

**IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE OKLAHOMA OPEN MEETING LAW
THE AGENDA WAS POSTED JANUARY 18, 2024 AT 4:05 P.M.
AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 723 SOUTH LEWIS, STILLWATER, OKLAHOMA**

**MINUTES
STILLWATER CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
COUNCIL HEARING ROOM
723 S. LEWIS
JANUARY 22, 2024**

**PRESENT: MAYOR WILLIAM H. JOYCE, VICE MAYOR AMY DZIALOWSKI,
COUNCILORS CHRISTIE HAWKINS, KEVIN CLARK AND TIM HARDIN**
ABSENT: NONE

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Joyce called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Stillwater City Council led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. CONSENT DOCKET

- a. Approve January 8, 2024, regular meeting minutes
- b. Approve budget amendments reflecting revenue and expenditure of OK Humanities grant funds to Stillwater Public Library in the amount of \$1,000 for the community-wide event, Let's Talk About It
- c. Approve budget amendments reflecting receipt and appropriation of donation funds in the amount of \$2,304 for Stillwater Public Library
- d. Approve budget amendment reflecting revenue and expenditure of \$19,008 received from OK Dept. of Libraries for the professional operation of a public library in FY2023
- e. Approve budget amendment establishing revenue projections of \$1,195,000 for receipt of Tax Increment Financing District #3 property tax increment based on Payne County Assessor's report to the Excise Board received after adoption of the FY24 City budget
- f. Approve budget amendment establishing budget appropriations of \$560,000 for disbursement of a portion of the Tax Increment Financing District #3 property tax increment to taxing jurisdictions per the Stillwater (Re) Investment Plan (Downtown/Campus Link Project Plan) Increment District #3 Project Plan
- g. Approve budget amendment appropriating transfers of \$793,920 from the Tax Increment Financing District #3 Increment Collection Fund to the Stillwater Economic Development Authority per the Stillwater (Re) Investment Plan (Downtown/Campus Link Project Plan) Increment District #3 Project Plan
- h. Stillwater History Museum quarterly report

**MOTION BY COUNCILOR CLARK, SECOND BY VICE MAYOR DZIALOWSKI TO APPROVE THE
CONSENT DOCKET AS PRESENTED.**

**ROLL CALL VOTE: JOYCE-YEA, DZIALOWSKI-YEA, HAWKINS-YEA, CLARK-YEA, HARDIN-YEA.
NAY-NONE. MOTION CARRIED WITH FIVE YEA VOTES.**

Mayor Joyce moved to item 7 a. on the agenda.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS NOT SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

Sharon Bennett, 711 West Ute, spoke against building the new animal welfare facility this close to a residential neighborhood and wildlife area.

Robert Calhoun, 802 W. Hartford Avenue, spoke against building the new animal welfare facility at Airport Road and Knoblock due to the environmental impact on the area and drainage issues on the road in this area.

Connie Crawford, 601 W. Ute Avenue, spoke against building the new animal welfare facility at this location because it would ruin the natural preserve and wildlife area. She expressed her concern about the neighborhood not receiving any notifications about the possibility of an animal welfare facility being built this close to their homes and neighborhood.

Jeannie Dibble, 603 W. Arapaho Avenue, spoke against building the animal welfare facility this close to their neighborhood and that they would protest every step of the way.

Robert Dibble, 603 W. Arapaho Avenue, spoke against building the animal welfare facility this close to a natural wildlife refuge and he expressed his concern about not receiving any notifications about this facility being built close to their neighborhood.

Linda Dickerson, 601 W. Arapaho Avenue, expressed her concern about not being notified of the possibility of the animal welfare facility being built close to her home and neighborhood as well as ruining the wildlife sanctuary and the potential effect on residential property values.

Roger Gose, 1120 E. Connell Avenue, expressed his concern over how the budget for the animal welfare facility had increased from \$4 million to \$6.75 million.

Julie Nowak, 724 Ranch Avenue, spoke against the animal welfare facility and the detriment it would do to the bird sanctuary and wildlife area and expressed her concern that the neighborhood was not notified of the possibility of the animal welfare facility being built there.

Myla Stevens, 623 Ranch Avenue, expressed her concern for the lack of community input and the increased vehicular traffic this facility would add to their safe neighborhood.

Larry Talent, 608 W. Hartford Avenue, expressed his concern over the lack of notification to the neighborhood about an animal welfare facility being built close to their homes and the danger of upsetting the ecosystem in this area.

Kyle Tatrault, 602 W. Arapaho, expressed his concern over the animal welfare facility being built this close to a residential area and the lack of notification the neighborhood received regarding this project.

Steve Trompler, 723 W. Ranch, spoke against building an animal welfare facility close to this neighborhood and expressed his concern about how that would ruin the natural habitat in the area.

Mayor Joyce thanked everyone for their input and for their advocacy for their neighborhood. He reiterated that there would be no action on the resolution tonight to allow staff more time to look at this issue and the options.

5. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT DOCKET

None.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- a. Public hearing to closeout #18266 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) 21 Drainage Improvement Project at 12th Avenue and Duck Street, authorize Mayor and staff to sign closeout documents, and approve budget amendment returning \$16,434 to the Stormwater Fund and \$17,093 to the Transportation Sales Tax Fund

Grants Manager Shelly Crynes stated that this is a public hearing to closeout #18266 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) 21, which was a drainage improvement project. The project improved water runoff along a residential area of 12th Avenue between the streets of Duck and Duncan, benefiting residents living in this area as well as along S. Husband Street and S. Husband Place. Ms. Crynes reported that the project was funded with the 2021 CDBG Small Cities grant in the amount of \$172,000 with a total leverage from the City of Stillwater in the amount of \$296,464. This project came in under budget by \$33,527. Ms. Crynes reported that the project is complete and all final costs have been incurred to make final payments to the contractor(s). In order to close out the grant and finalize all required documentation for the Oklahoma Department of Commerce (ODOC), a public hearing was advertised. With this hearing, the final documents can be executed and the project closed out.

Mayor Joyce opened and closed the public hearing as no one was present to speak.

MOTION BY COUNCILOR CLARK, SECOND BY COUNCILOR HAWKINS TO APPROVE THE CLOSEOUT OF #18266 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) 21 DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AT 12TH AVENUE AND DUCK STREET, AUTHORIZE MAYOR AND CITY MANAGER TO SIGN CLOSEOUT DOCUMENTS, AND APPROVE BUDGET AMENDMENT RETURNING \$16,434 TO THE STORMWATER FUND AND \$17,093 TO THE TRANSPORTATION SALES TAX FUND.

ROLL CALL VOTE: JOYCE-YEA, DZIALOWSKI-YEA, HAWKINS-YEA, CLARK-YEA, HARDIN-YEA. NAY-NONE. MOTION CARRIED WITH FIVE YEA VOTES.

- b. Public hearing to closeout #18119 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) CR 20 providing financial assistance to Stillwater residents experiencing financial hardship as a direct result of COVID-19

Grants Manager Shelly Crynes reported that due to COVID-19, many residents within the city limits of Stillwater sustained unprecedented financial hardship, causing them to be in need of immediate assistance. The City of Stillwater began the "Stillwater Resident COVID Impact Assistance Program" initially with CARES funds in December 2020, and then continued support for this program with Oklahoma Department of Commerce (ODOC) funds for 3 years for a total of \$1,120,000. Ms. Crynes stated that the project has been completed, and all final costs have been incurred to make final payment to the contractor. In order to close out the grant and finalize all required documentation for the Oklahoma Department of Commerce (ODOC), a public hearing was advertised. With this hearing, the final documents can be executed and the project closed out.

Mayor Joyce opened and closed the public hearing as no one was present to speak.

MOTION BY VICE MAYOR DZIALOWSKI, SECOND BY COUNCILOR HAWKINS TO APPROVE THE CLOSEOUT OF #18119 CDBG CR 20 AND AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO SIGN APPROPRIATE GRANT CLOSEOUT DOCUMENTS.

ROLL CALL VOTE: JOYCE-YEA, DZIALOWSKI-YEA, HAWKINS-YEA, CLARK-YEA, HARDIN-YEA. NAY-NONE. MOTION CARRIED WITH FIVE YEA VOTES.

7. RESOLUTIONS

Deputy City Manager Brady Moore stated that City Management is requesting that Council not take any action on Resolution No. CC-2024-2. This would allow City staff time to meet with the nearby neighborhood and time for continued evaluation of the proposed site for the new animal welfare facility. Staff is targeting August 27, 2024 as the next potential ballot date and this would require a resolution by June 12, 2024. Mr. Moore announced that the first neighborhood meeting will be January 25, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

Councilor Hawkins commended City Management for deciding to take a step back and addressing the concerns of the community.

Vice Mayor Dzialowski asked for clarification on how the City would notify the community and stakeholders about the meetings being held so they give their input. Mr. Moore stated that staff has been in contact with the neighborhood spokesperson to get the word out to the neighborhood residents.

Mayor Joyce stated that this needs to be advertised broadly so the input can be city wide as this will be on the ballot for all residents to vote on.

Councilor Hardin stated that the City needs to hear from residents that want the facility regardless. We have heard from the residents that are concerned about the location of the facility but we need to hear from the overall community that this facility is something the City needs.

- a. Resolution No. CC-2024-2: A resolution authorizing the calling and holding of an election in the City of Stillwater, State of Oklahoma, for the purpose of submitting to the registered qualified electors of said city the question of the issuance of the bonds of said City in the sum of six million seven hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$6,750,000) to provide funds for the purpose of constructing, furnishing and equipping a new Animal Welfare Facility, to be owned exclusively by said City, and levying and collecting an annual tax, in addition to all other taxes, upon all the taxable property in said City for the payment of principal and interest on said bonds

No action was taken on this item.

Mayor Joyce moved to item 4. on the agenda.

- b. Resolution CC-2024-3: A resolution authorizing and approving the submission of an application to the Oklahoma Highway Safety Office (OHSO) for Stillwater Police Department Safety Projects for FY2025

MOTION BY COUNCILOR HAWKINS, SECOND BY COUNCILOR CLARK TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. CC-2024-3 AS PRESENTED.

ROLL CALL VOTE: JOYCE-YEA, DZIALOWSKI-YEA, HAWKINS-YEA, CLARK-YEA, HARDIN-YEA. NAY-NONE. MOTION CARRIED WITH FIVE YEA VOTES.

8. REPORTS FROM OFFICERS & BOARDS

- a. Miscellaneous items from the City Attorney:
 - i. Request for Executive Session pursuant to 25 O.S. Section §307 (B)(1) of the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act for the purpose of confidential communication regarding the employment, appointment, promotion, demotion, disciplining or resignation of Stillwater City Attorney Kimberly Carnley.

- ii. Request for Executive Session pursuant to 25 O.S. Section §307 (B)(1) of the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act for the purpose of confidential communication regarding the employment, appointment, promotion, demotion, disciplining or resignation of City Manager Kimberly Meek.
- b. Miscellaneous items from the City Manager:
 - City Manager Kimberly Meek announced that due to the icy road conditions, waste management trucks were not able to run Monday's route so if the residents on this route schedule will leave their trash cans out, the trash will get picked up as soon as possible.
- c. Miscellaneous items from the City Council:
 - Mayor Joyce thanked all City departments that were out working in less than favorable conditions.
 - Mayor Joyce announced that last week he attended the US Conference of Mayors in Washington, DC. He stated he met with Senator Mullins, Representative Lucas and Senator Lankford's staff to talk about the City's water restructure projects. Mayor thanked the legislatures for their help in finding additional funding for these projects.
 - Mayor Joyce announced the awards presented to City staff at the Chamber of Commerce Awards Gala. He stated that the Chamber Choice Award went to Rob Hill and the SEMA staff for their work in helping keep the City safe. Mayor Joyce stated that he presented the induction of Norman McNickle into the Chamber of Commerce Hall of Fame.
- i. Discussion about scheduling items for future meetings.

9. QUESTIONS & INQUIRIES

None.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a. Confidential communication regarding the employment, appointment, promotion, demotion, disciplining, or resignation of City Attorney Kimberly Carnley.
- b. Confidential communication regarding the employment, appointment, promotion, demotion, disciplining or resignation of City Manager Kimberly Meek.

MOTION BY MAYOR JOYCE, SECOND BY COUNCILOR CLARK TO RECESS THE STILLWATER CITY COUNCIL MEETING AT 6:26 P.M.

ROLL CALL VOTE: JOYCE-YEA, DZIALOWSKI-YEA, HAWKINS-YEA, CLARK-YEA, HARDIN-YEA. NAY-NONE. MOTION CARRIED WITH FIVE YEA VOTES.

Stillwater City Council meeting recessed at 6:26 p.m. to convene Stillwater Economic Development Authority meeting.

Stillwater City Council reconvened at 6:27 p.m.

MOTION BY HARDIN, SECOND BY VICE MAYOR DZIALOWSKI TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 6:27 P.M

ROLL CALL VOTE: JOYCE-YEA, DZIALOWSKI-YEA, HAWKINS-YEA, CLARK-YEA, HARDIN-YEA. NAY-NONE. MOTION CARRIED WITH FIVE YEA VOTES.

11. RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION BY COUNCILOR HARDIN, SECOND BY VICE MAYOR DZIALOWSKI TO RECONVENE THE REGULAR STILLWATER CITY COUNCIL MEETING AT 8:02 P.M.

ROLL CALL VOTE: JOYCE-YEA, DZIALOWSKI-YEA, HAWKINS-YEA, CLARK-YEA, HARDIN-YEA. NAY-NONE. MOTION CARRIED WITH FIVE YEA VOTES.

- a. Possible action regarding the employment, appointment, promotion, demotion, disciplining or resignation of City Attorney Kimberly Carnley, including consideration of an Amendment to Employment Agreement to address terms of employment.

MOTION BY COUNCILOR CLARK, SECOND BY VICE MAYOR DZIALOWSKI TO APPROVE THE CITY ATTORNEY'S SECOND AMENDED CONTRACT.

ROLL CALL VOTE: JOYCE-YEA, DZIALOWSKI-YEA, HAWKINS-YEA, CLARK-YEA, HARDIN-YEA. NAY-NONE. MOTION CARRIED WITH FIVE YEA VOTES.

- b. Possible action regarding the employment, appointment, promotion, demotion, disciplining or resignation of City Manager Kimberly Meek, including consideration of an Amendment to Employment Agreement to address terms of employment.

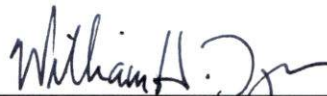
No action was taken on this item.

12. ADJOURN

MOTION BY COUNCILOR HARDIN, SECOND BY COUNCILOR CLARK TO ADJOURN THE JANUARY 22, 2024 REGULAR MEETING OF THE STILLWATER CITY COUNCIL.

ROLL CALL VOTE: JOYCE-YEA, DZIALOWSKI-YEA, HAWKINS-YEA, CLARK-YEA, HARDIN-YEA. NAY-NONE. MOTION CARRIED WITH FIVE YEA VOTES.

The January 22, 2024 regular meeting of the Stillwater City Council adjourned at 8:03 p.m.



WILLIAM H. JOYCE, MAYOR
STILLWATER CITY COUNCIL



TERESA KADAVY
CITY CLERK