

MINUTES REGULAR MEETING OKEMAH UTILITIES AUTHORITY

WHEN: MONDAY, JUNE 10, 2024 @ 6:15 P.M.

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

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

ABSENT: Mike Ishmael

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

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AND FLAG SALUTE.

Chairman Ron Gott called the meeting to order

ROLL CALL AND DECLARATION OF QUORUM.

Clerk Relena Haddox called roll 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:** Ronnie Lucas
- **Seconded by:** Ron Gott
- **Discussion:** None
- **Vote:** Unanimous approval

PUBLIC APPEARANCES.

None

CONSIDER AND TAKE NECESSARY ACTION ON THE WATER TREATMENT PROJECT.

City Manager Lesley provided an update on the water treatment project.

- The bid opening of the water treatment plant is scheduled for 2:00 PM on the 18th.
- Lesley requested council members' attendance at the bid opening and confirmed the event would be publicly posted.

CONSIDER AND TAKE NECESSARY ACTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO.2024-7 ADOPTING THE OKEMAH UTILITY AUTHORITY BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-25, AND ESTABLISHING BUDGET AMENDMENT AUTHORITY.

Motion: Approve resolution

- **Proposed by:** Ron Gott
- **Seconded by:** Ronnie Lucas
- **Discussion:** None
- **Vote:** Unanimous approval

DISCUSSION OF THE STATUS AND PROGRESS OF THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS:

City Manager Lesley provided updates on the following OUA projects:

- **17th Street Lift Station:** No updates.
- **3rd Street Water Main Upgrade:** No updates.
- **Water Treatment Plant:** Grand opening scheduled for the 18th at 2:00 PM.
- **Wastewater Treatment Plant:** The project is on hold pending grant funding decisions. The city is awaiting potential funding from IHS, which has prioritized Okemah's project but is facing pressure to allocate funds to Alaska. The city will hold off on applying for USDA funding until the IHS situation is resolved.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS.

City Manager Lesley raised the following topics for discussion:

- **Swim Area Rehabilitation:** Lesley requested feedback on the swim area rehabilitation, suggesting the possibility of relocating the designated swim zone closer to the pavilion to address erosion concerns. She mentioned discussions with David and Richard Dennis about potential solutions, noting the presence of two trees that may need to be removed or worked around.
- **Dead Trees on Leased City Property:** Lesley sought guidance on handling dead trees on city-owned property leased to individuals. She highlighted the prevalence of dead trees around the lake, attributing it to an airborne issue identified by OSU. Lesley questioned the city's responsibility for tree removal on leased land and the potential costs involved.

COMMENTS AND INQUIRIES FROM BOARD MEMBERS.

- **Vice Mayor Lucas** inquired about the types of trees affected and whether firewood salvage was feasible.
- **City Manager Lesley** confirmed the affected trees are primarily pines and noted that their advanced state of decay might make firewood salvage impractical. She suggested cutting down and burning the trees in place might be the most viable option.
- **Mayor Gott** requested a comprehensive plan be presented to the council for review, emphasizing the need to clarify the legal aspects of tree removal on leased city property.
- **Vice Mayor Lucas** acknowledged the information and had no further comments.

ADJOURNMENT.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:21pm by Chairman Ron Gott.

Relena Haddox, City Clerk

Ron Gott, Chairman