

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
PONCA CITY, OKLAHOMA  
August 3, 2015

Southwest Business Products E1113067LD

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

Absent: Ryan Austin, Commissioner

Others Present: Tana McKinley, Jim Sindelar, Rhonda Skrapke, Hong Fu, Don Bohon, Janet Smith, Chris Henderson, City staff; citizens; Beverly Bryant, TEAM Radio, Steve Dye, Ponca City News.

1. CALL TO ORDER.

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

2. DISCUSS THE CITY OF PONCA CITY'S LAKE PONCA TRAILS PROJECT.

City Manager Craig Stephenson began, reminding all that in 1999 the City adopted a "Trails Master Plan" and that over the years some of the projects have been completed. He then related that the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) will be releasing some money for alternative transportation grants. Stephenson introduced Park & Recreation Director Jim Sindelar, who reviewed project layout, costs, and a funding recommendation. Sindelar noted that the ODOT funding application has not yet opened and will occur every other year, but once it does, staff will bring back a formal application for City Commission consideration before submission to the agency.

Jeff Morales of Landplan Consultants, the firm that staff has been working with to design the trails, continued. Morales reviewed full details of the plan through a power point presentation that included maps and pictures, and emphasized the grant funded trail system is a very beneficial way to get the improvements constructed in a community. Morales discussed each of the five phases and benefits and challenges of each. Sindelar added that the recommended first priority is the loop at Lake Ponca Park.

Stephenson then reviewed some details on the grant, which is probable to fund 80% up to \$700,000 each funding cycle. Stephenson qualified that at this time, according to engineer estimates, the City responsibility for Phase 1 would be \$462,304 and that the recommended funding source be the Hotel/Motel Guest Tax earmarked for recreation capital. Stephenson then reviewed possible grant application and project timing, followed by light discussion.

3. DISCUSS THE CITY OF PONCA CITY'S RAW WATER SUPPLY.

City Manager Craig Stephenson began, stating that he wanted staff to present a facts review on raw water supply for Ponca City in the wake of four years of drought and the City of Enid applying for 20,000 acre feet of water rights from Kaw Lake, with the intention of building a pipeline to serve their city. Stephenson emphasized that over the years many entities have talked about wanting water from Kaw Lake. Stephenson then introduced Environmental Services Director Hong Fu to give a presentation that will educate all on the City's current water rights.

Fu stated that the purpose of her presentation was to give facts and data on raw water rights, and that Ponca City currently has three water rights permits from the Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB). The first being a stream water permit to Lake Ponca in the amount of 2,500 acre feet per year. When converted to million gallons per day (MGD), this would allow Ponca City to draw 2.26 MGD from Lake Ponca, which is the total dependable yield so no other entity could get access to that water. Fu termed this water as supplemental supply, as it is seldom used.

The second permit is for groundwater in our well field, which stretches seven miles, from below the Kaw Lake dam to the east side of Ponca City for 12.54 MGD. Fu clarified that this is the City's main water supply. The third permit is for stream water to Kaw Lake for 12.53 MGD, and it has never been exercised. Fu then reviewed use numbers from 2010 - 2014, where peak demand hit 14.86 MGD, and average daily demand ranged from 8.32 - 9.35 MGD. Fu pointed out that based on the past five years use, City has sufficient rights to satisfy our water needs.

Fu then reviewed details related to the Kaw Lake water rights, including the permit, schedule of use, elevations and pool levels within the lake, and the role of the Corps of Engineers. Fu noted that there are steep costs associated with securing rights and using water from Kaw Lake, including storage fees, pipeline costs, and treatment plant modifications. Fu then discussed the quality of raw water from our wellfield versus surface water, which is more problematic to treat.

Fu informed all that the City had contracted with MKEC in 2007 to do a raw water study. The study assumed a 1% increase in use annually, and concluded that our groundwater rights alone could satisfy our water needs through 2055. Since the completion of that study, the City has constructed five new water wells, with a sixth underway in the design phase, so steady progress is being made to improve the capacity of our wellfield. Fu also noted it is a fact that the City has never had to ration water in Ponca City. Discussion ensued on the wellfield, after which questions were fielded from commissioners.

4. COMMENTS FROM MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS.

Mayor Nicholson relayed positive comments about the many community events that occurred the past weekend. Commissioner Moore expressed gratitude for a good work session and the staff preparation that made it very informative. Commissioner Rathbun complimented City staff who assisted in making the Crazy Days event in Downtown Ponca City a great day.

5. CITY MANAGER COMMENTS.

City Manager Craig Stephenson informed all that due to school resuming, the City pools are losing many lifeguards. As such, AMBUC Pool will close for the season on Thursday, August 6, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. Stephenson noted that the Wentz Pool will be open weekends only, and close on September 6, 2015.

6. ADJOURN.

A motion was made by Commissioner Chapman to adjourn. Commissioner Moore seconded.

Roll: Yeas; Chapman, Moore, Nicholson, Rathbun. Nays; None. Motion carried.

Mayor Nicholson adjourned the meeting at 3:37 p.m.

*PASSED IN SESSION AND APPROVED THIS 10<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF AUGUST 2015.*



  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

  
CITY CLERK

