

MINUTES OF THE PONCA CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD 9.25.23

Mayor DJ Smith called the meeting to order at 6:43pm on September 25th, 2023, following the Budget Hearing that started at 6:30pm, 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 Josh Blatchford, Kari Lowe, Ron Mahler, Eric Bevelhymmer, and Dillon Rickett were present for Roll Call. Andy Stark was excused. 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

There were no Communications.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Smith stated to the Governing Body that the City Clerk-Finance Directors August Claims & Accounts Payable Report, Fund Balance/Treasurers Report were included in the Council Meeting Scan Package sent out. There was not a City Budget Cash Report presented due to the earlier separation of the former City Clerk/Treasurer. Motion by Councilmember Rickett and a second by Councilmember Mahler to approve the Consent Agenda. The following Councilmembers voting "YEA": Blatchford, Lowe, Mahler, Rickett, Bevelhymmer. The following Councilmembers voted "NAY": None. Motion passed 5-0.

Proclamations, Presentations, Appointments, Affirmations & Introductions

No proclamations, presentations, appointments, affirmations, or introductions at this meeting.

Reports & Updates

Joe Yocum gave a Police update. There have been 16 calls this September, Year to Date for 2023 there have been 192. That is up from this time last year at 131 calls. Joe continues to work on nuisance properties and dogs at large.

Travis Olander gave an update on both the Street department and Water department. The East Street Project is underway. The last of the materials will be delivered this week for the shelter house and the city will soon be asking for volunteers to help with construction.

Melissa Kebaili spoke on behalf of the library. They just updated their policy manual and applied for their accreditation. The results of the accreditation will be posted in November 2023. They are hoping to achieve gold status. Kebaili said that low staffing continues to be an issue when they are trying to start programs. There was discussion between the library and library board about hiring a very part time employee.

City Attorney's Report

The City Attorney Matt Munderloh reported business as usual. He will revise the ordinance for the possible alley vacation before it is submitted for approval at next month's meeting. There have been 2 citations filed and both have court dates in October 2023.

Public Hearings

At 6:30pm Mayor Smith called to order the public hearing concerning the City of Ponca's 2023-2024 Budget. The budget was explained by Jaime Schweers and Mayor Smith. There was an invitation for anyone attending the meeting to speak on the topic. No speakers volunteered. The public hearing was closed at 6:43pm.

At 7:18 Mayor Smith opened the public hearing on behalf of Stop and Go LLC; doing business as Z Mart. Z Mart had a current liquor license under the name Superior Mart. No one attended the public hearing on Z Mart's behalf. There was an invitation for anyone attending to speak on the topic. No speakers were present. The public hearing was closed at 7:19pm.

Unfinished Business

Mayor Smith spoke about the Dixon County Courthouse. Kari Lowe is stepping down from the committee and Josh Blatchford will be taking her place. Mayor Smith also created a committee to help answer future questions for this project. They are hoping to have it up for vote in May 2024.

Mayor Smith spoke about the Community Center. At the last meeting that was held the engineer presented the drawings and cost. They formed a fundraising committee to head the project.

Discussion on possible alley vacation continued. Olander stated that there are 3 residences that flow towards the manhole that was in question. The water flow runs North and South. The manhole itself needs to be repaired. The revised ordinance will be on the October agenda.

New Business

Schweers presented an application for a liquor license for Stop and Go LLC; doing business as Z Mart. Motion made by Blatchford and a second by Mahler to approve liquor license for Stop and Go LLC; doing business as Z Mart. The following councilmembers voted "YEA" Lowe, Mahler, Rickett, Bevelhymmer, Blatchford. Voting "NAY": none. Motion passed 5-0.

The library presented an applicant for the library board. The library board had approved Megan Callahan. Motion made by Rickett and a second by Bevelhymmer to approve the new library board member. The following councilmembers voted "YEA": Mahler, Rickett, Bevelhymmer, Blatchford, Lowe. Voting "NAY": none. Motion passed 5-0.

The volunteer fire department presented an applicant. The fire department and rural fire approved Andrea Wahls as a new member. Motion made by Mahler and a second by Blatchford to approve Andrea Wahls as a new member of Ponca Volunteer Fire and Rescue. The following councilmembers voting "YEA": Rickett, Bevelhymmer, Blatchford, Lowe, Mahler. Voting "NAY": none. Motion passed 5-0.

Schweers presented Resolution 2023-10; to increase the restricted funds authority by an additional 1%. A motion was made by Lowe and a second by Rickett to approve to increase restricted funds authority by an additional 1%. The following councilmembers voted "YEA": Bevelhymmer, Blatchford, Lowe, Mahler, Rickett. Voting "NAY": none. Motion passed 5-0.

Schweers presented Resolution 2023-11, Setting Property Tax Request. Motion was made by Blatchford and a second by Mahler to Set the property tax request to 0.476309 per \$100 of asses value. The following councilmembers voted "YEA": Bevelhymmer, Blatchford, Lowe, Mahler, Rickett. Voting "NAY": none. Motion passed 5-0.

Schweers and Mayor Smith presented Ordinance 465; Wage Ordinance for 2023-2024 fiscal year. A motion was made by Bevelhymmer and a second by Blatchford to waive the 3 (three) reading rule. The following councilmembers voted "YEA" to waive 3 (three) reading rule: Lowe, Mahler, Rickett, Bevelhymmer, Blatchford. Voting "NAY": none. Motion passed 5-0. A motion to adopt Ordinance 465; wage ordinance for 2023-2024 was made by Rickett and a second by Lowe. The following councilmembers voting "YEA": Blatchford, Lowe, Mahler, Rickett, Bevelhymmer. Voting "NAY": none. Motion passed 5-0.

Schweers and Olander presented Ordinance 466; Utility Ordinance for 2023-2024. A motion was made by Mahler and a second by Lowe to waive the 3 (three) reading rule. The following councilmembers voted "YEA" to waive the 3 (three) reading rule: Lowe, Mahler, Rickett, Bevelhymmer, Blatchford. Voting "NAY": none. Motion passed 5-0. A motion to adopt Ordinance 466; Utility Ordinance for 2023-2024 was made by Bevelhymmer and a second by Blatchford. The following councilmembers voting "YEA": Lowe, Mahler, Rickett, Bevelhymmer, Blatchford. Voting "NAY": none. Motion passed 5-0.

Schweers presented Ordinance 467; Annual Appropriation Bill; Adoption of the 2023-2024 Budget. A motion was made by Lowe and a second by Rickett to waive the 3 (three) reading rule. The following councilmembers voted "YEA" to waive 3 (three) reading rule: Lowe, Mahler, Rickett, Bevelhymmer, Blatchford. Voting "NAY": none. Motion passed 5-0. A motion to adopt Ordinance 467 Annual Appropriations Bill, Adoption of the 2023-2024 budget, was made by Blatchford and a second by Lowe. Councilmembers voting "YEA": Mahler, Rickett, Bevelhymmer, Blatchford, Lowe. Motion passed 5-0.

Olander presented Ordinance 468, Establishing a Master Fee Schedule 2023-2024. There was discussion had on the fees presented. The council decided to take the month and look at all of the fees and revisit in October. No action taken.

Schweers presented the cost for a new ambulance to the council. The ambulance would be to replace the one that was in the accident in August 2023. Rural offered to pay half of the cost and would like the city to pay for the other half. A motion was made by Mahler and a second by Blatchford to approve the city to split

the cost 50/50 with rural for a new ambulance. The following councilmembers voting "YEA": Bevelhymer, Blatchford, Lowe, Mahler, Rickett. Voting "NAY": none. Motion passed 5-0.

Schweers presented the balance of the bonds that the city had listed for "Ambulance". Mayor Smith had suggested to cash out the bonds labeled "Ambulance", use that towards the purchase of the ambulance that was in the accident, and replace them with bonds possibly labeled "Emergency Services" so they could be used on a broader spectrum in the future. A motion was made by Blatchford and a second by Mahler to approve the "Ambulance" bonds be cashed out and used towards the replacement ambulance. The following councilmembers voted "YEA": Bevelhymer, Blatchford, Lowe, Mahler, Rickett. Voting "NAY": none. Motion passed 5-0.

Interim City Administrators Report

Olander gave an update on the City. He has been working on the fee schedule, looking up building requirements and covenants in Dakota View Estates. Informed council that Ben Taylor won the bids to do the repairs needed on the city buildings. He has submitted the city's SAM membership. He is also planning a workshop to be held in November for future projects.

Governing Body Comments and Correspondence

Mayor Smith asked if there were any future agenda requests for consideration or administrative action and suggested that the December 18th council meeting be moved to Tuesday December 19th. The council will consider and decide at the next council meeting. Next Ponca City Governing Body Meeting scheduled for Monday, October 30th, 2023, at 7:00pm.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Lowe and a second by Bevelhymer to adjourn the meeting at 8:23pm. The following councilmembers voting "YEA": Bevelhymer, Blatchford, Lowe, Mahler, Rickett. Voting "NAY": none. Motion passed 5-0.

Mayor; DJ Smith

City Clerk- Finance Director; Jaime Schweers