

MINUTES OF THE PONCA SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD 9.1.2025

Mayor DJ Smith called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM on September 1st, 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 Eric Bevelhymmer, Dacia Jensen, Ron Mahler, Josh Blatchford, and Dillon Rickett were present for Roll Call. Absent was Kristie Henjes. 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, Bank of Dixon County, Keller's Pharmacy, and the Dixon County Courthouse.

Schweers presented the tax levy information received from AMGL. There were 3 options presented. 2 of the 3 presented would require the City to appear at the Joint Public Hearing held on September 14th. The first option was to keep our levy the same as it has been the last 3 years. With it being kept the same, and property tax valuation increasing, the City would gain \$32,536.00 from the current year. The second option was to lower the levy and adjust for the 5.1% inflation rate, and the City would gain \$18,397 from the current year. The third option would avoid the hearing by lowering the levy less than inflation and only taking in our growth percentage. The city would gain \$5,586 dollars from the current year. There was much discussion on keeping it the same vs. lowering the levy. A concern was stated that there was supposed to be property tax reform with the new laws that Pillen put in place, but the valuations went up. Again, there was much discussion on pros and cons of the levy options. A motion was made by Bevelhymmer and seconded by Blatchford to keep the levy the same and attend the public hearing. Councilmembers voting "YEA": Bevelhymmer, Blatchford, Jensen, Rickett. Voting "NAY": Mahler. Since the motion needs a 75% vote to attend, the motion died.

Schweers presented the question to the council about what they would like to see happen. Discussion continued with pros and cons of the levy options. Mahler requested the previous motion to be made again. A motion was made by Bevelhymmer and seconded by Blatchford to keep the levy the same and attend the public hearing on September 14th. Councilmembers voting "YEA": Bevelhymmer, Blatchford, Jensen, Mahler, Rickett. Voting "NAY": none. Motion passed 5-0.

A motion was made by Bevelhymmer to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 AM and seconded by Blatchford. Councilmembers voting "YEA": Jensen, Mahler, Rickett, Bevelhymmer, Blatchford. Voting "NAY": none. Motion passed 5-0.

DJ Smith, Mayor

Jaime Schweers, City Clerk-Finance Director