



City of Broken Arrow
Work Session Meeting Minutes
City Council Meeting

City Hall
220 S 1st Street
Broken Arrow OK
74012

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

Tuesday, August 12, 2025	Time 6:00 p.m.	Council Chambers
---------------------------------	-----------------------	-------------------------

1. Call to Order

Mayor Debra Wimpee called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

2. Roll Call

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

3. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

The Pledge was led by Council Member Lisa Ford.

4. General Council Business

A. 25-1158 Consideration, discussion, and possible approval of adding additional students to the Youth City Council program

The Youth City Council program in Broken Arrow has been running since 2011, originally with seniors and juniors before expanding to include sophomores in 2021, reaching a peak of 36 students. The program emphasizes hands-on learning through direct interaction with city staff members, where students spend time in departments and offices to understand government operations. Currently limited to 8 students per grade due to National League of Cities (NLC) constraints, the council suggested to expand back to 10 students per grade (maximum 30 total) because of high demand and the program's success. The YCC has produced graduates who now work in government, including one who became a City Manager. The program includes trips to state capitol and national conferences, with students building relationships with city staff and learning practical government skills that have led to internships, job opportunities, and continued engagement with the city years after graduation.

MOTION: A motion was made by Lisa Ford, seconded by Debra Wimpee.

Move to Approve the additional students to the Youth City Council program

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

B. 25-1041 Consideration, discussion, and possible approval of displaying the Muscogee Nation flag in Council Chambers

The council approved displaying the Muscogee Creek Nation flag in the council chambers to honor the tribe's historical presence in Broken Arrow, as the Muscogee Creek Indians became the first permanent settlers in the area in 1836 and the city sits on tribal lands. Council member Lisa Ford proposed this initiative as a way to give back to the tribe after years of partnership, including their financial support for projects like the history wall mural and joint council meetings. The plan includes holding a ceremonial installation with their honor guard and a land acknowledgement, making Broken Arrow one of the first few cities in Oklahoma to take this step. City Attorney, Trevor Dennis, will need to codify the ordinance governing flag displays.

MOTION: A motion was made by Lisa Ford, seconded by David Pickel.

Move to Approve displaying the Muscogee Creek Nation flag in the council chambers

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

C. 25-962 Consideration, discussion, and possible approval of the Citizen Steering Committee recommendations for a new Municipal Services Administration Building

(Project2417170)

The city is moving forward with plans to build a new 50,000–52,000 square foot municipal services administration building due to overcrowding at the current facility, which no longer meets the space needs identified in a 2022 assessment. Two potential sites were considered: Site A, which involved building on the current location’s parking lot, posed significant challenges including road closures, construction disruptions, extended timelines, and increased costs. Site B, located at the corner of Washington and Main Street, was ultimately selected by the City Council based on the recommendation of a citizens advisory committee. Site B allows for traditional construction without disrupting existing City Hall operations or requiring major infrastructure changes. The new building will serve as a gateway to the Rose District and support development in the south side of town. It will house various city departments, with public-facing services like finance and community development on the first floor, and internal departments such as legal and HR, along with council chambers and conference rooms, on the upper floors. The project is funded separately from the bond issue, with the next phase focusing on design under council subcommittee oversight.

MOTION: A motion was made by Johnnie Parks, seconded by Justin Green.

Move to Approve the Committee’s recommendation for site B

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

D. 25-963 General discussion on annexation, as it pertains to infrastructure, city standards and specifications, and the voluntary annexation and assessment district process

The discussion focused on annexation concerns and infrastructure challenges, beginning with Vice Mayor Johnnie Parks emphasizing the urgent need for sewer system improvements due to widespread septic system failures, especially in areas like 71st Street. He noted that residents there initially supported annexation but later rejected paying for sewer infrastructure, leading to environmental issues. Vice Mayor Parks argued that proper sewer and water infrastructure would encourage developers to build to city standards and deliver long-term community benefits. City Manager, Michael Spurgeon, discussed current annexation efforts in southeast developments, stressing the need for a coordinated, transparent communication strategy to ensure residents receive accurate information. Councilor Lisa Ford echoed this, commending Rocky Henkel’s team for effectively informing the public and preventing the spread of misinformation, which had previously discouraged annexation. The discussion later shifted to annexation procedures and infrastructure standards, with Henkel outlining a two-stage voluntary annexation process: residents first petition, then the city assesses infrastructure needs and costs before residents vote on assuming those expenses. Vice Mayor Parks raised fairness concerns, pointing out that county residents with failing infrastructure often expect city services without contributing to the upfront costs already borne by current city residents. The conversation also addressed how Tulsa County’s two-house-per-acre development restrictions hinder economic feasibility for developers and create scattered development patterns, complicating future sewer extensions and placing the financial burden on municipalities.

No action was taken

E. 25-796 Consideration, discussion, and possible approval of a policy to convert private streets to public streets

Rocky Henkel, Director of Community Development, introduced the proposed policy, explaining that while the city has historically converted private streets through an informal process, this new policy would create formal documentation and procedures for staff to follow. The policy requires a written petition signed by 75% of abutting landowners, mandates that the private street must add value to the city's transportation network, and requires necessary infrastructure improvements to be funded through assessment districts to meet city standards. The policy also stipulates that the city will not compensate landowners for conversions, requires clear title documentation, adequate stormwater systems, utility permits, surveys, and removal of any gates or access restrictions. Rocky Henkel noted they currently have one neighborhood interested in conversion (though without gates) and explained that the policy protects the city from developers who initially want private streets but later seek to transfer deteriorated roads to the city for repair. Lisa Ford expressed support for the policy, questioning why gated communities would want to convert but acknowledging the protection it provides since residents would still need to pay to bring streets up to city standards regardless.

MOTION: A motion was made by Lisa Ford, seconded by Johnnie Parks.

Move to Approve the policy to convert private streets to public streets

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

F. 25-960 Presentation of the 2026 GO Bond Citizen Steering Committee package recommendations

The discussion also covered park playground funding, with general allocations set for Parks to prioritize later. The committee strongly supported expanding Arts at 302 with new services and favored Rose District Plaza over History Museum expansion due to budget limits. They endorsed a transfer station in an industrial area for Middletown, partial funding for a city-owned fiber optic line, and a \$2.5 million allocation for the Tulsa City County Library, less than originally requested. After multiple meetings, the committee reduced the bond budget to around \$407 million, with the understanding that figures may adjust as cost estimates evolve.

5. Remarks and Inquiries by Governing Body Members

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

7. Adjournment

MOTION: A motion was made by Justin Green, seconded by Lisa Ford.

Aye: 5 -

David Pickel, Justin Green, Lisa Ford, Johnnie Parks, Debra Wimpee

City Clerk