

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PONCA CITY, OKLAHOMA
APRIL 3, 2006

Pursuant to notice as required by law, the Ponca City Board of Commissioners met in regular (work) session at 2:00 p.m. in the Commission Room at City Hall, 516 E. Grand with Mayor Stone presiding:

Present: Richard Stone, Mayor
Wayne Foxworthy, Commissioner
Diane Anderson, Commissioner
Stan Paynter, Commissioner
Paul Krueger, Commissioner
Gary Martin, City Manager
Marc LaBossiere, Finance Director/City Clerk
Kevin Murphy, City Attorney

Others Present: Clayton Johnson, Steve Miner, Chris Henderson, Craig Stephenson, Butch Herring, David Horinek, City staff; Glenda Phillips, Jayne Detten, Rhonda Skrapke, citizens; Rolf Clements, news press.

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

2. RECEIVE ANIMAL CONTROL COMMISSION UPDATE.

Police Chief Clayton Johnson explained that the Animal Control Commission meets on an as needed basis, the last time being when the vicious animal ordinance was considered. Johnson informed the Commission that he had recently attended a meeting of concerned citizens that represented a spin-off from the Ponca City Humane Society.

Johnson described the board make up, which must include one veterinarian and one member from the Kay County Health Department. Johnson the reviewed recent number of animals put down. City Manager Gary Martin expressed a belief that the Animal Control Commission is a great buffer between the community and the City Commission. Commissioner Anderson arrived at 2:03 p.m. Discussion ensued regarding breed specific legislation.

3. RECEIVE A GENERAL STATUS REPORT FROM THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR REGARDING CODE ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES AND PROCESSES FOR THE ABATEMENT OF PUBLIC NUISANCES IN RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOODS.

Community Development Director Chris Henderson began with an update of how and what the department is doing to bate nuisances in Ponca City. Henderson clarified that Community Development is the key department for removing nuisances in the City. For this, he explained he had one dedicated employee exclusively for this task, and three others who are cross-trained, and also assist. Henderson confirmed it has been a very busy year construction-wise, so the other three inspectors have not been able to assist much, but that Fire Marshall Bill Bridges has begun helping with high grass and weed issues.

Henderson informed the Commission that his department contacts thousands of

citizens to abate nuisances, as well as receive assistance from the Solid Waste Department on enforcing standards in alleys and the back of properties. Henderson summarized that the department primarily enforces three things related to public nuisances, high grass & weeds, junk vehicles, and dilapidated structures.

Regarding high grass and weeds, Henderson noted that the height trigger is 12 inches and that they have a 95% success rate with a letter and individuals then do what they are supposed to do. The department allocates \$15,000 of their budget to do mitigate the other 5% that do not get cleaned, where they hire private contractors to abate the nuisance. The City then placed a lien on the property.

Henderson then outlined the next duty, enforcing removal of junk vehicles. If a vehicle cannot operate nor has an expired tag it is a nuisance. The process was discussed and well as dangers. Henderson clarified that they often rely on help from the Ponca City Police Department to deal with individuals who do not want to take care of their property.

Finally, dilapidated houses were discussed. Henderson explained that \$15,000 of Community Development budget is allocated for abating dilapidated properties as well as \$15,000 CDBG Small Cities Entitlement funding. Discussion ensued regarding dilapidated properties. Commissioner Krueger expressed a desire for the City to spearhead a community wide effort to clean up Ponca City. Further discussion ensued.

4. COMMENTS FROM CITY MANAGER.

City Manager Gary Martin announced the Commission would board the City bus and tour certain facilities as well as alleys before the close of the meeting. Martin then relayed a request from Ponca City Energy Manager Phil Johnston of \$3.5M for additional purchase power expense due to the effect of natural gas prices this year.

Martin then relayed the City's first receipt from NODA, for cell phone E-911 revenue. Referencing a storm on the previous weekend, Martin noted that the City had 3 sirens go off, and one stuck on at Prospect & Ash. As staff needed a man lift to shut the siren off, it took longer than expected and several people unhappy. Martin stated that staff will improve the siren situation to help assure this will not happen again.

5. COMMENTS FROM MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS.

Mayor Stone expressed thanks for those attended a conference the previous week that included mayors and was full of good information. Commissioner Krueger stated he was anxious to visit Wentz Camp and drive some City alleys. Mayor Stone also noted the appointment of a board to work with the Salvation Army on a Kroc Center. Stone also discussed a possible opportunity for the City to partner with the school system on a joint project to replace the Hutchins Auditorium with a new fine arts center.

6. TAKE FIELD TRIP TO WENTZ CAMP, AIRPORT AND OTHER FACILITIES.

The Mayor and Commissioners recessed for the tour of facilities at 2:52 p.m.

7. ADJOURN

Mayor Stone adjourned the work session at 4:47 p.m.

PASSED IN SESSION AND APPROVED THIS 12TH DAY OF JUNE 2006.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK