



**Broken Arrow**  
**Minutes**  
**City Council Special 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*

---

**Tuesday, December 3, 2024**

**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: 4 -** Justin Green, Lisa Ford, Johnnie Parks, Debra Wimpee

**3. General Council Business**

**A. 24-1568 Consideration, discussion, and possible action by Council interviewing potential candidates to fill the Broken Arrow City Council Ward No. 3 vacancy pursuant to 11 O.S. Section 8-109**

Candidate George Geshquire, speaking before the council for the first time, emphasized his belief in collective intelligence over individual expertise. He illustrated this with a story about a 1906 county fair experiment where 800 people guessed a steer's weight with remarkable accuracy. Acknowledging he's not the smartest in the room, he values building relationships with people from diverse backgrounds, a skill he plans to bring to his role as a council member. While aware of this position's time commitment, he shared that he recently gained flexibility after leaving his job to work independently, allowing him to balance responsibilities with family time better.

When asked about his community involvement, Mr. Geshquire highlighted his roles on the local board of adjustment and as committee chair for a Trail Life scouting troop. He also shared his 25 years of service in various capacities at his church, from leading children's programs to working in security. While admitting limited specific involvement in Broken Arrow, he mentioned participating in initiatives like the Demand Project contributing through service work when opportunities arise.

Candidate David Pickel, a long-time Broken Arrow resident, highlighted his extensive community involvement and leadership experience while expressing his desire to serve as the City Councilor for Ward Three. Having lived in the city for over 20 years, he emphasized his passion for community service, sharing his family's volunteerism and civic engagement legacy. He detailed his roles in organizations like the Broken Arrow Public Schools Foundation, Rotary Club, Broken Arrow Bands, and the Chamber of Commerce, where he has earned recognition for his contributions. Mr. Pickel also outlined his goals to advocate for Ward Three, amplify underrepresented voices, and influence local policies. He concluded by expressing his commitment to leaving a legacy of service and his gratitude for the opportunity to contribute to Broken Arrow's growth and success.

Candidate Kevin Stephenson expressed his passion for serving Broken Arrow by highlighting two key opportunities he is excited to support. First, he emphasized his commitment to public safety, referencing his background as a Department of Defense contractor and his efforts to combat gang activity in his neighborhood 20 years ago. He shared his deep respect for first responders, informed by his work providing psychological support to them, and praised ongoing funding for the Broken Arrow Police Department. Second, Mr. Stephenson shared his vision for promoting arts and film in Broken Arrow, inspired by his work as a musician, filmmaker, and founder of Faith-Based Films. He detailed his efforts to secure grants for film projects, collaborate with local universities, and attract talent and investment to the city, aiming to make Broken Arrow a film-friendly town. Additionally, he highlighted his experience as a nonprofit founder, managing All Saint Augustin Behavioral Health System, to demonstrate his ability to raise funds and create impactful programs. Despite election outcomes, Mr. Stephenson remains committed to these initiatives to enhance the city's safety and cultural growth.

Candidate Mike Lester, a long-time Broken Arrow resident and community servant for over 40 years, emphasized his extensive experience and readiness to continue serving as a city

councilor. His involvement began in 1982 with the Union Schools Long Range Planning Committee, where he served for 25 years. He has held leadership roles in the Union Education Foundation, Union Board of Education, Broken Arrow's Planning Commission, Board of Adjustment, and City Council, where he served for 12 years. Mr. Lester is also a dedicated member of organizations like the Broken Arrow Civitans, Alumni Association, and Historical Society.

He shared his philosophy of making tough decisions for the city's benefit, citing his instrumental role in transforming the Rose District and opposing a poorly structured bond issue to protect the city's future interests. Acknowledging leadership challenges, Mr. Lester expressed pride in his track record and commitment to serving Broken Arrow. He believes his deep knowledge and proven experience uniquely position him to immediately and effectively contribute to the city council, ensuring the best outcomes for its citizens.

Candidate Boyd Anderson, a Vietnam veteran and long-time public servant, presented his extensive experience in engineering, utilities, and community engagement as qualifications for the city council seat. After serving in the U.S. Navy, he earned degrees from Northern Oklahoma College and Oklahoma State University and began a diverse engineering and public utilities career. He has held leadership roles in municipal, cooperative, and private utility organizations across multiple states, honing technical expertise and an understanding of infrastructure vital to community growth.

Throughout his career, Mr. Anderson emphasized the importance of listening to and addressing community needs, including coordinating with landowners during pipeline development and leading initiatives like Pioneer Area React, which provided emergency assistance. He also shared his commitment to volunteerism, supporting organizations like Peachtree Landing to help newcomers transition into their communities. Now semi-retired, he expressed his readiness to dedicate time and knowledge to the council, advocating for growth and collaboration to effectively serve the city's needs.

Candidate Michael Sturgill, a military veteran and long-time Broken Arrow resident, expressed his desire to serve on the city council as an extension of his commitment to helping others. Following his military service, he has dedicated his time to supporting veterans through fundraising and event planning with various organizations. Now semi-retired, Sturgill is ready to commit fully to the city's needs, shifting his focus from veteran-specific work to serving the broader Broken Arrow community. With his wife's support, he aims to give back to the town he has called home for most of his life.

Candidate Jared Cawley, a resident of Broken Arrow for over 15 years, expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to serve his community as a city councilor. Sharing a personal story about a neighbor's kindness when he first moved to the city, Mr. Cawley highlighted the welcoming and helpful spirit of Broken Arrow, which inspires his desire to give back. He emphasized his identity as a helper and public servant, values he carries in his professional and personal life.

As the general counsel for the Bama Companies, Mr. Cawley appreciates the company's emphasis on community involvement, aligning with his commitment to service. He has contributed to various organizations, including serving on the board of the Ronald McDonald House in Tulsa, acting as Supreme Court justice for the Sac and Fox Nation, and serving as a bishop for his local church congregation. Mr. Cawley expressed his eagerness to bring this spirit of service to Ward Three and the broader Broken Arrow community while also recognizing the strong qualifications of his fellow candidates.

Candidate Gene Taylor, a retired firefighter with 26 years of service to the Broken Arrow Fire Department, this candidate expressed a strong commitment to serving the community. Having lived in South Broken Arrow for 42 years with his wife of 44 years, he has witnessed the city's growth firsthand. Following his retirement, he worked in construction and a grocery supply business, deepening his connection to the community. He owns a fabric store in Broken Arrow, where he engages with residents and hears their perspectives on the city's strengths and challenges.

Though Mr. Taylor acknowledged having less formal experience than other candidates, he emphasized his dedication and desire to contribute to the city through public service. Motivated by a lifelong connection to Broken Arrow, he hopes to use his background and commitment to impact the community positively.

Candidate Linda Russell, a Broken Arrow resident since 1984 and a native Oklahoman, brings a diverse background in education, mental health, and business ownership. With over 20 years as a business owner and 17 years as a mental health professional, she highlighted her management, organization, and budgeting skills. Previously, she worked as a certified school teacher and earned a doctorate in educational administration, which informed her leadership and business operations approach.

As an active community member, Ms. Russell served as a poll inspector and precinct officer, contributing to local elections, and was recently elected as an Oklahoma delegate to the RNC. She expressed a passion for education and empowering citizens to engage more fully with their government. While acknowledging this role would be a new experience, Ms. Russell emphasized her lifelong dedication to learning, helping others, and serving her community. She expressed gratitude for the opportunity to apply and her readiness to take on the position's responsibilities.

Mayor Wimpee expressed excitement and optimism about the strong interest in the council seat, noting that it reflects a genuine desire among community members to serve Broken Arrow and contribute meaningfully to its growth and well-being.

**4. Remarks and Inquiries by Governing Body Members - NONE**

**5. Remarks and updates by City Manager, including Recognition of Recent Accomplishments by Employees and Elected Officials - NONE**

**6. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:44 p.m.

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

**Move to adjourn**

The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye: 4 -** Justin Green, Lisa Ford, Johnnie Parks, Debra Wimpee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk