



City of Broken Arrow
Minutes
City Council Special Meeting

City Hall
220 S 1st Street
Broken Arrow OK
74012

Mayor Debra Wimpee
Vice Mayor Christi Gillespie
Council Member Johnnie Parks
Council Member Lisa Ford
Council Member Justin Green

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Time 5:00 p.m.

Council Chambers

1. Call to Order

Mayor Debra Wimpee called the meeting to order at approximately 5:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present: 5 - Justin Green, Lisa Ford, Johnnie Parks, Christi Gillespie, Debra Wimpee (Justin Green arrived at approximately 5:10 p.m.)

3. Public Hearings, Appeals, Presentations, Recognitions, Awards

A. 23-1600 Presentation and discussion of upcoming Citizen Bond Survey and possible acceptance of the survey and direction to staff to work with outside firm to open the survey in early 2024

Director of Communications Aaron McColloch reported the Citizen Bond Survey Committee met for the first time two months ago to consider a survey for release to the public in early 2024. He reported the draft of the survey was ready and before City Council for consideration. He noted six years ago today the results of the survey for the 2018 bond package were presented to City Council. He indicated the results of the 2024 survey would help determine what would go into the 2026 bond package. He reviewed the history of the 2026 bond process to date: On August 28, 2018, voters approved a \$211 million dollar, 6 Proposition Package of the Build Our Future BA General Obligation Bond initiative. He stated the 2018 Bond Package included a total of 88 capital improvement projects which were overwhelmingly approved by 71 percent. He stated the 2018 GO Bond was a 10 year series of bond sales planned through 2027; however, due to the impressive economic vitality of Broken Arrow regarding the significant increase in the City's net assessed value, as well as the City Council's prudent stewardship of the public's money, the City of Broken Arrow was well ahead of schedule and intended to sell the final two series of 2018 bonds in 2024 and 2025, two years earlier than planned. He stated as such the City of Broken Arrow proposed to hold a General Obligation Bond election in April 2026 and before the process to select bond projects for consideration began public input was needed. He noted there would be no tax increases with the new bond package and the focus would be on public infrastructure and quality of life projects. He reported the survey had three components: to determine the citizens' level of satisfaction with City services provided; standard demographic information; and to collect opinions regarding potential future improvements. He noted the draft survey was included in the Agenda Packet. He stated it was sent to the Department Directors for feedback and he would review some of the feedback submitted. He reviewed certain questions on the survey, how said questions were worded, and how the questions might be changed.

Vice Mayor Christi Gillespie asked if the surveys would be anonymous.

Mr. McColloch responded in the affirmative.

Vice Mayor Gillespie stated knowing where those who responded to the survey lived within the City was useful information and she asked how this could be determined.

Council Member Lisa Ford noted if a citizen responded they did not feel safe where they lived, it was important to know where said citizen lived.

Mr. McColloch stated a zip code locator could be included in the survey.

City Manager Michael Spurgeon asked if it would be possible for the survey itself to populate what area of the City the survey was collected from.

Mr. McColloch responded he would look into this possibility. He stated he agreed it would be useful to know what part of the City citizens lived in. He continued to review the recommended changes to the draft survey.

Council Member Ford suggested including how the public felt about the services provided by the Met.

City Manager Spurgeon stated the Committee discussed getting the results in March or April of 2025, presenting the results to City Council, and then formulating the bond packages. He stated it was possible to release a “deeper dive” survey in 2025 to gather any additional information City Council might wish for and to gather further clarification regarding the bond package questions. He stated the survey company was on contract for 24 months to allow the City to send out additional surveys to gather information as needed.

Mr. McColloch continued reviewing changes in the survey. He noted the questions regarding gender, race, age, etc., were optional.

Discussion ensued regarding including Hispanic as an option in the question regarding race.

Mr. McColloch continued reviewing the survey.

Discussion ensued regarding the use of the word natatorium versus community indoor pool. It was decided to change natatorium to “aquatic center (indoor pool for school use, recreation, competitive uses).”

Discussion ensued regarding existing Broken Arrow bike trails, the City not having the proper mountainous terrain for mountain bike trails, Bluff Landing bike trails, and leaving the mountain bike trail question on the survey for the time being.

Mr. McColloch continued to review the suggested changes to the survey.

Council Member Ford suggested separating how the citizenry felt about the dispatch call services (police, fire, EMS) from general customer service calls.

Mr. McColloch indicated this would be done.

Council Member Justin Green asked how the survey would go out to the citizens.

Mr. McColloch indicated the survey would be solicited to Broken Arrow Utilities customers.

Discussion ensued regarding how citizens could find and complete the survey.

Mr. McColloch indicated the survey would be released to utilities customers first, utilities customers would have the ability to give the survey to family members over the age of 18, and then it could be pushed out to others.

Discussion continued regarding making the survey available to all Broken Arrow citizens over the age of 18.

Mr. McColloch indicated he would look further into ensuring all Broken Arrow citizens had the opportunity to complete the survey.

Council Member Ford stated the Committee did an excellent job organizing the questions for the survey.

City Manager Spurgeon indicated he hoped to receive more responses to this survey than the survey from 2017 and he discussed how the citizenry would be reminded about and encouraged to fill out the survey.

Vice Mayor Gillespie stated she felt it was important only Broken Arrow residents completed the survey.

Mr. McColloch stated the survey company had mechanisms in place to look for “ballot stuffers” and those outside the community through IP, AI, even human eyes, to ensure only Broken Arrow citizens’ surveys were tallied.

City Manager Spurgeon stated he was excited about some of the projects which were up for consideration. He asked for approval.

Council Member Johnnie Parks asked when the survey would be ready for the public.

Mr. McColloch responded the survey should be ready for the public in mid to late January.

MOTION: A motion was made by Christi Gillespie, seconded by Lisa Ford.

Move to accept the survey and direct staff to work with outside firm to open the survey in early 2024

The motion carried by the following vote:
Aye: 5 - Justin Green, Lisa Ford, Johnnie Parks, Christi Gillespie, Debra Wimpee

4. Remarks and Inquiries by Governing Body Members

There were no remarks or inquiries by Governing Body Members.

5. Remarks and Updates by City Manager

City Manager Spurgeon stated during the Community Expo on February 10th, 2024, all who attended would be encouraged to complete the Survey. He noted during the Expo there would be a discussion of the GO Bond Package, as well as the amphitheater.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:36 p.m.

MOTION: A motion was made by Christi Gillespie, seconded by Justin Green.
Move to adjourn

The motion carried by the following vote:
Aye: 5 - Justin Green, Lisa Ford, Johnnie Parks, Christi Gillespie, Debra Wimpee

Mayor

City Clerk