



City of Broken Arrow

Minutes

City Council Meeting

Mayor Debra Wimpee
Council Member Johnnie Parks
Council Member Lisa Ford
Council Member Justin Green
Council Member David Pickel

City Hall
220 S 1st Street
Broken Arrow OK
74012

Tuesday, March 4, 2025

Time 6:30 p.m.

Council Chambers

1. Call to Order

Mayor Debra Wimpee called the meeting to order at approximately 6:31 p.m.

2. Invocation

Pastor Scott Moore led the Invocation.

3. Roll Call

Present: 5 - David Pickel, Justin Green, Lisa Ford, Johnnie Parks, Debra Wimpee

4. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Member of Boy Scout Troop 10 led the Pledge.

5. Consideration of Consent Agenda

- A. 25-220** Approval of and authorization to execute Agreement for Professional Consultant Services with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. for the Dallas Street Improvements from Main Street to 9th Street (Project Number ST25320)
- B. 25-256** Approval of and authorization to execute Agreement for Professional Consultant Services with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. for Residential Roadway Rehabilitation (Project Number ST25310)
- C. 25-263** Acceptance of Utility Easement 2.1 and Temporary Construction Easements 2. A, 2. B, 2. C from Charlotte Phebe Snyder, on property located at 6800 S Elm Pl, Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, located in the Northeast Quarter of Section 3, Township 17 North, Range 14 East, Tulsa County, State of Oklahoma, for the South Park South Lift Station Conversion to Gravity, Parcel 2.1, 2. A, 2. B, 2. C (Project No. 2154280)
- D. 25-257** Ratification of the Claims List Check Register Dated February 24, 2025

MOTION: A motion was made by Justin Green, seconded by Lisa Ford
Move to approve Consent Agenda

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - David Pickel, Justin Green, Lisa Ford, Johnnie Parks, Debra Wimpee

6. Consideration of Items Removed from Consent Agenda - NONE

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

- A. 25-184** Presentation by Oklahoma Municipal League and recognition to City employees for reaching twenty-five years of service

Kelly Cox, Joyce Calvert, and the Oklahoma Municipal League (OML) honored several City of Broken Arrow employees for their 25 years of service. Joyce Calvert, Mayor of Glenpool and OML representative, recognized present and absent employees. Not in attendance were several firefighters, police officers, and a water reclamation superintendent. Those present included Kim Bailey (Risk Management Coordinator), Russell (retired Facility Supervisor), Stephen Smith (Police Captain), and Lisa Smith (911 Dispatcher). Each received an award and recognition for their contributions to the city's safety and operations.

- B. 25-298** Presentation concerning proposed restrictions of municipal biosolids handling within 2025 legislative sessions regarding Oklahoma Senate Bills SB003 and SB268 and Oklahoma House Bill HB1726

Timothy Robbins, Utilities Director, addressed the council regarding pending Oklahoma

legislation (SB003, SB268, and HB1726) affecting biosolids management and PFAS/PFOA chemical regulations. He explained biosolids processing, highlighting how the City of Broken Arrow currently dewater bio sludge for landfill disposal while most of the state relies on land application.

The proposed bills would impose immediate bans or severe restrictions on biosolid land applications, leading to significant financial and operational burdens. Tulsa, which primarily land applies biosolids, would face an estimated \$9 million increase in costs, with Broken Arrow's BAMA budget potentially rising by \$1-2 million annually. Additional concerns include landfill capacity constraints, regulatory delays, and disruptions to a \$48 million wastewater treatment composting project.

Mr. Robbins acknowledged the risks of PFAS/PFOA. Still, he advocated a balanced, science-driven approach with accountability for industries contributing to contamination rather than shifting the burden to municipalities and ratepayers. He urged continued EPA guidance and a holistic response to biosolids management.

The council discussed legislative efforts concerning biosolids management and PFAS/PFOA chemicals, emphasizing potential financial and operational impacts. Officials noted that related bills (SB003, SB268, HB1726) have made partial legislative progress, though SB003 did not advance out of committee.

Discussions highlighted the estimated \$750,000–\$1 million annual cost increase for Broken Arrow's RMUA operations, translating to a potential \$2–\$3 monthly utility rate hike per customer. Concerns about landfill capacity increased tipping fees, raising municipalities' financial burden.

Officials advocated for a science-based approach rather than outright bans, aligning with EPA recommendations. Council members considered drafting a resolution urging state legislators and the DEQ to base decisions on scientific findings. They also planned to raise the issue at upcoming legislative meetings in Washington, D.C., and encourage broader municipal support across Oklahoma.

MOTION: A motion was made by Lisa Ford, seconded by Justin Green
Move to approve Item 25-298 providing guidance to staff about a future resolution regarding municipal biosolids handling within the 2025 legislative session concerning Oklahoma Senate Bills SB003 and SB268 and Oklahoma House Bill HB1726

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - David Pickel, Justin Green, Lisa Ford, Johnnie Parks, Debra Wimpee

C. 25-264 Update on the 2026 General Obligation Bond Package

City Manager Michael Spurgeon discussed two significant updates: the selection of a new Executive Director for NCOG and the review process for the upcoming bond package. Mayor Calvert and City Manager Michael Spurgeon have been appointed to the Selection Committee to assist with the hiring process, working alongside an executive search firm to review applications and submit recommendations, with a final selection expected by summer.

A new survey question was added regarding the bond package to determine public support for a community center with or without splash features, given the additional \$19–\$20 million cost. Council members will receive bond books for review by the end of the month, followed by preliminary discussions. In May, the focus will shift to finalizing the fiscal year 2026 budget before resuming bond discussions in June. The first meeting in June will involve hearing from community and user groups, while the following meetings will break down specific bond propositions, including transportation, public safety, city facilities, parks and recreation, stormwater, and potentially a library package. The goal is to complete the review by the third week of June before summer schedules slow progress, with public hearings anticipated around Labor Day. The process balances financial considerations, community input, and city priorities to ensure a well-structured bond proposal.

Further discussion emphasized the importance of bond packages for municipal infrastructure and financial stability, particularly given that Oklahoma relies primarily on sales tax for city funding. Without bond approvals, critical projects such as road widening, facility expansions, and public safety improvements would face significant delays or become impossible to fund. The rising costs of infrastructure projects, such as \$7 million per mile for road expansions and \$10 million for five-lane roads, highlight the necessity of securing bond funding, as sales tax revenue alone cannot cover these expenses.

City Manager Spurgeon stressed the need for extensive public education to ensure residents understand that bond approvals do not increase taxes but allow the city to maintain and improve infrastructure. Transparency efforts will include letters, surveys, public forums, and neighborhood meetings to communicate the necessity of the proposed \$400 million bond

package. With strong community engagement and partnerships with local organizations like the Chamber of Commerce and school district, city leaders aim to provide residents with the information needed to make informed voting decisions. The initiative will focus on education rather than advocacy, ensuring compliance with legal restrictions while emphasizing the benefits of the bond package for the city's future growth and quality of life.

8. Citizens' Opportunity to Address the Council on General Topics Related to City Business or Services (No action may be taken on matters under this item) - NONE

9. General Council Business

A. 25-262 Consideration, discussion, and possible direction to amend Section 10-3 "Manufacture, sale and use of fireworks" to allow for alternate dates for fireworks usage in the event of rain on July 3 or July 4 and possible designation of the appropriate person to determine alternate dates for fireworks usage

City Manager Spurgeon discussed considering revising the fireworks ordinance following last year's unusual situation where both designated days for fireworks were rained out. The ordinance does not allow for an extension, leaving no flexibility to reschedule. Officials propose granting authority to the mayor, city manager, or a designee to designate alternate dates within a short timeframe, such as up to seven days after the scheduled dates, in the event of inclement weather. This would ensure residents still have an opportunity to celebrate while maintaining order and safety. The discussion aims to determine the best approach and factors to consider when selecting alternative dates.

Further discussion focused on the need for an amendment to the fireworks ordinance to allow for an alternative date in case of rain on the scheduled days, July 3rd and 4th. There is no provision to reschedule, which led to confusion last year when both days were rained out. The proposal is to grant the city manager the authority to designate a makeup day, with the main point of discussion being whether to allow just one alternative day or two.

While some council members support limiting it to one additional day to minimize disruption to those opposed to fireworks, others raised concerns about ensuring a weekend option for those who work during the week. The consensus leaned toward allowing flexibility within a set window, with the city manager selecting a rescheduled date no later than July 15th to accommodate varying schedules and weather conditions. The ordinance amendment would provide a precise mechanism for handling such situations in the future while balancing the interests of all residents.

MOTION: A motion was made by Lisa Ford, seconded by Johnnie Parks
Move to approve and amend Item 25-262Section 10-3 "Manufacture, sale and use of fireworks" to allow for alternate dates for fireworks usage in the event of rain on July 3 or July 4 and possible designation of the appropriate person to determine alternate dates for fireworks usage

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - David Pickel, Justin Green, Lisa Ford, Johnnie Parks, Debra Wimpee

10. Preview Ordinances-NONE

11. Ordinances

A. 25-285 Consideration, discussion, and possible adoption of Ordinance No. 3851, adopting Article I-General; Section 2-16 Salary of the Mayor and City Councilmembers commencing April 4, 2025; and repealing all ordinances to the contrary

Trevor Dennis, City Attorney, presented Ordinance 3851, which establishes compensation for the City Council and Mayor. Under the ordinance, City Council members will receive \$9,000 annually, while the Mayor will receive \$12,000 annually, with payments made on a bi-weekly schedule alongside city employees. The ordinance also specifies that council members will not receive deferred compensation, and payments will cease if a member vacates their office, though expense reimbursements remain allowable. Additionally, it includes a provision ensuring that the issue of compensation will not be revisited until April 1, 2029, to prevent frequent reconsideration of pay increases. The proposal aligns with previous council discussions, and officials expressed interest in keeping compensation adjustments infrequent to maintain stability.

The council discussed Ordinance 3851, which sets compensation for City Council members at \$9,000 annually and the Mayor at \$12,000 annually, with bi-weekly payments. The ordinance includes a five-year review period, stating that compensation will not be revisited until April 1, 2029, though future councils retain the right to reconsider it. It also adheres to the rule that any approved increase cannot take effect during a council member's current term.

Councilor Parks highlighted the increasing time commitment required for council duties, with one council member noting over 100 hours spent in meetings over two months and preparation time. The stipend is intended to help offset costs, such as travel expenses, as council members attend multiple meetings across the city without requesting reimbursements. Overall, there was strong support for the ordinance, recognizing the evolving demands of public service while ensuring financial prudence.

MOTION: A motion was made by Johnnie Parks, seconded by Justin Green
Move to approve Item 25-285 Ordinance No. 3851, adopting Article I-General; Section 2-16 Salary of the Mayor and City Councilmembers commencing April 4, 2025; and repealing all ordinances to the contrary

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - David Pickel, Justin Green, Lisa Ford, Johnnie Parks, Debra Wimpee

B. 25-286 Consideration, discussion, and possible adoption of Ordinance No. 3849, an Ordinance of the City of Broken Arrow, amending Chapter 5, Animals, Article I, In General; Section 5-21-Venomous reptiles, wild or exotic animals prohibited; repealing all ordinances to the contrary; and declaring an emergency

Trevor Dennis, City Attorney, presented the proposed ordinance amendment updates the city's exotic animal regulations by removing the special committee previously responsible for oversight and instead deferring authority to a veterinarian and the director of animal control. This streamlines the decision-making process while ensuring expert evaluation of exotic animal matters. Officials recommend passing the ordinance along with an emergency clause for immediate implementation. The change aligns with previous council discussions, and no additional modifications have been made beyond this structural adjustment.

MOTION: A motion was made by Lisa Ford, seconded by David Pickel
Move to approve Item 25-286 Ordinance No. 3849, an Ordinance of the City of Broken Arrow, amending Chapter 5, Animals, Article I, In General; Section 5-21-Venomous reptiles, wild or exotic animals prohibited; repealing all ordinances to the contrary; and declaring an emergency

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - David Pickel, Justin Green, Lisa Ford, Johnnie Parks, Debra Wimpee

C. 25-287 Consideration, discussion, and possible approval of an emergency clause for Ordinance No. 3849

MOTION: A motion was made by Lisa Ford, seconded by Justin Green
Move to approve Item 25-287 emergency clause for Ordinance No. 3849

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - David Pickel, Justin Green, Lisa Ford, Johnnie Parks, Debra Wimpee

12. Remarks and Inquiries by Governing Body Members

City council and community members shared updates on upcoming events and recognized local youth achievements. The Shamrock the Rose Festival is set for March 15th from 5:00 to 10:00 p.m. on Main Street, marking its 11th year as a fundraiser for Soldier's Wish. The event will feature live music, food trucks, street vendors, a KidZone, a beer garden, and a VIP area, with last year's attendance reaching 19,000 people. The festival is free, with proceeds from ticketed areas supporting the cause.

Council members also took a moment to recognize Boy Scout Troop members in attendance for participating in the meeting, encouraging young people to engage in the civic process. They promoted the Youth City Council program, which offers high school students a three-year opportunity to learn about local government and participate in trips to the state capitol and Washington, D.C.

Additionally, the Winter Guard International Competition will take place March 9-10 at Broken Arrow High School for the first time, drawing competitors from seven states and bringing thousands of visitors to the city. Winter Guard is a choreographed performance competition involving flags, rifles, and dance routines. Other local student achievements were celebrated, including Broken Arrow High School's show choir winning a grand championship in Minnesota and the high school wrestling team securing the 2025 6A state championship.

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

City Manager Michael Spurgeon announced the start of budget planning for FY 2026 next week, marking the beginning of a week-long process focused on planning, visioning, reviewing appropriation requests, and assembling the proposed budget. The finalized budget will be submitted to the council by the end of April or early May, followed by scheduled review

meetings. Budget hearings will occur in May, with a public hearing set for the first Monday in June and a possible adoption on the third Monday. This annual process is crucial in shaping the city's financial priorities and operations for the upcoming fiscal year.

14. Executive Session - NONE

15. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:35 p.m.

MOTION: A motion was made by Johnnie Parks, seconded by Lisa Ford
Move to adjourn

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - David Pickel, Justin Green, Lisa Ford, Johnnie Parks, Debra Wimpee

Mayor

City Clerk