

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PONCA CITY, OKLAHOMA
MAY 5, 2014

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Pursuant to notice as required by law, the Ponca City Board of Commissioners met in work session at 2:00 p.m. in the Commission Chamber at City Hall, 516 E. Grand Avenue, with Mayor Homer Nicholson presiding:

Present: Homer Nicholson, Mayor
R. Mark Macy, Commissioner
Lanita Chapman, Commissioner
Steve Hermann, Commissioner
Mary Beth Moore, Commissioner
Craig Stephenson, City Manager
Kevin Murphy, City Attorney
Marc LaBossiere, Finance Director/City Clerk

Absent: None

Others Present: Don Bohon, Chris Henderson, Steve Miner, Tana McKinley, City staff; citizens; Steve Dye, Ponca City News.

1. CALL TO ORDER.

Mayor Nicholson called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

2. DISCUSS TRAP-NEUTER-RELEASE PROGRAM FOR CATS.

City Manager Craig Stephenson began, explaining that Chief Bohon and Animal Control staff have met with the Animal Control Advisory Board as well as representatives from the Humane Society to discuss the issue. Stephenson clarified that the advisory board is recommending adoption of the program to address cat population.

Police Chief Don Bohon continued, reviewing the problem of feral cats in Ponca City and the challenges they create. Bohon stated that the science is behind a trap-spay/neuter-release program that would address both male and female cats, and over time, the feral cat population will recede. Bohon clarified that staff is proposing an exception to current ordinances to allow City staff to do the program. Bohon suggested the biggest problem may be a situation where they trap a cat, spay/neuter it, and then let it go only to anger a resident who is pestered by it, although he suggested that educating the public on the program as a whole may help to overcome these issues. Once the City approves the change, the Humane Society will pursue grants to fund the program. Discussion ensued on funding for the plan and feral cat colonies. The City Commission expressed broad support, and directed staff to bring an action item to a regular meeting for consideration of the change.

3. DISCUSS THE MERITS OF AMENDING THE CURRENT CITY CODE AS IT RELATES TO THE PARKING AND/OR STORAGE OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND RECREATIONAL VEHICLES IN THE FRONT YARDS OF RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOODS.

City Manager Craig Stephenson introduced the topic by noting that the issue comes up regularly and that although the City has amended codes to be more restrictive in historic districts, parking on lawns in the remainder of the City has not been addressed. Stephenson noted that Development Services Director Chris Henderson has done extensive research on the topic. Henderson continued, reminding all that just after he came to Ponca City in 2002, the topic arose, and a survey at that time revealed about 50% of cities had such restrictions.

In 2005 the topic again came up and eventual code changes were made to restrict recreational vehicle parking, which was changed to allow parking on a hard surface only. Henderson explained that in 2010, the City approved its' second historic district, which added restrictions to that area, so the City has made some small incremental changes.

Discussion ensued about problems facing a flat ban of parking in yards where streets are narrow, driveways short, no parking allowed on adjacent streets, among others, mostly in older neighborhoods. Consensus was to hold public hearings to gain input from residents.

4. COMMENTS FROM MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS.

Commissioner Chapman reminded all that the premiere of The Hornet's Nest is to be held on the following Wednesday evening.

5. CITY MANAGER COMMENTS.

City Manager Craig Stephenson announced that the Ponca City Regional Airport is open after a recent striping project. Stephenson then relayed that the War Memorial Park Splash Pad is also open and that the new one under construction in Dan Moran Park is on schedule.

Stephenson then reminded all that the Junior Golf Academy started that evening and will be held on Mondays and Thursdays, May 5 through July 31, for ages 5-8, from 4:30-5:30 pm and ages 9-12, from 5:30-6:30 pm at the Wentz Golf Course. Monthly Membership Fee is \$75/Child (\$10 Multiple Child Discount) for more information; please contact Golf Pro Rod Alexander at 767-0433.

Stephenson then informed all that Summer tennis registration for the Park and Recreation Department's summer tennis program with Coach Larry Williams, will be held on May 21, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., at the Wally Smith Tennis Courts. The fee is \$40/player. Stephenson next announced that that the World Premier of The Hornet's Nest, a Mike Boettcher film will be held at the Poncan Theatre on Wednesday, May 7 at 7:00 p.m. This is a fundraiser to benefit the soon to be built Kay County Veterans' Memorial Plaza in the historic downtown district. Stephenson concluded with news that demolition would soon occur of the Ag Building on West Hartford, and two older buildings in the Darr segment of the airport.

6. ADJOURN.

Commissioner Macy moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Chapman seconded. Roll: Yeas: Macy, Chapman, Nicholson, Hermann, Moore. Nays: none. Motion carried. Mayor Nicholson adjourned the meeting at 3:31 p.m.

PASSED IN SESSION AND APPROVED THIS 12TH DAY OF MAY 2014.

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK



MAYOR

Homer Nicholson