

Oklahoma Borough Meeting
June 9th, 2025 – 7:00 pm
Oklahoma Borough Building

Meeting called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance by President Joe Cali.

Roll call taken: Present: President Joe Cali, Councilman Chuck Blair, Councilman Chris Glavan, Councilman John Knittel, Mayor Amy Blair, Solicitor Tim Miller, Kevin Brett from L.S.S.E and Secretary Alecia Sherbondy.

Absent: Vice President Adam Lockhart and Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer Brenda Troup

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF VISITORS: Cedric Stopansky asked questions regarding zoning and code enforcement.

Renee Lubik on behalf of the Oklahoma Volunteer Fire Department informed Council that the fire department is exploring the option of merging with Vandergrift Department No. 1 and Vandergrift Department No. 2. If the merger would take place all three departments would establish a new department under a new name. Oklahoma Volunteer Fire Department is in very early stages and a merger will not take place this year.

Joyce Spillers – observe

MINUTES: Motion made by Mr. Blair to adopt the minutes from the April Council Meeting. Second by Mr. Knittel. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Knittel to adopt the minutes from the May 22nd, 2025 Special Meeting. Second by Mr. Blair. Motion carried.

SOLICITORS REPORT: The Solicitor received additional communication from 2Krew regarding the camera installation and damage to the sewer lateral at the park. Mr. Miller suggests further discussion in an executive session.

The Solicitor reviewed the recodification draft and his suggested changes. He will provide a document of final changes to the Secretary to forward to American Legal.

Motion made by Mr. Blair to approve the changes suggested by the Solicitor for the recodification process. Second by Mr. Glavan. Motion carried.

The Solicitor discussed case law updates regarding the tort claim limit and agenda amendments. He is hoping there will be more information soon.

Motion made by Mr. Glavan to approve the solicitor's report. Second by Mr. Knittel. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: President Cali called all members of Council, the Mayor and the Secretary into an Executive Session to discuss personnel issues and potential litigation regarding damage to the sewer lateral at the park when the cameras were installed.

ENGINEER’S REPORT: A monthly report was provided to Council and Mayor.

The standing water at the park entrance will need further testing and may be eligible for a grant to mitigate the issue.

The 2025 sanitary sewer repairs survey is complete. There is no new information regarding this matter.

The sanitary sewer – park improvements survey is complete. There is no new information regarding this matter.

LSSE has provided a draft copy of the Sanitary Sewer Lateral Standards on April 3, 2025. The suggested updates/changes are being reviewed.

The bid opening for the 2025 Paving and Park Improvements was held on June 5th. LSSE recommends awarding the contract for the 2025 Paving Project to Morgan Excavating with the lowest bid in the amount of \$63,356.00.

The lowest bidder for the 2025 Park Improvements was Holbein, Inc. with a bid in the amount of \$133,296.50. LSSE recommends awarding the contract to Holbein, Inc. and removing Item No. 4 as a deduct change order to reduce the bid to \$118,746.56 to meet the budgeted amount. Mr. Brett suggests starting projects earlier to get better pricing and more bids in the future.

A suggestion was made to investigate the possibility of applying for the Multimodal grant to be used for future paving. The grant requires no match and has a deadline of July 31st, 2025.

Motion made by Mr. Knittel to approve the engineer’s report. Second by Mr. Blair. Motion carried.

MAYOR’S REPORT: The Pennsylvania State Police and the Oklahoma Volunteer Fire Department have been notified of the fireworks display scheduled for July 6th.

New signs have been installed throughout the borough including three solar powered speed limit signs. The signs were funded through a LSA-4 grant from the commonwealth written by Councilman Blair.

Residents are encouraged to submit suggestions for improvements to the borough through the website, call, email or by contacting a member of council.

The first Movies In the Park of the 2025 season is scheduled for June 21st. It will be a drive-in style beginning at 9:00 p.m. There will be a section reserved for chairs/blankets and the movie is Transformers 1. The next movie is scheduled for July 12th with a Christmas in July theme. The movie will be Elf.

The Property Tax Rent Rebate Program is available online or by mail in form. The deadline has been extended until December 31st, 2025. Representative Cooper is willing to provide assistance if needed.

Information on several upcoming events being held by State Representative, Jill Cooper, was provided.

Motion made by Mr. Blair to approve the mayor’s report. Second by Mr. Knittel. Motion carried.

ZONING/ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT REPORT: None.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: The borough's insurance policies, including auto, are up for renewal. The Finance Committee plans to schedule a meeting with the insurance agent on Friday, June 13th to discuss coverage and any necessary updates to the policies.

The additional office chairs have been purchased.

The Pyrotecnico agreement has been signed, and the insurance certificate was provided. All documents have been provided to Pyrotecnico as well.

The fourth quarter employee taxes have been filed and paid.

Motion made by Mr. Glavan to approve the Secretary's report. Second by Mr. Blair. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The bank reconciliation for the period ending 4/30/2025 is as follows:

General Fund - \$185,489.74
Sewer Fund - \$378,376.97
Liquid Fuels - \$39,619.77
Special Road Fund - \$237,290.85

5/31/2025

General Fund - \$208,232.28
Sewer Fund - \$370,709.68
Liquid Fuels - \$39,620.10
Special Road Fund - \$237,290.85

Motion made by Mr. Knittel to approve the Treasurer's report. Second by Mr. Blair. Motion carried.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT: The amount of taxes deposited in the month of April:

Wage - \$3,725.22
Per Capita - \$578.20
Real Estate - \$9,660.41
May:

Wage - \$16,568.77
Per Capita - \$1,764.00
Real Estate - \$39,523.77

Motion made by Mr. Blair to approve the Tax Collector's report. Second by Mr. Glavan. Motion carried.

READING OF THE BILLS: A copy of the bills was provided to Council and the Mayor.

One additional bill was received – RAE-LYN Enterprises, Inc. in the amount of 600.00 for relocating a radar and speed limit sign.

Motion made by Mr. Blair to approve the bills. Second by Mr. Glavan. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS: The Vandergrift Public Library sent a letter requesting a donation.

The CDs at First Commonwealth Bank are approaching maturity. A copy of the letter has been provided to the finance committee.

Peoples Gas is requesting a blanket bond for their street opening work.

A check in the amount of \$117.78 was received for State Police Fines & Penalties.

A letter from CNX Gas Company LLC was received to notify Oklahoma Borough Council they are applying for Permits to Drill and Operate Gas Wells that may be located inside, adjacent to or within 3000' of Oklahoma Borough.

An additional letter from CNX Gas Company LLC was received to notify Oklahoma Borough Council they are applying for Permits to Drill and Operate an Unconventional Well from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection for one new well. Adjacent municipalities are required to be notified.

The 2024 Annual Impact Report for the Westmoreland County Redevelopment Authority and Land Bank was received.

The 2Krew contract renewal has been emailed to all members of Council and the Mayor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

STREETS/SEWERS/SOLID WASTE: The Solicitor will reach out to the M.A.W.C. to discuss the change the street opening ordinance.

FINANCE: None.

PARKS AND RECREATION: None.

PUBLIC SAFETY/STREET LIGHTS AND ORDINANCES: Mr. Blair would like to do further research on the possibility of installing solar powered speed limit signs on Hancock and Orr Avenue.

HUMAN RESOURCES: None.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR REPORT: None.

PRESIDENTS REPORT: None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

OLD BUSINESS: Eveready Contracting repaired a manhole near the playground at the park and the site restoration was left in a condition that is not able to be mowed. Eveready has stopped responding to Mr. Blair. The Solicitor will draft a letter to send to Eveready if needed.

A new softball league expressed interest in using the baseball field at Oklahoma Park. They would like to use the field five days per week and have agreed to drag the field at no cost to the borough. The Solicitor suggests sending a letter to notify the Apollo Kiski Little League that Oklahoma Borough will be terminating the current agreement.

NEW BUSINESS: Motion made by Mr. Knittel to advertise rescinding ordinance no. 24-201 pertaining to Per Capita Tax. Second by Mr. Glavan. Motion carried. Further discussion will be held at the July meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Blair to purchase two new flag poles and necessary supplies for installation to be installed at the office and park from Victory Flag Poles with a spending cap of \$800 total. Second by Mr. Knittel. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Blair to purchase an 18” x 12” sign from RAE-LYN Enterprises to direct the public to dispose of ashes from the grills into a special can with a spending cap of \$650 including installation. Second by Mr. Blair. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Blair to purchase approximately two lengths of chain measuring 2-3 feet each and two locks to secure the disposal can for the grills with a spending cap of \$100 total. Second by Mr. Knittel. Motion carried.

Mr. Blair is doing research on grants to be used for paving.

Motion made by Mr. Blair to draft an agreement for the newly formed softball league once all necessary documents and information are received. Second by Mr. Glavan. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Blair to terminate the agreement with the Apollo Kiski Little League effective immediately. Second by Mr. Knittel. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Blair to rent a port-a-potty for the park from Friday, May 13th through October 10th. Second by Mr. Knittel. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Blair to accept the bid from Holbein, Inc. for the 2025 Park Improvements in the amount of \$118,746.56 after removing Item No. 4. Second by Mr. Knittel. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Knittel to award the 2025 Paving Program bid to Morgan Excavating in the amount of \$63,356.00. Second by Mr. Blair. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Blair to not renew the contract with 2Krew. Second by Mr. Glavan. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Blair to make a donation in the amount of the Vandergrift Public Library in the amount of \$200. Second by Mr. Glavan. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Cedric Stopansky was pleased that all members of Council came out to vote at the primary election.

Motion made by Mr. Knittel to adjourn the meeting. Second by Mr. Blair. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Joseph Cali, President

Alecia Sherbondy, Secretary