

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
PONCA CITY, OKLAHOMA  
MAY 4, 2015

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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  
Ryan Austin, Commissioner  
Lanita Chapman, Commissioner  
Mary Beth Moore, Commissioner  
Nancy Rathbun, Commissioner  
Craig Stephenson, City Manager  
Mike Vanderburg, City Attorney  
Marc LaBossiere, Finance Director/City Clerk

Absent: None

Others Present: Don Bohon, Anthony Rogers, Craige Baird, Holly LaBossiere, Marcia Hull, Tana McKinley, William Tripp, Rob Dick, Mike Lane, Chris Henderson, City staff; Link Cotham, Shane Harland, Stephanie Williams, YMCA; Steve Dye, Ponca City News, Beverly Bryant, TEAM Radio.

1. CALL TO ORDER.

Mayor Nicholson called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.

2. RECEIVE SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT ON THE PONCA CITY AQUATICS & FAMILY CENTER – YMCA.

Executive Director of the Ponca City YMCA Shane Harland began a PowerPoint presentation stating that current membership includes 9,030 members made up of 3,880 units. Harland explained the retention rate is at 71%, and over 1,800 people have received financial assistance this year. Harland then reviewed membership by zip code, noting that 13% of the membership is from outside Ponca City zip codes. Next, Harland described \$20,000 of improvements underway at the baseball fields that are being funded by Ponca City Junior Baseball and the Boettcher Law Firm.

Stephanie Williams, Senior Director of Programs & Marketing, continued. Williams reviewed recent events held at the PCAFC-YMCA, including after prom events and school rentals. Williams noted that May is the busiest time of the year with schools, when over 1,200 students will use the facility during rental events. Harland then informed commissioners that the YMCA added a third school this year to the “Make a Splash” swim classes for Ponca City second graders, now at Lincoln, Roosevelt, and Liberty grade schools. Harland explained that this is a very rewarding program for second graders, which is the best age to educate them on water safety and swimming.

Williams then outlining other programming, including the Healthy Kids event, a partnership with Operation Pioneer Spirit, youth sports, karate, and swim events. Harland expanded on this, detailing adult softball leagues, new youth programs, and scheduled upcoming tournaments. Williams then informed all about adult volleyball programming, the youth garden project after school, Summer Camp, and an upcoming indoor triathlon event.

YMCA Board President Link Cotham informed all that the YMCA is in its second year of a fundraising campaign. Cotham noted that the goal last year was \$38,000 and the goal this year is \$43,000, and that all funds are used for youth activities. Cotham relayed a feeling that the YMCA continues to be a very strong part of the community. Discussion ensued.

3. DISCUSS CITY OF PONCA CITY'S FIBER TO THE PREMISE (FTTP) PROJECT.

Technical Services Director Craige Baird reviewed the results of a recent broadband survey, from the 1,554 that were submitted. Of those respondents, 1,394 have internet at home, half of which are served by CableOne. Baird explained results on the rating criteria of current internet service and what would prompt a customer to switch providers. Baird then reviewed the percentages of how respondents watch television and movies and noted 1,441 responded that they do want and need high speed internet in their home. Baird concluded by updating commissioners on the current status of the project, and that a pilot program is forthcoming this summer and a business plan is being prepared.

4. DISCUSS PROPOSED COMMISSION POLICY STATEMENT: PUBLIC FORUM POLICY AND USE OF CITY FACILITIES.

City Manager Craig Stephenson introduced topic, informing commissioners that occasionally City policy on the use of public buildings and grounds is at odds with a citizen's desire. Stephenson referenced an example from the past summer, where a group attempting to get signatures for a state initiative petition set up on the Library lawn, which was against Library use policies. Stephenson elaborated on public forum issues and that while public facilities belong to the public, the City has a responsibility to protect assets and balance free speech. City Attorney Mike Vanderburg explained that he reviewed the current CPS #6, and updated it for commissioner consideration. Discussion ensued.

5. COMMENTS FROM MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS.

Commissioner Chapman questioned where the City is on appointments for the Ponca City Development Authority board. Mayor Nicholson stated that he has been working on that issue with PCDA Executive Director David Myers.

6. CITY MANAGER COMMENTS.

City Manager Craig Stephenson reported that the following City departments will be representing tourism venues during "Ponca City Day at the Capitol" on May 6, 2015, which include Wentz Camp & Pool, Wentz Golf Course, Marland Mansion and Marland's Grand Home. Stephenson then reminded commissioners that the City will hold its Annual Safety Award Luncheon on Thursday, May 7, 2015 beginning at 11:00 a.m. at the Wentz Camp Mess Hall. This lunch recognizes employees that continue to work safely on five year increments. This year there are 9 employees with 20 or more years of working safely, with one employee having a 40 year tenure of working safely. Commissioners are invited to serve lunch to the employees being recognized, if available.

Stephenson continued, relaying that the Chamber of Commerce will be holding their Leadership Ponca City Graduation May 7, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. There are three City employees participating this year, including Jim Fairbanks from Engineering, Jason Filtz of the Ponca City Police Department, and William Tripp from Technology Services. Stephenson announced that the Splash Pads will open on Friday May 8, 2015 and the hours of operation are from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., seven days a week. Stephenson then reminded everyone that the splash pads are pet free and smoke free areas of our park system, and that skateboards, skates, trikes and scooters are not allowed on the splash pads.

Stephenson informed all of upcoming events at the Ponca City Library, including a Cinco De Mayo event for children with piñatas, tamales and other fun games in the Program Room of the Library on May 9, 2015 from noon till 4:00 p.m. and the famous Touch a Truck event, which will be held in the parking lot behind the Library on May 16, 2015 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Stephenson noted that the 2015 Financial Fitness Kit from the Oklahoma Society of CPAs is available for check-out at the Library. The book offers information and strategies to help you get finances straightened out and in order.

7. ADJOURN.

Commissioner Moore moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Rathbun seconded.

Yeas: Moore, Rathbun, Nicholson, Chapman, Austin. Nays: none. Motion carried

Mayor Nicholson adjourned the meeting at 3:19 p.m.

*PASSED IN SESSION AND APPROVED THIS 26<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MAY 2015.*



*Henry Nicholson*  
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MAYOR

ATTEST:

*Wanda Johnson*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY CLERK

