

MINUTES REGULAR MEETING OKEMAH CITY COUNCIL

WHEN: MONDAY, JUNE 10, 2024 @ 6:00 P.M.

PLACE: OKEMAH CITY HALL, 502 WEST BROADWAY, OKEMAH, OK

PRESENT: Ron Gott, Ronnie Lucas, Brandon Anderson, Wayne Bacon, Mike Ishmael

ABSENT: Mike Ishmael

ALSO PRESENT: Kristy Lesley, City Manager; Relena Haddox, City Clerk/Treasurer;

FLAG SALUTE AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Ron Gott initiated the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and confirmed the presence of a quorum.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AND DECLARATION OF QUORUM.

City Clerk Relena Haddox completed roll call confirmed attendance.

Mayor Ron Gott called the meeting to order, confirming a quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

Motion: Approve minutes.

- **Proposed by:** Ronnie Lucas
- **Seconded by:** Wayne Bacon
- **Discussion:** None
- **Vote:** Unanimous approval

APPROVAL OF PURCHASE ORDERS.

Motion: Approve purchase orders

- **Proposed by:** Wayne Bacon
- **Seconded by:** Brandon Anderson
- **Discussion:** None
- **Vote:** Unanimous approval

PUBLIC APPEARANCES.

None

CONSIDER AND TAKE POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION NO. 2024-5 ADOPTING THE CITY OF OKEMAH, OKLAHOMA, BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-25, AND ESTABLISHING BUDGET AMENDMENT AUTHORITY.

Motion: Approve resolution

- **Proposed by:** Brandon Anderson
- **Seconded by:** Wayne Bacon
- **Discussion:** None
- **Vote:** Unanimous approval

CONSIDER AND TAKE POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE BENSON HARDWARE & AUTO QUOTE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$9,999.99 FOR A SCAG MOWER.

City Manager Lesley presented a request to approve the purchase of a new lawnmower for City Lake for \$9,999.99 from Skaggs.

- Lesley explained that attempts to solicit bids for a used lawnmower were unsuccessful due to the poor condition of available options.

- Lesley detailed the extensive repairs and costs incurred on the current 20-year-old lawnmower, totaling \$3,852 in the current fiscal year alone.
- The current lawnmower is no longer functional and has a non-functioning hour meter.
- Lesley expressed a preference for a side-by-side utility vehicle in the future to address the need for a recognizable city vehicle for staff.

Motion: Approve quote

- **Proposed by:** Ronnie Lucas
- **Seconded by:** Brandon Anderson
- **Discussion:** None
- **Vote:** Unanimous approval

DISCUSSION OF THE STATUS AND PROGRESS OF THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS:

City Manager Lesley provided updates on the following city projects:

- **Street Overlay Project:** The city received the contractor's contract and insurance information. Work is expected to begin the following week or the week after.
- **Signage Project:** No updates.
- **Airport Project:** Work is ongoing.

CITY MANAGERS COMMENT.

- **Brownsville Project (Collapsed Building):** Lesley spoke with Samuel from DEQ, who advised her to expedite paperwork for the remaining building involved in the Brownsville project. DEQ is eager to proceed with demolition.
- **Summer Reading Program:** The program is going exceptionally well, with positive feedback from children and the community. Activities have included Monarch butterfly releases and appearances by Smokey the Bear.
- **Dobson Project:** The project is nearing completion.
- **Code Enforcement:** Notices for abatement have been sent to five properties.
- **City Lake Amenities:** The swimming pool is experiencing high usage, and the Airbnb is performing well. Lesley suggested exploring the addition of another Airbnb to further support the lake's revenue generation.
- **Handicap Accessible Fishing Dock:** Lesley plans to contact the Wildlife Department for an update on the fishing dock project.
- **Tax Sale and CHARMS Program:** The city acquired liens on two lots through a tax sale. Lesley proposed donating one lot to the CHARMS program to support their initiative to build homes for veterans.
- **Woody Fest Preparations:** Lesley emphasized the need to begin preparations for Woody Fest, including sprucing up the town. The Main Street program is assisting with building repainting, and the farmer's market will also be repainted. Plans to paint the bridge are also underway.

COMMENTS AND INQUIRIES FROM BOARD MEMBERS.

- **Vice Mayor Lucas** expressed concerns about the demolition of five buildings on Main Street, acknowledging the necessity but lamenting the loss of historic structures.
- **City Manager Lesley** acknowledged the sadness of the situation but highlighted efforts to revitalize the area. She discussed pursuing grants from the Department of Labor, USDA, and Department of Commerce to support the construction of new buildings, potentially fostering small business incubation and growth.

ADJOURNMENT.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:08pm by Mayor Ron Gott.

Relena Haddox, City Clerk

Ron Gott, Mayor