

CITY CONNECTION

Business Improvement District

On May 7, 2007, the Stillwater City Council passed a resolution initiating the process to establish a Business Improvement District (BID) for the Stillwater Downtown area. A BID may be created under Oklahoma statutes and business improvements are an authorized purpose of this type of district.

On July 16, 2007, the City Council passed a second resolution that directed city staff to provide notice to all interested parties, property owners, and the general public of a public hearing to be held on August 6, 2007. The purpose of the hearing on August 6 is to receive input and hear comments of support and/or objections. Following the public hearing, the City Council will consider the creation of the BID, which will require passing a third resolution.

The statutory process requires several steps in sequence with time requirements and public notice requirements. If the BID is successfully created, the City will utilize the funds collected from the BID special assessments solely for the purpose of improving and increasing the level of business activities within the boundaries of the District by:

- Contracting with a liaison to promote and market the BID in a manner to attract customers and visitors to the area for strengthening the business activity of existing and new businesses;
- Providing assistance to property owners in seeking new business investors to occupy vacancies in the District through marketing, consulting contracts, seminars, promotion events, or other techniques;
- Providing incentives to attract and maintain businesses in the District;
- Marketing the District through branding, promotions, advertising, special events, and image development;
- Developing and implementing projects to improve the physical appearance of the District including landscaping, lighting, signage, pedestrian facilities, business façade grants, or other physical improvements.

Stillwater City Council meetings are open to the public and are held in the Council Hearing Room of the Municipal Building located at 723 S. Lewis Street. Meetings begin at 5:30 p.m. and are televised on cable Channel 23.

City Connection is brought to you by the City of Stillwater as a public service to provide regular information about City services and to respond to general questions asked by the public about their local government. Today's City Connection is provided by the City Manager's Office. Questions or comments may be directed to Patti Osmus at posmus@stillwater.org or by calling 405.742.8209.