



Council Chambers at City Hall
401 S. Johnstone Avenue
Bartlesville, OK 74003

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE
BARTLESVILLE CITY COUNCIL**

**Monday, January 22, 2024
5:30 p.m.**

**Mayor Dale Copeland
918-338-4282**

MINUTES

(The Notice of Meeting was posted December 15, 2023 and the Agenda was posted ON January 18, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.)

City Council present were Mayor Dale Copeland, Vice Mayor Jim Curd, Jr., Councilmembers Trevor Dorsey, Billie Roane and Loren Roszel.

City staff present were Mike Bailey, City Manager; Jess Kane, City Attorney; Tracy Roles, Assistant City Manager; Jason Muninger, City Clerk/CFO; Kelli Williams, Chief Communications Officer; Captain Mims, Security; and Elaine Banes, Executive Assistant.

- 1. The business meeting of the Bartlesville City Council was called to order by Mayor Copeland at 5:30 p.m.**
- 2. Roll call was conducted and a quorum established.**
- 3. The invocation was provided by Mr. Dorsey.**
- 4. Citizens to be heard.**

There were no citizens to be heard.

- 5. Discuss and take possible action to approve a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Bartlesville proposing amendments to the Charter of the City of Bartlesville, as amended; calling a special election to submit the proposed Charter amendments to the qualified electors of the City; setting the date of April 2, 2024 for the special election; and directing that notice of the proposed Charter amendments and special election be given by the City Clerk by publication of notice as required by law. Presented by Mike Bailey, City Manager.**

Mr. Bailey reported that the reason the special meeting was called to approve the resolution for this date instead of at the February regular meeting was he was made aware that the deadline to file the resolution with the Election Board is February 1. The regular meeting is scheduled for February 5 therefore an earlier meeting was necessary to comply with the Election Board deadline.

Mr. Bailey reviewed the proposed amendments to Articles 2, 3, 4 and 16 which has been reviewed and discussed at length in previous City Council meetings. Regarding Articles 2 and 3, he added that after discussion with the Washington County Election Board, it was decided the candidate filing period would be more consistent if aligning with the statutory election guidelines regardless if an election falls on an even or odd year. Therefore, after additional discussion, the proposed language will state, "The filing period shall occur on the first

successive Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of February from 8:00 am to 5:00pm.” In addition, currently the Charter’s residential eligibility is to be a resident in the Ward six months prior to the election date and not the filing date. It was suggested to amend this as well to require candidates to be a resident six months prior to the filing date. Mr. Roszel pointed out that the age requirement of 25 is currently tied to the election date and not the filing date. Mr. Bailey stated that could be changed if the Council desired. He briefly reviewed Article 4 and 16 as well concluding that the resolution calls for an election on April 2, 2024 and includes the redline version and the actual ballot language. Attorney David Weatherford and Washington County Election Board Director, Yvonne House, has reviewed the resolution for accuracy. There are 10 propositions for the ballot, and Mr. Bailey explained it would be a two column ballot using both the front and back with what is deemed priority propositions on the front of the ballot.

Mr. Roszel inquired if the Council could vote on each proposition separately. Mayor Copeland and Mr. Bailey stated that the vote is one vote on approval of the Resolution. Mr. Bailey added that a Council member could amend a proposition and include the amendment in the vote to approve. He stated that since each article is tied to other Articles, it is encouraged to approve the document as one in order to eliminate possible conflicting actions. Discussion covered the next elections for the current Council will be April 2025, then the staggered terms will begin at that time; appreciation for the redline copy; that the redline copy will be published for voters’ information; that the age eligibility question that Mr. Roszel brought up noted not to be necessary to change; how moving the election to April allows the voters to more focused on local issues; and that it is the voters who will make the final decision on each proposition which are set out individually.

Vice Mayor Curd moved to approve the Resolution as presented, seconded by Mr. Dorsey.

Mr. Roszel stated that he is disappointed that each of the 10 propositions are not to be voted on separately by the Council. He wanted the minutes to reflect that Article 4 is something he voted against in the last City Council meeting and continues to feel it places an unnecessary restriction on voters. He added he wanted in the minutes also to reflect that he preferred a vote on each proposition instead of all together.

Ms. Roane stated that her favorite part of the amendments is changing the election to April, away from the National elections so that constituents will have a better opportunity to know who is running and how they will represent their ward. She also favors the fact that the ballot is broken into separate propositions for separate votes. She concluded that she respects Mr. Roszel’s thoughts on voting on each proposition, but she prefers voting on the one resolution.

Voting Aye: Mr. Roszel, Ms. Roane, Mr. Dorsey, Vice Mayor Curd, Mayor Copeland

Voting Nay:

Motion: Passed/Failed

6. City Manager and Staff Reports.

Mr. Bailey reported that water supply is still good and that there are no restrictions at this time. Hulah Lake is still above 100% and other supplies are doing well except for Copan Lake. Copan water levels have increased but still very low. Mayor Copeland pointed out that the US Corps of Engineers is letting water out of Hulah in order to maintain flood control levels.


7. City Council Comments and Inquiries.

Mayor Copeland stated his appreciation for the City staff and utility companies who have been working the current ice event. Ms. Roane and Mr. Roszel added their appreciation to all out working in the ice and cold.

Ms. Roane commended B the Light Center who have been assisting people who do not have heat or water, or who are homeless. She expressed a thank you to Keith and Christy McPhail and all of the volunteers, as well as the Lighthouse Outreach who is providing assistance also. Vice Mayor Curd thanked Ms. Roane who volunteered at B the Light Center and the others who were there to help those with a need. Mayor Copeland also commended all of the organizations and churches who help every day as well as in times of great need.

8. There being no further business to address, Mayor Copeland adjourned the meeting at 6:02 p.m.


Dale W. Copeland, Mayor


Jason Muninger, CFO/City Clerk

