

MINUTES OF THE PONCA SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD 5.9.2024

Mayor DJ Smith called the meeting to order at 5:00pm on May 9th, 2024, and referenced the meeting recording process, optional sign-in sheet and Open Meetings Law posting. All those present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilmembers Josh Blatchford, Kari Lowe, Eric Bevelhymmer, Ron Mahler, and Dillon Rickett were present for Roll Call. Andy Stark was excused. Prior notice of the meeting and agenda were provided to the Mayor and all Members of the Governing Body. Notice of the meeting was distributed and posted at the Ponca City Hall, US Post Office-Ponca, Bank of Dixon County, Keller's Pharmacy, and the Dixon County Courthouse.

Mayor Smith addressed the council and public stating that this was a meeting to discuss, review, and accept the resignations of the Police Chief, Councilwoman, and Utility Clerk.

Mayor Smith stated that Joe Yocum's resignation had nothing to do with the City or being unhappy. He was ready to retire and do some things in his personal life that he was placing on hold. Motion to accept Police Chief Joe Yocum's formal resignation was made by Blatchford and seconded by Bevelhymmer. Council members voting "YEA": Lowe, Mahler, Rickett, Bevelhymmer, Blatchford. "NAY": none. Motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Smith presented a quote from Dixon County Sheriff's Department to cover the police work for the City. It was out of the budget. There was discussion on whether the City would like to continue with the Police Department. That was a unanimous yes, the City does need to keep the department. Mayor Smith would like to run an ad for the position from May 13th- May 31st. Motion to place an ad for a new full time Police Chief was made by Lowe and seconded by Blatchford. Council members voting "YEA": Mahler, Rickett, Bevelhymmer, Blatchford, Lowe. Voting "NAY": none. Motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Smith presented an opportunity for the City to create a Code Enforcement position. The position would preferably have a certified law enforcement officer so they could write citations and carry a weapon. If a non-certified law enforcement applicant was to obtain the position, then official citations would have to go through the city attorney and no weapon would be able to be carried. They did state that his position would be to bridge the gap between now and finding a Police Chief. If a full time Police Chief was hired, then the Code Enforcement position would be PRN. Mayor Smith suggested that the ad for the Code Enforcement position run for 2 weeks, from May 13th to the close of business on May 28th. A motion to place the ad for Code Enforcement was made by Mahler and seconded by Rickett. Council members voting "YEA": Rickett, Bevelhymmer, Blatchford, Lowe, Mahler. Voting "NAY": none. Motion passed 5-0.

Wage Ordinance was discussed under agenda item 10.

Kari Lowe presented her formal resignation from the Council. Motion to accept Lowe's formal resignation was made by Bevelhymmer and seconded by Blatchford. Council members voting "YEA": Bevelhymmer, Blatchford, Mahler, Rickett. Abstaining: Lowe. Voting "NAY": none. Motion passed 4-0.

Schweers presented a formal resignation from Lynn Johansen, the City's part time billing/utility clerk. She resigned from that position immediately but will stay on call if the city employees need her as a resource. There was discussion on removing that position as part-time and making it a full-time position that would entail both indoor and outdoor duties. Mayor Smith would like to run an ad for that position starting May 13th to end of business on May 28th, with interviews starting the first week of June. The wage ordinance that was presented was tabled until the May 30th meeting to be approved. A motion to accept the part time billing/utility clerk resignation and advertisement for one full time position was made by Lowe and seconded by Bevelhymmer. Council members voting "YEA": Bevelhymmer, Blatchford, Lowe, Mahler, Rickett. Voting "NAY": none. Motion passed 5-0.

Schweers presented 2 invoices from Veenstra and Kimm along with a note explaining the balance that is still due in the amount of \$3,175 to Gill Construction. A motion was made by Bevelhymmer and seconded by Blatchford to approve the payment. Council members voting "YEA": Blatchford, Bevelhymmer, Rickett, Mahler, Lowe. Voting "NAY": none. Motion passed 5-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:30 PM by Mayor Smith.

DJ Smith, Mayor

Jaime Schweers, City Clerk-Finance Director