



City of Broken Arrow
Special Meeting Minutes
City Council

City Hall
220 S 1st Street
Broken Arrow OK
74012

Mayor Craig Thurmond
Vice-Mayor Scott Eudey
Council Member Mike Lester
Council Member Johnnie Parks
Council Member Debra Wimpee

Tuesday, March 26, 2018

Time 5:30 p.m.

Council Chambers

1. Call to Order

Mayor Craig Thurmond called the meeting to order at approximately 5:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present: 5 - Debra Wimpee, Johnnie Parks, Mike Lester, Scott Eudey, Craig Thurmond

3. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Mayor Thurmond led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

4. General Council Business

- A. 18-391 Consideration, discussion, and possible approval of Resolution No. 1092, a Resolution establishing support for Oklahoma Public School teachers and urging the Oklahoma Legislature to provide pay raises for public school teachers and support staff and to provide sufficient funding for public schools**

City Manager Michael Spurgeon thanked City Council for holding the Special Council Meeting. He reported last Tuesday night City Council requested the City Attorney create Resolution No. 1092 which was provided to Council for review two days prior. He stated he felt it was important for City Council to show support for Public Education. He reported City Council had been collaborating with other local officials, school districts, chambers and cities in an effort to discover a solution for this problem. He stated ultimately State Legislature had a constitutional responsibility to properly fund Public Education. He stated he felt this Resolution was a good show of the support provided by the City of Broken Arrow to the Oklahoma Public School System.

Mayor Craig Thurmond stated it was important to the local economy to focus on education; therefore, this meeting was being held to approve Resolution No. 1092 to show Broken Arrow understood the importance of Public Education.

Council Member Mike Lester stated his position grew from his wife teaching for 38 years. He stated teachers were depended upon to educate young people to become the doctors, lawyers and teachers of tomorrow, and it baffled him that long term Public Education funding was not established. He stated while he would rather the teachers not “walk-out,” if State Legislature did not make the necessary changes, he was in favor of the teachers walking out and going to Oklahoma City in force to encourage State Legislature to take action.

Council Member Johnnie Parks stated he was in support of Public Education and as a teacher for many years, as well as having worked in a prison he understood the multitude of problems which arose from poor funding of Public Education. He stated while not normally in favor of walking out, he was in this case, as something needed to be done to encourage State Legislature to properly fund Public Education in the State of Oklahoma. He stated several local Legislators were in favor of raises for teachers, but the State Legislature as a whole failed to establish a working long term Public Education funding plan.

Vice Mayor Scott Eudey stated he did not support the walk-out for the reasons he indicated at the previous City Council meeting; however, he was in firm support of the teachers. He stated he supported the importance of funding schools and an increase in teacher’s salary. He explained he had studied to be a teacher and chose not to due to the amount of work relative to the amount of pay. He stated many teachers were facing this same issue and he felt the State Legislature as a whole had failed the Public Education System. He stated he agreed with Council Member Parks; there were various individual Legislators who showed support of Public Education, but as a whole the State was failing the education system. He stated State Legislators had a constitutional obligation to fund education and provide a quality education. He stated he supported this Resolution and commended City Attorney Childs for its creation.

Council Member Debra Wimpee stated she agreed with the above statements; the State should have put a proper funding plan in place years ago and she agreed teachers should be a priority.

Mayor Thurmond read Resolution No. 1092: “Whereas Broken Arrow City Council views Oklahoma State Teachers as one of the most important work forces within the State, and whereas for eighteen months Broken Arrow City Officials, along with Officials from Broken Arrow Public School Districts, surrounding Tulsa Regional Cities, the Chambers of Commerce, the School Districts, have urged the Oklahoma Legislature to address the issues facing Public Education, and whereas of particular importance is the need to increase wages for teachers and support staff to develop a long term solution to funding Public Education; whereas Oklahoma Public School Teachers receive the lowest pay in the Nation, and whereas Oklahoma Public Schools are seriously underfunded; whereas to this point there has been a failure on the part of Oklahoma Legislature to address Public School funding needs, and whereas Oklahoma Public School Teachers have been requesting a raise in salary and additional funding for Public Schools to no avail; whereas the Public Schools are an integral part of the State’s economic development; whereas the failure to fund the Public Schools will result in harm to the State’s economic development goals; whereas the Broken Arrow City Council fully appreciated Public School Teachers and a raise in their salary and additional funding for Public Schools; now, therefore, be it resolved the Broken Arrow City Council fully support Oklahoma Public School Teachers, especially those in the Broken Arrow Public Schools, Union Public Schools and Bixby Public Schools, each of which directly serve the children of Broken Arrow. It is further resolved that the Oklahoma Legislature is strongly urged to provide raises for Public School Teachers and support staff. Be it further resolved that Oklahoma Legislature is strongly urged to provide sufficient ongoing funding for Public Schools.”

MOTION: A motion was made by Scott Eudey, seconded by Johnnie Parks.

Move to approve Resolution No. 1092

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Debra Wimpee, Johnnie Parks, Mike Lester, Scott Eudey, Craig Thurmond

5. Remarks and Inquiries by Governing Body Members

There were none.

6. Remarks and updates by City Manager, including Recognition of Recent Accomplishments by Employees and Elected Officials

There were none.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:42 p.m.

MOTION: A motion was made by Johnnie Parks, seconded by Debra Wimpee.

Move to adjourn

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Debra Wimpee, Johnnie Parks, Mike Lester, Scott Eudey, Craig Thurmond

Attest:

Mayor

City Clerk