

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE OKLAHOMA OPEN MEETING LAW  
THE AGENDA WAS POSTED MARCH 26, 2020 AT 3:00 P.M.  
AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 723 SOUTH LEWIS, STILLWATER, OKLAHOMA

MINUTES  
STILLWATER CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING  
COUNCIL HEARING ROOM  
723 S. LEWIS  
MARCH 30, 2020

**PRESENT:** MAYOR WILLIAM H. JOYCE, VICE MAYOR PAT DARLINGTON  
COUNCILORS ALANE ZANNOTTI, JOHN WEDLAKE AND AMY DZIALOWSKI  
**ABSENT:** NONE

**In-Person Meeting Site**

Council Hearing Room  
Stillwater Municipal  
Building  
723 S. Lewis Street  
Stillwater, OK 74074

**Videoconference**

Council members may participate  
remotely

**City Council Members**

Mayor Will Joyce  
Vice Mayor Pat Darlington  
Councilor Alane Zannotti  
Councilor John Wedlake  
Councilor Amy Dzialowski

**Method of Participation**

In-Person Meeting Site  
Remotely - Videoconference  
Remotely – Videoconference  
Remotely – Videoconference  
Remotely – Videoconference

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Mayor Joyce called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS NOT SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING**

Mr. Ali Sarsak expressed his concerns about the COVID-19 emergency declarations and the infringement on citizen rights. Mr. Sarsak joined the meeting via videoconference.

**3. GENERAL ORDERS**

- a. Approve budget amendment allocating eMedia grant funds received by Stillwater Public Library

MOTION BY COUNCILOR DZIALOWSKI, SECOND BY VICE MAYOR DARLINGTON TO APPROVE THE LIBRARY'S BUDGET AMENDMENT TO ADD \$50,000 IN FUNDING FROM THE OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARIES FOR THE OKLAHOMA VIRTUAL LIBRARY.

ROLL CALL VOTE: JOYCE-YEA, DARLINGTON-YEA, ZANNOTTI-YEA, WEDLAKE-YEA, DZIALOWSKI-YEA. NAY-NONE. MOTION CARRIED WITH FIVE YEA VOTES.

- b. Discuss the City of Stillwater response to the COVID-19 virus

City Manager McNickle reported the City currently has 31 employees in quarantine with one employee testing positive. The City jail is temporarily closed and McNickle expressed gratitude to the Payne County

Sheriff's Office for its assistance in housing detainees. He also announced that the City's senior center is being used by the Fire Department in order to allow for social distancing protocol. City Hall will be closed to the public beginning March 31, 2020. Citizens needing to conduct business will enter through the police department lobby. Mr. McNickle also stated that he understands the public and businesses are upset with the closings and stay at home directives but that all decisions were made in good faith. City employees are happy to listen and assist anyone who has questions or concerns but will not respond to vulgar, profane, or otherwise disorderly comments.

Mayor Joyce announced that he signed a revised emergency declaration directing all citizens to shelter in place through April 16th and possibly April 30th. He reported that statistics indicate that outside of Oklahoma City and Tulsa, north central Oklahoma is the next hot spot. Mayor Joyce encouraged citizens to shelter in place and only leave to go to work or perform essential errands. The City is not requiring permits for travel.

Vice Mayor Darlington stated that she is in agreement with the emergency declaration and that she now understands the severity of COVID-19 and risks with exposing others. The declaration also enables the City to apply for possible federal aid.

Mayor Joyce asked City Attorney Dorman to explain how the power to issue emergency declarations is granted. Mr. Dorman said the basis comes from the City of Stillwater charter and State of Oklahoma statutes pertaining to natural disasters. Mayor Joyce reiterated that he takes concerns like those of the speaker tonight very seriously and doesn't make decisions lightly. He stated that as a City, we must do what we can to prevent people from dying.

Councilor Wedlake gave a shout out to Stillwater Medical Center and the COVID response team. He stated that the ICU care and ventilator management exceeds state expectations.

Councilor Dzialowski said she has been in contact with Kyra Frisbee at OSU who requested students be included as much as possible in communications regarding COVID.

Vice Mayor Darlington has gathered mental health resources and those will be publicized for anyone needing assistance. She encouraged citizens to take care of themselves and to know that there is no shame in asking for help. These are difficult times for everyone.

Councilor Zannotti invited small businesses to participate in a conference call, "In this Together", on Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. and she will be happy to provide details if needed to individuals.

Mayor Joyce thanked Visit Stillwater for its work in publicizing restaurant services and hours.

#### **4. ORDINANCES**

##### **a. First Reading**

Ordinance No. 3451: An ordinance amending Chapter 23, Land Development Code Article III, Land Development Process, to amend Section 23-65, Variances and declaring an emergency

**MOTION BY COUNCILOR WEDLAKE, SECOND BY VICE MAYOR DARLINGTON TO ADVANCE ORDINANCE NO. 3451 TO SECOND READING**

**ROLL CALL VOTE: JOYCE-YEA, DARLINGTON-YEA, ZANNOTTI-YEA, WEDLAKE-YEA, DZIALOWSKI-YEA. NAY-NONE. MOTION CARRIED WITH FIVE YEA VOTES.**

## 5. REPORTS FROM OFFICERS & BOARDS

- a. Miscellaneous items from the City Attorney: None.
- b. Miscellaneous items from the City Manager: None
- c. Miscellaneous items from the City Council: None
  - i. Discussion about scheduling items for future meetings.

## 6. QUESTIONS & INQUIRIES

None.

## 7. ADJOURN

MOTION BY VICE MAYOR DARLINGTON, SECOND BY COUNCILOR ZANNOTTI TO ADJOURN THE MARCH 30, 2020 SPECIAL MEETING OF THE STILLWATER CITY COUNCIL.

ROLL CALL VOTE: JOYCE-YEA, DARLINGTON-YEA, ZANNOTTI-YEA, WEDLAKE-YEA, DZIALOWSKI-YEA. NAY-NONE. MOTION CARRIED WITH FIVE YEA VOTES.

The March 30, 2020 special meeting of the Stillwater City Council adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

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**WILLIAM H. JOYCE, MAYOR**  
**STILLWATER CITY COUNCIL**

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**PATTI OSMUS**  
**DEPUTY CITY CLERK**