

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PONCA CITY, OKLAHOMA
JUNE 19, 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 City Manager's Conference Room at City Hall, 516 E. Grand with Mayor Stone presiding:

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

Paul Krueger, Commissioner

Others Present: Holly LaBossiere, Craig Stephenson, Earl Whittaker, Bill Bridges, David Horinek, Phil Johnston, Terry Brown, Judy Newland, Chris Henderson, Tana McKinley, City staff; Rolf Clements, Ponca City News.

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

5. RECEIVE REVIEW OF TOURISM ADVERTISING PROGRAM. (ITEM TAKEN OUT OF ORDER)

Rich Cantillon, Director of the Ponca City Chamber of Commerce, began by noting that Tourism has \$83,000 committed to marketing annually. Cantillon explained that this is spread among advertising in regional magazines as well as Oklahoma Today, event rack cards, maps, and many others.

Cantillon then discussed the mission of Tourism, including the promotion of events and attractions, and gave specific examples. At the same time, Tourism makes it clear to holders of events that they need to promote their own event, but Tourism will support the effort where possible. Cantillon concluded with further discussion on promotion methods and the Tourism budget.

6. RECEIVE UPDATE ON LIGHT FIXTURE REPLACEMENT FOR THE UPPER FLOOR OF THE LIBRARY.

Library Director Holly LaBossiere began by giving a history of recent events in the "new" section of the Library, including 1989 construction, the first light bulb meltdown fire in 1992, followed by the second such fire in 2005. Clean up and damage costs for the 2005 fire were over \$40,000. LaBossiere discussed the many problems associated with the light fixtures and bulbs in the newer sections of the building, as well as possible solutions. Discussion ensued with Commission consensus to proceed with bidding a project to replace the fixtures.

7. CONSIDER AND DISCUSS CREATION OF ORDINANCE REGULATING ENCROACHMENTS INTO STREET RIGHT-OF-WAYS.

City Attorney Kevin Murphy began by discussing that the City's property where streets are concerned. Murphy explained that City property goes wider than just the street, for utility easements. This means the City has a right to place water lines, sewer lines, and in some areas, electric lines, in these easements. As time goes by in newer neighborhoods, we are seeing brick mailboxes among other permanent things being placed in the easement. This becomes a problem when utility repair or replacement work is necessary, as the City has nothing in place to determine responsibility of replacement on items in encroachments.

Environmental Service Director Hong Fu stated that the water/wastewater line crews occasionally run into sprinkler system while doing maintenance, discussed possible solutions. Murphy clarified that this is not of immediate concern, but will become more relevant as time goes on. Discussion ensued. Consensus was for Murphy to put together a sample ordinance for consideration.

8. DISCUSS RECOMMENDED AMENDMENTS TO THE CITY'S HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN.

Benefits Representative Judy Newland informed the Commission about two elements of the City employee health plan that the third party administrator and staff are recommending changes to. As a way to contain costs and better assure the best treatment, recommended was an amendment to encourage organ transplant case to use a United Resource Networks (URN) facility.

Also proposed was a change to limit the number of months that coverage is granted on dialysis. As Medicare will kick in once disability is set, this should not affect treatment of covered individuals. Commission consensus was to bring the item back at a regular meeting for consideration.

4. RECEIVE ENERGY ADVISORY BOARD UPDATE. (ITEM TAKEN OUT OF ORDER)

Ponca City Energy General Manager Phil Johnston and Energy Advisory Board Chairman Ed Latimer covered a variety of topics of interest to the utility, including line extensions into underground additions, the new PC Energy facility, and budget/capital for the coming fiscal year. Latimer also touched on the reason for a recent electric utility rate adjustment, utility billing and collection procedures, and financial and performance ratios.

The department has also done some test areas for automated meter reading. Latimer stated that he has been on the board for the past four years and two things he is impressed with are that the business moves along well and that Johnston does a good job, and secondly, regarding rates, we seem to be doing well there also. Discussion ensued.

3. RECEIVE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION UPDATE. (ITEM TAKEN OUT OF ORDER)

Item deferred to a future Commission work session.

9. CITY MANAGER’S COMMENTS.

City Manager Gary Martin informed the Commission that staff has been working to set a seminar on Tax Increment Financing for area builders. Martin then passed out correspondence from the FAA that states effective September 1 Ponca City will lose essential air service. The City has time to file protest, but as staff has just received notification, an action plan is not yet determined. Finance Director Marc LaBossiere noted the departure of our airline would result in a loss of \$29,000 in rent revenue annually.

Martin then informed the Commission that LaBossiere had worked on renovations in the Municipal courtroom, including recovering seat cushions and re-carpeting the room, and that all work has been completed. Martin then relayed that while at the APPA Conference in Chicago last week major issues seem to be retaining well educated employees, especially electrical engineers. Other topics covered included global warming.

Martin then noted that the City’s GIS specialist, Brad Nesom, has resigned to return to Oklahoma City, and that he will be difficult to replace. Finally, Martin informed the Commission that staff has secured a motor in Fort Smith for a recent failure at the Meadows Pump Station, and that it should arrive by 5:00 p.m. today and installed by 8:30 p.m.

10. COMMENTS FROM MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS.

Mayor Stone reminded all of the upcoming Oklahoma Conference of Mayors (OCOM) in Ponca City, and expressed a desire for all citizens to be gracious hosts. Stone also thanked City staff for work to get the City ready for the event.

2. RECEIVE IPDATE ON THE RECONSTRUCTION, REALIGNMENT, OF THE PARALLEL TAXIWAY SYSTEM AND APRONS LOCATED ON THE PONCA CITY REGIONAL AIRPORT.

Kevin Reeder, an engineer with Leard, Bice, Reeder, the firm contracted with by the City for airport work presented an outline of current projects at the facility.

10a. EXEC SESSION, DISCUSS PENDING LITIGATION (ITEM WAS UNKNOWN AT THE POINT OF PUBLISHING THE AGENDA).

The Commission went into executive session to discuss pending litigation at 3:28 p.m. The Commission returned to regular session at 3:45 p.m., and recessed for a tour of City facilities.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK