

MINUTES SPECIAL MEETING OKEMAH UTILITIES AUTHORITY

WHEN: MONDAY, JUNE 24, 2024 @ 6:20 P.M.

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

PRESENT: Ron Gott, Ronnie Lucas, Mike Ishmael

ABSENT: Brandon Anderson, Wayne Bacon

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:** Mike Ishmael
- **Discussion:** None
- **Vote:** Unanimous approval

APPROVAL OF PURCHASE ORDERS.

Motion: Approve purchase orders

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

PUBLIC APPEARANCES.

None

CONSIDER AND TAKE NECESSARY ACTION ON THE WATER TREATMENT PROJECT.

- Kristy Lesley informed the council that the bids for the water treatment project are due on Wednesday at 2 PM, after which a decision can be made.

DISCUSSION AND TAKE POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE A LEASE OF RECREATIONAL SITE AT OKEMAH LAKE SPACE NUMBER 2 FOR PATSY THOMAS.

- Kristy Lesley explained that Patsy Thomas has purchased property at Okemah Lake, including a trailer spot previously owned by the Dixons, necessitating a lease and boat dock permit transfer.
- Ron Gott motioned to approve both the lease and boat dock permit transfer for Patsy Thomas.

Motion: Approve purchase orders

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

DISCUSSION AND TAKE POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE A BOAT DOCK TRANSFER OF A PERMIT UPON THE TRANSFER OF A LEASE FOR PATSY THOMAS.

Motion: Approve purchase orders

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

DISCUSSION OF THE STATUS AND PROGRESS OF THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS:

- **17th Street Lift Station:** Kristy Lesley reported that the estimated cost for the 17th Street lift station project has increased to approximately \$1.3 million.
 - She emphasized the importance of securing funding for this project, potentially through TIF funds, to accommodate future growth and development south of I-40.
- **3rd Street Water Main Upgrade:** No updates were provided on the 3rd Street water main upgrade project.
- **Water Treatment Plant:** Lesley reiterated that the bid opening for the water treatment plant is scheduled for Wednesday.
- **Wastewater Treatment Plant:** Lesley shared positive news regarding the wastewater treatment plant, announcing that the city has been awarded a \$2.4 million grant from Indian Health Services (IHS).

She acknowledged that a small loan may still be required but expressed relief that the grant significantly reduces the financial burden

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS.

- Kristy Lesley raised concerns about ongoing issues with jet ski usage on Lake Okemah, particularly on the private side.
 - She noted that the lake manager has received numerous complaints and is exploring options to address the situation, including potential bans.
- Mike Ishmael inquired about the enforcement of existing rules and whether citations have been issued.
- Lesley stated that no tickets have been issued yet and suggested implementing stricter measures, such as a two-strike rule leading to permit revocation.
- Ronnie Lucas emphasized the importance of enforcing rules and regulations to ensure the safety of all lake users.
- Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of involving an additional police agency for random checks and patrols on the lake.
- Lesley proposed drafting a comprehensive set of rules and regulations, including potential restrictions on firearms and duck hunting, and soliciting input from council members.
- Mike Ishmael suggested a proactive approach involving direct communication with known offenders to address the issue before implementing a complete ban.
- Lesley also mentioned the arrival of new buoys and cables for the swimming area, funded in part by East Central Electric.

COMMENTS AND INQUIRIES FROM BOARD MEMBERS.

- Ronnie Lucas inquired about the availability of electric vehicle charging stations at the proposed hotel development, considering the growing popularity of electric vehicles.
- Lesley confirmed that the hotel developer is aware of the demand for charging stations and is likely to incorporate them into their plans.
- Lucas emphasized the importance of considering the impact of increased electricity demand on the city's power grid.
- Mike Ishmael noted that several businesses, including newer hotels and gas stations, are now equipped with electric vehicle charging stations.

ADJOURNMENT.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:33pm by Chairman Ron Gott.

Relena Haddox, City Clerk

Ron Gott, Chairman