

MINUTES OF THE PONCA CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD 5.19.25

Mayor DJ Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM on Monday, May 19th, 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, Ron Mahler 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 stated that the City was awarded a 50/50 grant match for Friendship Park by the Gardner Foundation. The award was roughly 38 thousand dollars and will be awarded in October. Ponca had 11 track participants, and 2 golfers made state.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Smith stated to the Governing Body that the City Clerk-Finance Directors' May 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. Motion was made by Rickett and a second by Blatchford to approve the Consent Agenda. The following Councilmembers voting "YEA": Henjes, Burki, Blatchford, Rickett, Bevelhymmer, Mahler. Councilmembers voting "NAY": None. Motion passed 6-0.

Proclamations, Presentations. Appointments, Affirmations & Introductions

Reports & Updates

Travis Olander gave the City Administrator's Update and Street Update. He has been working with the contractors on the Water Project. Currently, they are on the last leg of the project. The Warning Siren has been relocated and tested and once the water tower is finished, it will be reinstalled. Helped with the ballfields and gas meter project. Clean up day was last weekend, and 6 regular dumpsters and 2 metal dumpsters were filled.

Steve Brinkmann updated the council on the water/sewer department. The sewer plant UV Lights are back up and running. He has spent the majority of his time with Steve Harris and the Water Project. He has mowed and helped with weeds. There are 5 2-inch and 5 ¾ inch meters left to install. There are 3 hydrants that will be dug up and abandoned.

Omar Crawford addressed the council for Code Enforcement update. He will be attending the academy in September and has been working on filling out and completing all requirements for attendance. He has worked with homeowners on clean up and weed control. There are still 2 properties that he has not been able to make contact with. He had a networking opportunity at Oak Trail Village.

The Library board did not submit a report.

The Volunteer Fire and Rescue submitted their report.

City Attorney's Report

Matt Munderloh was not present

Public Hearings

None.

Unfinished Business

Agenda Comments/Speakers

None.

New Business

Matt Deding spoke about the new property that he is building downtown. He was requesting that the City pay for a portion of the sidewalk. After much discussion, the council was not comfortable using tax dollars for one individual property. He was directed to other sources to help with the cost. No Action Taken.

Schweers presented a request for road closure at the Rodeo Grounds and an SDL for the event. The road has historically been closed at the same location to help with traffic. A motion to approve the road closure and SDL for Rodeo Association was made by Blatchford and seconded by Mahler. Councilmembers voting "YEA": Burki, Blatchford, Bevelhymer, Rickett, Henjes, Mahler. Voting "NAY": none. Motion passed 6-0.

Schweers presented a request for SDL for The 755 Pub for the Fireman's Dance held after the Rodeo. A motion was made by Rickett and seconded by Burki. Councilmembers voting "YEA": Blatchford, Burki, Henjes, Rickett, Mahler. Voting "NAY": none. Abstaining: Bevelhymer. Motion passed 5-0.

Kehrt spoke about the bid opening that was to be held on May 15th at 10 AM. There were no bids received, and a supplier had previously asked for an extension. Kehrt issued an addendum and the requested bid date is June 5th at 10AM. A motion was made by Henjes and seconded by Burki to approve the bid date for Gas Meters to June 5th at 10 AM. Councilmembers voting "YEA": Rickett, Henjes, Burki, Bevelhymer, Blatchford, Mahler. Councilmembers voting "NAY": none. Motion passed 6-0.

Schweers presented Pay Estimate #7 from Maguire Iron in the amount of \$107,550.00. This estimate brings the project to 68% completion. A motion to approve Pay Estimate #7 was made by Blatchford and seconded by Bevelhymer. Councilmembers voting "YEA": Bevelhymer, Blatchford, Burki, Henjes, Mahler, Rickett. Voting "NAY": none. Motion passed 6-0.

Schweers presented Pay Estimate #2 from Steve Harris Company in the amount of \$488,817.65. This is to be made in 2 payments of \$244,408.82 and \$244,408.83. Schweers had spoken with the engineering firm about receiving estimates in amounts that are easier to pay rather than breaking the one estimate into smaller installments. Moving forward, the engineering firm will work on getting monthly requests instead of a request every 4 months. A motion to approve Pay Estimate #2 to be paid in 2 installments was made by Henjes and seconded by Blatchford. Councilmembers voting "YEA": Bevelhymer, Blatchford, Burki, Henjes, Mahler, Rickett. Voting "NAY": none. Motion passed 6-0.

Schweers presented Resolution 2025-01, declaring surplus property for the Fire Department and requesting a bid date be set on June 30th, 2025, at 7PM. A motion to approve the Resolution and set the bid date was made by Blatchford and seconded by Rickett. Councilmembers voting "YEA": Bevelhymer, Blatchford, Burki, Henjes, Mahler, Rickett. Voting "NAY": none. Motion passed 6-0.

Mayor Smith formally introduced Omar Crawford Jr. to the council and appointed him as the City of Ponca's Code Enforcement Officer.

Schweers presented a "Must Wear Policy" for the police department, provided by LARM. With this policy in place Schweers can apply for a grant of up to \$700 dollars for a bullet proof vest. A motion to approve the "Must Wear Policy" was made by Bevelhymer and seconded by Blatchford. Councilmembers voting "YEA": Bevelhymer, Blatchford, Burki, Henjes, Mahler, Rickett. Voting "NAY": none. Motion passed 6-0.

Schweers presented an estimate to REV-TAC for tactical training for the Police Officer in Training. After discussion, the council was not comfortable paying the cost when he would be at the Academy for 4 months receiving training. Suggested this to be presented again next FY. No Action Taken.

Schweers presented to the council that the COPS Grant was open again. There is a webinar that she will attend on May 20th and work with Sarah at the Sheriff's Department on the application. No Action Taken.

Schweers presented a bid for 2 lawn mower purchase options. The City currently has 2 mowers that are starting to have some issues. The thought was to purchase a mower this summer and look at trade in options in the fall. A motion to purchase a 60-inch mower for the amount of \$14,699.00 was made by Mahler and seconded by Burki. Councilmembers voting "YEA": Bevelhymer, Blatchford, Burki, Henjes, Mahler, Rickett. Voting "NAY": none. Motion passed 6-0.

Schweers presented a bid for concrete replacement on Ballfield #1 from the concession stand to the dugout. The City has been partnering with Summer Rec for repairs and updates and this would complete the project. Olander presented pictures of the current status of the field. A motion to approve concrete replacement at

Ballfield #1 was made by Blatchford and seconded by Rickett. Councilmembers voting "YEA": Blatchford, Burki, Henjes, Mahler, Rickett. Voting "NAY": none. Abstaining: Bevelhymer. Motion passed 5-0.

Schweers presented the cost for LIGHT insurance along with the cost for dental coverage. The city discussed previously paying for employee coverage and the employee having payroll deduct if they wanted family coverage for dental. A motion to continue with LIGHT and the City pay the premium for employee dental coverage was made by Blatchford and seconded by Henjes. Councilmembers voting "YEA": Bevelhymer, Blatchford, Burki, Henjes, Mahler, Rickett. Voting "NAY": none. Motion passed 6-0.

Karrer addressed the council that since the new shelter house has been built, there have been phone calls about residents having events there. Currently, it is first come first serve which makes it difficult for some scheduled events. After discussion, if after this summer there is a need for reservations and a cost to have the shelter house reserved then it will be brought before the council again. 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, June 30th at 7:00PM.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Blatchford at 8:16 PM and seconded by Mahler. Councilmembers voting "YEA": Rickett, Henjes, Blatchford, Burki, Bevelhymer, Mahler. Voting "NAY": none. Motion passed 6-0.

Mayor; DJ Smith

City Clerk- Finance Director; Jaime Schweers