

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PONCA CITY, OKLAHOMA
JULY 7, 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
Mary Beth Moore, Commissioner
Steve Hermann, City Commissioner
Craig Stephenson, City Manager
Kevin Murphy, City Attorney
Marc LaBossiere, Finance Director/City Clerk

Absent: Lanita Chapman, Commissioner

Others Present: Tana McKinley, Chris Henderson, Craige Baird, William Tripp,
Anthony Rogers, City staff.

1. CALL TO ORDER.

Mayor Nicholson called the meeting to order at 2:07 p.m.

2. RECEIVE A REPORT FROM STAFF REGARDING THE METHODS BY WHICH COMMUNITIES IN OKLAHOMA MANAGE THE PARKING AND/OR STORAGE OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND RECREATIONAL VEHICLES IN THE FRONT YARDS OF RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOODS.

Community Development Director Chris Henderson distributed a handout, explaining that it was the result of surveying 22 cities in Oklahoma on the topics to be discussed. Henderson began by addressing the issue of parking vehicles in front yards, and stated that all 22 cities require a hard surface to park a motor vehicle in the front yard. Henderson then reviewed some exceptions to the rule, and how enforcement occurs at varying levels across the cities. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Moore arrived at 2:16 p.m.

Henderson then reviewed other communities' restrictions on recreational vehicle parking, noting that 21 of them permit an RV to be parked in the front yard when on a hard surface. Discussion of a variety of exceptions followed with pros and cons of each, as well as a path forward. City Manager Craig Stephenson summarized consensus, that staff will draft an sample ordinance and bring it back to a City Commission work session for discussion and further refinement. From there, a version will be sent to the Planning Commission for consideration.

3. DISCUSS THE CITY OF PONCA CITY'S BROADBAND SERVICE.

City Manager Craig Stephenson began by giving a brief history of the City's fiber optic loop and network. Stephenson then spoke in today's terms, the value of the network and opportunities to use it further, including the concept of offering broadband service to residential customers, or fiber-to-home. Stephenson relayed that some members of City staff have been attending educational classes and conferences on this service.

Stephenson emphasized some of the goals of the effort would be to re-coup some return on investment in the existing fiber network and to enhance quality of life for residents of Ponca City. Stephenson explained that if the consensus of the City Commission is to proceed with

exploring the option of providing fiber-to-home service; the next steps would include bringing more staff into the process, completing a business plan, and pursue a pilot program to test the concept. Discussion ensued with no stated opposition from commissioners.

4. HEAR PRESENTATION: UNDERSTANDING THE ROLE OF ELECTED OFFICIALS.

City Commissioners and staff in attendance viewed a 30 minute video that was produced by the Oklahoma Municipal Assurance Group (OMAG). The video highlighted several elected officials and City Managers who offered suggestions on how to effectively operate in their roles.

5. COMMENTS FROM MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS.

Mayor Nicholson expressed gratitude to commissioners and staff for their professionalism, and stated that it is an honor to serve with them. Commissioner Macy concurred, and as an example complimented the research Community Development Director Chris Henderson had undertaken to better understand the parking issue. Commissioner Moore relayed similar sentiment. Commissioner Hermann noted that with difficult issues coming up, such as the parking issue, it will be a test for the City Commission and how they work together. Macy concluded, stating a belief that work sessions are very helpful to understand issues and make good decisions.

6. CITY MANAGER COMMENTS.

City Manager Craig Stephenson relayed that the Oklahoma Municipal League (OML) is soliciting legislative change requests for the coming year. Stephenson then relayed news about a childcare consortium coming together in Ponca City to study the issue. Stephenson informed commissioners of an upcoming “Lunch & Learn” program on becoming a certified healthy community that will be held on August 7, 2014. Stephenson concluded by announcing the retirement of Fire Marshall David VanBuskirk, who will go to work for the State Fire Marshall’s office serving a multi-county area, including Kay County.

7. ADJOURN.

Commissioner Moore moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Macy seconded. Yeas: Moore, Macy, Nicholson, Hermann. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Mayor Nicholson adjourned the meeting at 4:15 p.m.

PASSED IN SESSION AND APPROVED THIS 28TH DAY OF JULY, 2014.



ATTEST:


CITY CLERK


MAYOR