** called the meeting to order after the Public Hearing that started at 6:30 PM on Monday, July 28<sup>th</sup>, 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. 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 gave an update on the happenings of the City since June 30<sup>th</sup>. Frog Days is underway with the golf tournament on July 27<sup>th</sup>. The community cookout is on Thursday July 31<sup>st</sup> with other activities to follow the rest of the week. Third Street will be closed on Saturday August 2<sup>nd</sup> from 8AM to 5PM for the car show and activities during the day. The closure is from Nebraska to East Street, Union Street from alley to alley, and from Fourth to Second. East Street will be closed from 3<sup>rd</sup> to the south alley starting at 5PM Friday August 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **Consent Agenda**

Mayor Smith stated to the Governing Body that the City Clerk-Finance Directors' July 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 Henjes and a second by Blatchford to approve the Consent Agenda. The following Councilmembers voting "YEA": Henjes, Blatchford, Rickett, Mahler. Councilmembers voting "NAY": None. Abstaining: Bevelhymmer. Motion passed 4-0.

## **Proclamations, Presentations. Appointments, Affirmations & Introductions**

### **Reports & Updates**

Travis Olander gave the City Administrator's Update and Street Update. He had worked with Ashley on Department of Energy Report, worked on getting bids and applying for water security grant, met with engineer on projects in town, preconstruction meeting for Union Street. The Tree Board held their first meeting, and he helped facilitate that meeting. He has also been working with the state and the Mayor for Frog Days events and permits. Crosswalks and curbs have been painted, he has been working on weed control, mowing, and moving dirt. The tree and stump removal at the ball field has been completed.

Steve Brinkmann updated the council on the water/sewer department. He has had 21 one calls. He has helped Travis with the information for the water security grant. He has repaired 4 water leaks in town and the water tower painters are finished. The plumber for the tower will be here in August. Depending on how the tap will be, Ponca will be without water for hours the day that they tap into the lines. More information to come. This is a year for the Sanitary Survey, it is completed every 3 years, and the State will be here. This will happen in the Fourth Quarter.

Code Enforcement submitted a report.

The Library board submitted a report.

The Volunteer Fire and Rescue submitted their report.

### **City Attorney's Report**

Matt Munderloh was not present

### **Public Hearings**

A Public Hearing on Trash Collection Services was held. A motion to open the meeting at 6:30PM was made by Blatchford and seconded by Bevelhymmer. Councilmembers voting "YEA": Bevelhymmer, Blatchford, Henjes, Mahler, Rickett. Councilmembers voting "NAY": none. Motion passed 5-0. Schweers had put together a packet with the bids from the 3 prospective companies. Rod Bauman spoke and stated that he has no concerns with the current collector, and they offer recycling, which is important to him. Linda Ausdemore stated that they have continual issues, and the recycling is placed in the same truck as the trash. A motion

to close the Public Hearing at 6:42 PM was made by Bevelhymmer and seconded by Henjes. Councilmembers voting "YEA": Bevelhymmer, Blatchford, Henjes, Mahler, Rickett. Voting "NAY": none. Motion passed 5-0.

### **Unfinished Business**

At the June meeting, Dacia Jensen volunteered to replace Marcus Burki who was moving out of Ponca City Limits. A motion to approve Dacia Jensen as Ward 2 Councilmember was made by Bevelhymmer and seconded by Blatchford. Councilmembers voting "YEA": Bevelhymmer, Blatchford, Henjes, Mahler, Rickett. Councilmembers voting "NAY": none. Motion passed 5-0.

After the vote, Dacia Jensen was sworn in by Mayor Smith. Dacia Jensen took her seat at the council table and participated in the remainder of the meeting.

### **Agenda Comments/Speakers**

None.

### **New Business**

Jim Olson with NRD addressed the council about the Well Head Protection Area in Ponca. He wanted to meet to discuss the plans for the area. He has 15 farmers that he is planning on reaching out to for this conservation project. The proposed project will help to reduce the nitrates in the water in the area. Currently Ponca's nitrates are at 7.1, when they reach 10, it is considered dangerous. He will be talking about irrigation management, ground cover crops, and crop management. This program is completely voluntary. The city is not involved in his project but wanted to present information in case there were questions. He presented a packet to the council. No Action Taken.

Discussion was had between council members concerning trash collection. They feel that they want more community participation before making this decision. This item will be presented at the August meeting. No Action Taken.

Schweers presented Pay Estimate 9 to Maguire Iron for \$27,000. Chad Kehrt stated that the project should be wrapped up in September. A motion was made by Bevelhymmer and seconded by Rickett. Councilmembers voting "YEA": Bevelhymmer, Blatchford, Henjes, Jensen, Rickett, Mahler. Voting "NAY": none. Motion passed 6-0.

Olander presented the Tree Care Plan that was developed by the tree board earlier in the month. This plan has trees that need to be removed and also a replanting plan. A motion was made by Blatchford and seconded by Rickett to approve the Tree Care Plan. Councilmembers voting "YEA": Bevelhymmer, Blatchford, Henjes, Jensen, Mahler, Rickett. Councilmembers voting "NAY": none. Motion passed 6-0.

Schweers presented Resolution 2025-03; LARM renewal for 2025-2025. This is an annual resolution confirming the City's participation and their discount. A motion to approve Resolution 2025-03 was made by Bevelhymmer and seconded by Henjes. Councilmembers voting "YEA": Bevelhymmer, Blatchford, Henjes, Jensen, Mahler, Rickett. Voting "NAY": none. Motion passed 6-0.

Schweers presented Ordinance 488; Regulating the Speed of Motor Vehicles on the Public Streets and Alleys. This was sent to her by the State of Nebraska. There are no changes to the speed limits. The last ordinance on file with the state was passed in 2005 and they are in need of an updated Ordinance. A motion to waive the Three Reading Rule was made by Blatchford and seconded by Bevelhymmer. Councilmembers voting "YEA": Bevelhymmer, Blatchford, Henjes, Jensen, Mahler, Rickett. A motion to approve Ordinance 488 was made by Blatchford and seconded by Rickett. Councilmembers voting "YEA": Bevelhymmer, Blatchford, Henjes, Jensen, Mahler, Rickett. Voting "NAY": none. Motion passed 6-0.

Schweers had presented a preliminary wage ordinance for further discussion. A final draft will be made and presented in August. No action taken.

Schweers presented a preliminary Utility Rate Ordinance. Discussion was had on the rates that were adjusted to account for the water project repayment. A final draft will be presented in August. 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 Monday, August 25<sup>th</sup> at 7PM.

**Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Blatchford at 7:42 PM and seconded by Bevelhymmer. Councilmembers voting "YEA": Bevelhymmer, Blatchford, Henjes, Jensen, Mahler, Rickett. Voting "NAY": none. Motion passed 6-0.

---

Mayor; DJ Smith

---

City Clerk- Finance Director; Jaime Schweers