



**REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
BARTLESVILLE CITY COUNCIL**

**Monday, October 6, 2025  
5:30 p.m.**

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

**James S. Curd, Jr., Mayor  
918-338-4282**

**MINUTES**

**(The Notice of Meeting was posted December 15, 2024 and  
the Agenda was posted September 30, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.)**

**City Council in attendance was Mayor Jim Curd, Jr., Vice Mayor Trevor Dorsey, and Councilmembers Tim Sherrick, Larry East and Aaron Kirkpatrick.**

**City staff in attendance was Mike Bailey, City Manager; Laura Sanders, Assistant City Manager, Jess Kane, City Attorney; Jason Muninger, CFO/City Clerk; .Police Chief Kevin Ickleberry; Deputy Police Chief Andrew Ward; Police Captain Daniel Elkins; Fire Chief H.C. Call; Deputy Fire Chief Barry Campbell; Matt McCollough, Director of IT; Robin Betts, Director of Human Resources; Dana Smith, H.R. Sr. Administrative Assistant; Alicia Shelton, Accounting; Steve Roper, Engineering; Amanda Yamaguchi, Senior Planner, Community Development; several firefighters; Police Officer Sam, Security; and Elaine Banes, Executive Assistant.**

- 1. The business meeting of the Bartlesville City Council was called to order by Mayor Curd at 5:30 p.m.**
- 2. Roll Call was conducted a quorum established.**
- 3. Invocation was provided by Kristy Rodgers, Commissioned Pastor, First Presbyterian Church.**
- 4. Public Comments on Agenda Items.**
  - Eddie Collins – (Agenda Item 7.d.vi.): He addressed the Council in opposition to approving the Charity Tracker Software. He clarified that he was speaking solely on his own behalf and not for any specific group, and that his objection was not to the program itself but to the method of its funding. He emphasized his belief in the limited role of government as outlined in the U.S. Constitution, asserting that government serves best when it restricts its scope rather than expanding it at taxpayers' expense. He stated that it is not the purpose of government to fund nonprofit organizations and expressed concern about the continued use of public funds for such purposes. Mr. Collins urged that citizens, churches, and community members should privately fund initiatives rather than relying on taxpayer dollars. He questioned why city government does not instead seek support from private-sector donors, local churches, and business leaders, noting that the community's two largest employers recently raised \$1.3 million for United Way, which could potentially assist with homelessness efforts. He concluded that government expansion tends to be permanent and stated that reducing government control should begin with the Council's decision on this item. Mr. Collins respectfully requested that the Council vote no on the proposal. He thanked the Mayor and Council for their time and prayerful consideration.
  - Ms. Angela Utley– (Agenda Item 7.d.vi.): She addressed the Council in opposition to the Charity Tracker Software. Ms. Utley explained that she had spoken with donors to several local organizations serving the unhoused, including Be the Light and The Lighthouse, and had heard concerns that some donors may stop contributing if the software is implemented. She suggested that funding the program through private fundraising might

be a better alternative, as it would avoid discouraging donations. Ms. Utley also expressed concern about the word “tracking” in the program’s name, stating that it could raise privacy issues and create undue pressure for organizations to participate. She compared it to concerns previously expressed over the City’s use of Flock cameras, noting that even limited access to data could still invite misuse or distrust. She cautioned that the program could allow for financial or data-related abuse and might impede charitable giving. Ms. Utley suggested that the Council delay action on the item until it is known how many nonprofits would actually use the software and what its implementation would look like. She concluded by commending the efforts of the Task Force and thanking the Council for their time and consideration.

**5. City Council Announcements and Proclamations.**

- Fire Chief H.C. Call presented Gold Lifesaving Awards to Firefighters Daniel Barham and Derek Tampleton.
- Fire Chief H.C. Call presented the Bartlesville Fire Department Unit Award to A-Shift Station 4s Crew Captain Bryan Tate, Firefighter Colby Williams, Firefighter Daniel Barham and Firefighter Derek Tampleton.
- Extra Mile Day Proclamation – November 1, 2025 - Recognition of volunteerism and service within the community, presented by Vice Mayor Dorsey/
- Mayor Curd presented his Mayoral Letter of Recognition of Service and Appreciation to Ms. Sherri Wilt, Retired President/CEO of the Bartlesville Chamber of Commerce.

**6. Authorities, Boards, Commissions and Committees**

- Three openings on the Bartlesville Area History Museum Trust Authority
- One opening on the Bartlesville Convention and Visitors Bureau Board of Directors
- One opening on the Library Board
- Two openings on the White Rose Cemetery Board

Mayor Curd read the openings and encouraged citizens to volunteer.

**7. Consent Docket**

**a. Approval of Minutes**

- i. The Regular Meeting Minutes of September 2, 2025.
- ii. The Special Meeting minutes of September 29, 2025.

**b. Approval and/or Ratification of Appointments and Reappointment to Authorities, Board, Commissions, and Committees.**

- i. Appointment of Mr. Robert McGuire to a three-year term on the Construction and Fire Code Appeals Board at the recommendation of Mayor Curd.
- ii. Reappointment of Mr. Kenneth Wright to a second three-year term on the Construction & Fire Code Appeals Board at the recommendation of Mayor Curd.
- iii. Reappointment of Mr. Joe Colaw to a second three-year term on the City Planning Commission at the recommendation of Councilmember Kirkpatrick.

**c. Approval of Resolutions**

- i. Amending the budget of the City of Bartlesville for Fiscal Year 2025-26 appropriating unanticipated revenue for the Fire Department.

**d. Approval and Ratification of Agreements, Contracts, Engagement Letters, Grant Applications, Leases, MOU’s, Ordinances, Proposals and Task Orders.**

- i. Professional Services Agreement with ARC Document Solution to provide file digitization services for the City of Bartlesville in the amount of \$7,744.00.

- ii. Extension of an existing service agreement with United Community Action Program for the CityRide community transportation program in the amount of \$55,000 annually.
  - iii. Business Services Agreement between the City and Bluepeak at a monthly fee of \$250.00 with an initial \$100 installation fee.
  - iv. Service Agreement with Municipal Finance Services for continuing disclosure and fee schedule in the amount of \$3,500.
  - v. Letter of Agreement with BKL for engineering design of the Downtown Landscaping Phase 3 project, adding portions of Osage Avenue and 4<sup>th</sup> Street in the amount of \$37,000.
  - vi. Charity Tracker software pro yearly subscription including a Community Resources Directory in the amount of \$14,800.
  - vii. Field of Interest Fund Agreement between the City Council and Bartlesville Community Foundation for technical support necessary to facilitate a Text to Give program at the recommendation of the Unsheltered Homeless Task Force.
  - viii. Deed Underground Right-of-Way Easement to Public Service Company of Oklahoma (PSO) on City-owned properties for an underground feeder to the Bartlesville Municipal Airport.
- e. Receipt of Property**
- i. Receipt of the Oak Park Fire Station property from Washington County per language set out in the original deed stating the property is to be returned to the City of Bartlesville if no longer being used by the Washington County Volunteer Fire Department.
- f. Receipt of Bartlesville NEXT Progress Report**
- i. Bartlesville NEXT Progress Report September 2025
- g. Receipt of ALPR (Flock Cameras) Report**
- i. ALPR Report for September 2025
- h. Receipt of Financials**
- i. Interim financials for two months ending August 31, 2025.
- i. Receipt of Permit**
- i. Permit #WL0000742500842 for the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality for the construction of 285 linear feet of eight (8) inch PVC potable water line to serve 1200 Washington Boulevard, Bartlesville, OK.

Mayor Curd provided the consent docket on a PowerPoint slide and referred citizens to the agenda where every item was listed. He asked the Council if there were any items to be pulled for discussion. Vice Mayor Dorsey pulled Agenda Items 7.d.v.,vi.,vii. and 7.e.i.; Mr. East pulled Agenda Item 7.d.viii., and Mr. Kirkpatrick pulled Agenda Item 7.d.ii.

Vice Mayor Dorsey moved to approve the Consent Docket with the exception of Agenda Items 7.d.ii., v., vi., vii. viii., and 7.e.i., seconded by Mr. East.

Voting Aye: Mr. Sherrick, Mr. East, Mr. Kirkpatrick, Vice Mayor Dorsey, Mayor Curd  
 Voting Nay: None  
 Motion: Passed

**Agenda Item 7.d.ii.** Extension of an existing service agreement with United Community Action Program for the CityRide community transportation program in the amount of \$55,000 annually.

Councilmember Kirkpatrick noted that through the Unsheltered Homelessness Task Force, it was discovered that many residents are unaware of City Ride's services or its partnership with the City, and asked Mr. Bailey to provide an overview. Mr. Bailey reported

that the City has maintained a long-standing contract with City Ride, currently paying \$55,000 annually to subsidize lower rates for Bartlesville residents. City Ride operates as a point-to-point transit service, providing door-to-door transportation for work, medical appointments, shopping, and other essential activities. Rides must be scheduled in advance but serve as a vital mobility option for citizens, including those with disabilities, seniors, and low-income workers. Service demand has continued to grow and remains heavily supported by Federal and State grants. Discussion was held regarding potential impacts of a Federal government shutdown on grant funding; minimal anticipated effect if short-term, though longer shutdowns could disrupt grant distributions; and City Ride's \$1 ride-to-work program, available across Washington County, occasionally extending to Tulsa. The City's increased funding several years prior helped maintain the ride-to-work initiative. The program was commended as an essential community asset and encouraged increased public awareness.

**Agenda Item 7.d.v.** Letter of Agreement with BKL for engineering design of the Downtown Landscaping Phase 3 project, adding portions of Osage Avenue and 4<sup>th</sup> Street in the amount of \$37,000.

Vice Mayor Dorsey requested an update on the final phase of downtown landscaping improvements. Mr. Bailey reported that the project is nearing completion, pending inclusion of Osage Avenue and 4th Street, which were not part of the original design. The update includes pricing and design adjustments through BKL to ensure comprehensive coverage. If fully funded, this phase will complete the downtown landscaping plan in place for the past eight to nine years. Discussion covered how the new landscaping has improved maintenance, reduced tripping hazards, and incorporated new irrigation systems; that shop owners have expressed appreciation for the enhancements; and how everyone was satisfied with the progress and the overall aesthetic and safety improvements.

**Agenda Item 7.c.viii.** Deed Underground Right-of-Way Easement to Public Service Company of Oklahoma (PSO) on City-owned properties for an underground feeder to the Bartlesville Municipal Airport.

Councilmember East questioned a discrepancy between a 20-foot easement listed in the report and a 15-foot easement in the agreement. Staff confirmed that the agreement's terms prevail, indicating the final easement width is 15 feet. The difference was likely due to adjustments made during negotiations.

**Agenda Item 7.e.i.** Receipt of the Oak Park Fire Station property from Washington County per 7 language set out in the original deed stating the property is to be returned to the City of Bartlesville if no longer being used by the Washington County Volunteer Fire Department.

Vice Mayor Dorsey requested and was provided clarification confirming the City's intent to reuse the facility with future long-term uses under review.

Mr. Sherrick moved to approve Agenda Items 7.d.ii., v., viii. and 7.e.i, seconded by Vice Mayor Dorsey.

Voting Aye: Mr. East, Mr. Kirkpatrick, Vice Mayor Dorsey, Mr. Sherrick, Mayor Curd  
Voting Nay: None  
Motion: Passed

**Agenda Item 7.d.vi.** Charity Tracker software pro yearly subscription including a Community Resources Directory in the amount of \$14,800.  
and,

**Agenda Item 7.d.vii.** Field of Interest Fund Agreement between the City Council and Bartlesville Community Foundation for technical support necessary to facilitate a Text to Give program at the recommendation of the Unsheltered Homeless Task Force.

Mr. East inquired about The Charity Tracker software fee, which was confirmed as a one-time expense this year, with shared cost reduction planned for years two and three. Clarification of the Field of Interest Fund Agreement through the Bartlesville Community Foundation (BCF) confirmed that funds will not go to the Unsheltered Homeless Task Force but will be collected through the BCF through an established endowed grant fund. Grant applications will then be received, reviewed, and approved by the neutral BCF Board to avoid conflicts of interest. Task Force members and/or their organizations will not be considered for a grant.

Mr. Sherrick expressed opposition to government funding for the Charity Tracker software citing constitutional concerns regarding the use of taxpayer funds for non-governmental purposes. He feels that such spending should serve the general welfare of all citizens, not select groups or nonprofits. His concerns covered government overreach and potential creation of new oversight committees; dependency risks for nonprofits; conflicts of interest as board members could vote on funding benefiting their own organizations; the lack of clear metrics or performance indicators to measure success or return on investment (ROI); and the estimated software costs at \$10,800 for licensing and \$4,000 for setup and maintenance. Mr. Sherrick added that private fundraising could cover the total, pledging \$600 personally toward such efforts if pursued outside government channels.

In regards to Item 7.d.vii. Mr. Sherrick continued his opposition to the Agreement citing that government does not need to be in the charity business. He feels that the way to discourage panhandling, which is what the Text to Give signs utilizing the BCF endowment is being used for, is to provide jobs. He added that he would prefer to see panhandlers encouraged to fill out job applications at such agencies as Career Employment where he personally knows they will get guidance and assistance. He offered to assist in building resumes as a means to appropriate assistance instead of under government oversight or with government funding. He emphasized that he did not disagree with the value and use of the software and BCF agreement, but how it is being funded. Mr. East stated that the Text to Give sign idea came from constituents who had seen them in other communities. He brought the idea forward to the Unsheltered Task Force Committee who approved of the idea, then developed a process on how to manage received funds.

In response, Mr. Kirkpatrick emphasized that the community has repeatedly identified homelessness reduction as a top priority in surveys and public forums, and that government participation aligns with the public good by fostering safety, stability, and access to care for all residents. He clarified that Charity Tracker would enable consistent data reporting and performance tracking, strengthening accountability and transparency across nonprofits. Discussion covered agreement on the value of community collaboration but differed on the appropriateness of City funding. It was noted by Mr. Kirkpatrick that shared data collection through Charity Tracker would allow standardized metrics and facilitate future impact evaluation.

Vice Mayor Dorsey moved to approve Agenda Items 7.vi. and vii., seconded by Mr. Kirkpatrick.

Mayor Curd noted that the United Way helps many local nonprofits who are financially strained despite strong community fundraising efforts, and City support would complement, not replace, private donations. If the United Way took money to assist with this, it could take away from another agency. He expressed support for continued public-private partnership to address homelessness, and feel it is a justified expense at this point.

Voting Aye: Mr. Kirkpatrick, Vice Mayor Dorsey, Mr. East, Mayor Curd

Voting Nay: Mr. Sherrick  
Motion: Passed

8. **Public hearing and possible action on a request for approval of a PUD (Planned Unit Development) and Site Development Plan on 16.98 acres zoned M-2 (General Industrial) and C-5 (General Commercial), located at 509 W. Hensley Blvd., 500 W. Hensley Blvd., 512 W. Hensley Blvd., and the lots in the North Block of NW Theodore Ave., from Fremin General Contractors on behalf of SLB. Presented by Larry Curtis, Director, Community Development.**

Mr. Curtis reported that this request is for approval of a PUD and Site Development Plan on approximately 16.98 acres on and near West Hensley Blvd. in the Downtown area. The main SLB site, including the proposed development area, is zoned M-2 (General Industrial) and is currently utilized in accordance with that zoning designation. Earlier this year, SLB met with the City of Bartlesville to propose the construction of a new 18,750-square-foot storage building. The purpose of this facility is to house goods and materials that have historically been stored outdoors and exposed to the elements. In their regular meeting held September 23, 2025, the Planning Commission recommended approval of PUD-0825-0056/57 per staff recommendation. No one signed up to speak in favor of or in opposition to this proposal at the City Planning Commission meeting and the CPC voted in favor of the request. Mr. Curtis concluded stating that staff, as well as CPC recommends approval, subject to the following condition: Any future proposals for new construction, expansion or building additions regarding this entire PUD site, including the parking areas and properties to the north will require a PUD Amendment and Site Development Plan approval. Mr. Kirkpatrick added that as the Council liaison to the City Planning Commission, had been a part of the discussions, and is excited to see a local employer expanding in this manner.

Mayor Curd opened the public hearing at 6:15 p.m. There being no one appear to speak; the Mayor closed the public hearing at 6:15 p.m.

Mr. Kirkpatrick moved to approve the PUD and SDP as presented with the stated recommended condition, seconded by Vice Mayor Dorsey.

Voting Aye: Vice Mayor Dorsey, Mr. Sherrick, Mr. East, Mr. Kirkpatrick, Mayor Curd  
Voting Nay: None  
Motion: Passed

9. **Unsheltered Homeless Task Force update. Presented by Rachel Showler, Vice Chairman, Unsheltered Homeless Task Force.**

Ms. Showler was unable to attend, so Mr. Kirkpatrick who is the Chairperson of the Unsheltered Homeless Task Force provided an update. He encouraged organizations and individuals who assist the homeless population in Bartlesville to attend the Helping Organizations Summit on October 22, 2025 at Tri County Tech from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Lunch will be provided by Agape and the Lighthouse.

10. **Discuss and take possible action to approve a service agreement between Remedy Health and the City of Bartlesville. Presented by Laura Sanders, Assistant City Manager and Christopher Sudduth, MD, MPH, Owner and CEO of Remedy Health clinics.**

Ms. Sanders introduced the item, explaining that the proposal represents a rare opportunity for the City to both reduce health care costs and enhance employee benefits. In recent years, the City has faced significant increases in medical expenses, particularly from specialty drugs and GLP-1 medications used for diabetes and weight loss. These medications currently cost the City between \$1 million and \$1.2 million annually, creating a major budget impact. To address this, staff explored a Direct Primary Care (DPC) model, which provides employees with routine, preventative, and chronic care directly through a contracted clinic at no cost to employees. Under this model, GLP-1 drugs would be administered through the clinic rather than the City's pharmacy

plan, significantly lowering pharmacy costs while maintaining medical oversight and employee access. Two clinic providers submitted proposals, and the City's Insurance Committee met multiple times to evaluate them based on cost savings potential, employee impact and accessibility, and quality and scope of services. Following review, the committee determined that Remedy Health offered the best combination of service quality, cost effectiveness, and proven results, particularly with other Oklahoma municipalities. An overview of Remedy Health Founded in 2018 by Dr. Christopher Suddath, a former Bartlesville hospitalist with a Doctorate in Medicine and Master's in Public Health was provided. Dr. Suddath currently operates seven clinics and serves several cities including Broken Arrow, Edmond, Collinsville, and Bixby, all reporting substantial savings. One municipality saved more than \$850,000 annually through this model. Remedy Health holds an endorsement from the Oklahoma Municipal League and partners only with FDA- and State-approved pharmacies compliant with Section 503A of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act. The proposed plan for Bartlesville would include one physician and one mid-level provider to ensure consistent, high-quality care. Compounded Medications Remedy Health's partner pharmacies are FDA-registered and Oklahoma-licensed. Compounded medications are commonly used for customized dosages or cost reduction and are not experimental. Each prescription is written and dispensed under physician supervision. The budget impact annual clinic cost will be \$386,100, with an estimated savings of over \$600,000 annually to the City's medical plan. If approved, implementation would include employee education sessions, plan adjustments effective January 2026, communication to ensure a smooth transition, and clinic operations beginning November 3, 2025, in Bartlesville.

Dr. Christopher Suddath, Founder of Remedy Health introduced himself and his background, expressing enthusiasm about returning to Bartlesville. He described the mission of Remedy Health as "rescuing patients and providers from the broken, bureaucratic healthcare system" by restoring the patient-physician relationship through time, accessibility, and personalized care. Key features of the Remedy Health Model are patients can access their physician 24/7 via text, video, or in-person visits, including house calls and services include acute and chronic care, preventive care, wellness visits, lab work, pharmacy access, and minor procedures performed on site. Remedy Health partners with over 60 employer groups across Oklahoma and Arkansas, including multiple municipalities. The model focuses heavily on lifestyle determinants of health—nutrition, physical activity, sleep, mental wellness, and healthy relationships—supported by a comprehensive weight management program. GLP-1 medication drugs such as Ozempic, Wegovy, Mounjaro, and Zepbound are FDA-approved for multiple conditions including diabetes, hypertension, and obesity. Remedy Health compounds GLP-1 medications through an FDA-approved Oklahoma pharmacy, producing cost savings while maintaining verified effectiveness. In Edmond, this model generated over \$858,000 in annual savings. The compounded medications include vitamin B6, approved by the Oklahoma State Board of Pharmacy for its anti-nausea properties, allowing continued compounding even after the branded drugs left the FDA shortage list. Dr. Suddath stated that through Remedy Health, Bartlesville employees would receive the same medication currently prescribed but at a fraction of the cost—ranging from \$179 to \$499 per month compared to \$1,000–\$1,500 under traditional pharmacy plans—with home delivery available within 48 hours.

Mr. Bailey noted that the City has long wanted to provide a clinic option for employees but lacked a viable model until now. This approach benefits all employees covered by the City's health plan and their families, offering improved access to care. The plan is not insurance but rather a direct care arrangement, reducing administrative burden and eliminating prior authorizations. This is the first time in his 20 years with the City that a proposal both enhances benefits and reduces costs.

Mr. East inquired if compounded drugs that differ from the commercial version qualify legally. Dr. Suddath explained that the addition of vitamin B6 differentiates the compounded medication, fulfilling FDA and State Board requirements. Vice Mayor Dorsey inquired whether employees currently prescribed GLP-1 drugs could continue treatment without interruption. Ms. Sanders confirmed they would; prescriptions would simply be filled through Remedy Health rather than retail pharmacies. Dr. Suddath added there would be no prior authorization process, ensuring immediate access and reduced cost. Mr. Kirkpatrick commended the presentation and asked

whether the clinic would serve only City employees. Dr. Suddath responded that it will also serve other community members and businesses but that the City will receive the most discounted rate. Mr. Kirkpatrick expressed strong support but asked staff to confirm it is both fiscally responsible and beneficial to employee health. Ms. Sanders and Mr. Bailey both affirmed that it is.

Dr. Suddath noted Remedy Health maintains a Net Promoter Score of 96 and Google ratings above 4.9, reflecting high patient satisfaction and quality outcomes. Mr. Bailey expressed enthusiasm, noting this was one of the most positive opportunities in recent years. He thanked Ms. Sanders and the Insurance Committee for their thorough evaluation and leadership in the process.

Mr. Kirkpatrick moved to approve the service agreement between Remedy Health and the City in the amount of \$386,100, seconded by Vice Mayor Dorsey.

Voting Aye: Mr. Sherrick, Mr. East, Mr. Kirkpatrick, Vice Mayor Dorsey, Mayor Curd

Voting Nay: None

Motion: Passed

**11. Discuss and take possible action to allocate funds for the necessary maintenance and replacement of the Bartlesville Community Center's two (2) domestic hot water heaters, along with a 5-year service plan on the two (2) Viessmann Boilers used for heating the building. Presented by Caitlyn Kraemer, Managing Director, The Center, and Tim Sherrick, Councilmember and Council Liaison to the Bartlesville Community Center Trust Authority.**

Mr. Sherrick introduced Ms. Caitlin Kraemer, noting that she is a Bartlesville native who has recently returned to manage The Center and has been doing an outstanding job. Ms. Kramer addressed the Council stating that the Bartlesville Community Center Trust Authority was requesting a one-time appropriation from the City of Bartlesville to fund critical maintenance projects. The requested \$50,000 would cover costs for the service and replacement of domestic hot water heaters and associated plumbing. Ms. Kraemer emphasized that for 44 years, the Community Center has served as a cornerstone of the City enhancing the quality of life for residents and supporting economic and cultural vitality. The facility plays a key role for the Bartlesville Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Bartlesville Development Authority, providing a venue that helps attract new businesses and talent to the area. She explained that the repairs were urgently needed ahead of the Center's busiest season. During this time, the stage hosts performances by local arts organizations such as the Bartlesville Symphony Orchestra, Civic Ballet, and Community Concerts Association, all of which draw visitors who dine, shop, and stay in Bartlesville providing measurable economic benefit to the community. Ms. Kramer outlined the specific funding needs: \$8,000 for repair and maintenance of the building's boilers, which were replaced under the City's previous CIP funding. \$25,000 for parts to replace two domestic hot water heaters, including pumps and copper piping. \$15,000 for labor associated with the replacements. She noted that the existing water heaters were manufactured in 2000 and 2004 and have far exceeded their expected lifespan. Photos provided to the Council illustrated the deteriorated condition of the copper piping. Ms. Kraemer added that unforeseen conditions could arise once work begins, but she had been informed by Mr. Sherrick that the project would represent a net zero expense for the City, as the necessary resources had already been allocated, meaning no new or additional tax dollars would be required. She concluded by stating that any questions she could not immediately answer would be relayed to Mr. Pat Patterson, Director of Facilities, who was currently on vacation.

Discussion covered appreciation for Ms. Kraemer's leadership and The Center's ongoing contributions to the City's cultural and economic vitality; the remarkable longevity of The Center's infrastructure; and that The Center's events generate direct sales tax revenue through restaurant, hotel, and retail spending making this investment one that continues to pay dividends to the City of Bartlesville. Ms. Kramer's efforts were also commended due to how she is expanding youth engagement in the Arts. Ms. Kraemer described the relaunch of Arts Encounters, a program designed to connect professional visiting artists with local students. She detailed an upcoming

collaboration with the Children's Musical Theater of Bartlesville, in which a professional fight director would teach a stage combat workshop for the cast of *Newsies* and offer additional classes open to local youth and adults. Mayor Curd thanked Ms. Kramer, welcomed her back to Bartlesville, and expressed appreciation for her leadership and commitment to maintaining the Community Center as a cultural and economic asset to the city.

Mr. Sherrick moved to allocate \$50,000 for necessary replacement and maintenance of Bartlesville Community Center's two (2) domestic hot water heaters, along with a 5-year service plan on the two (2) Viessmann Boilers used for heating the building as presented, seconded by Mr. East.

Voting Aye: Mr. East, Mr. Kirkpatrick, Vice Mayor Dorsey, Mr. Sherrick, Mayor Curd  
Voting Nay: None  
Motion: Passed

**12. Report on the first-year activities of the RSS (Recovery Support Specialist) Outreach Program, and discuss and take possible action to renew an existing Contract for Services with GRAND Mental Health to continue this program for the second year as required under the FY 2024 Opioid Abatement Grant Award. Presented by Kevin Ickleberry, Police Chief.**

Chief Ickleberry expressed appreciation for the opportunity to provide an update on the City's mental health support initiative, originally launched in 2024 through an Oklahoma State Opioid Abatement Grant. He reported that the City was awarded \$120,000 through the State's opioid settlement funds to support local efforts addressing mental health, addiction, and homelessness. The grant allowed the Police Department to partner with Grand Mental Health to create a program aimed at diverting individuals from crisis or incarceration into treatment and recovery. Chief Ickleberry stated that the grant was designed to assist people off the Pathfinder Pathway and hopefully back into society. The City is now seeking renewal of the two-year grant for the upcoming fiscal period, continuing the same objectives and operations. He noted that while there is no free money, this particular funding is a no-cost benefit to the City, as it is drawn from statewide opioid abatement resources rather than local tax revenue.

Chief Ickleberry continued by outlining that the program funds two mental health support specialists, *Bree Bates* and *James Roberts*, who work for Grand Mental Health and operate daily in Bartlesville. These specialists collaborate closely with the Crisis Interdiction Response Team (CIRT), a unit consisting of a police officer and a mental health professional who respond to mental health-related calls. The support specialists conduct independent outreach, engaging with individuals experiencing homelessness, addiction, or mental health crises. Their work focuses on connecting individuals with mental health treatment services, substance abuse and opioid recovery programs, housing, and social service resources. The goal is to reduce police intervention, build community trust, and create a pathway from homelessness and addiction to stability and housing. Chief Ickleberry emphasized that the outreach team has become a critical bridge between law enforcement, social services, and the City's homeless population. They routinely provide immediate assistance with food, water, and access to resources to reduce the need for police calls and help individuals obtain longer-term support.

Chief Ickleberry provided activity reports from February through August 2025, highlighting the measurable progress of the initiative:

- February Report:
  - 40 community contacts
  - 27 daily follow-ups
  - 5 new client contacts
  - 2 clients relocated from Bartlesville and 3 re-established with grant services
  - All homeless relocated from Pathfinder Parkway; Cleanup assistance was provided.
  - Ongoing monitoring of one registered sex offender
  - 45 individuals followed up by police, with 184 total interactions

- 3 Jail contacts for Rehab Resources
- 5 homeless clients linked to Rehab Resources

He noted that the City and the program worked together to resolve fines for individuals at the encampment who cleaned their site, exchanging community service for dismissed citations, an example of how the initiative fosters cooperation and accountability.

- July and August Reports:
  - 104 and 121 successful engagements, respectively
  - Significant reduction in homeless presence along the Pathfinder Parkway (down to one or two individuals)
  - 12–32 street outreach contacts per month, many referred by citizens
  - 0–1 law enforcement assists required per month, indicating growing program independence
  - 16–22 individuals provided opioid education and Narcan training
  - Clients assisted with obtaining identification documents and accessing SNAP or food benefits
  - 2 individuals placed in residential substance treatment programs
  - 2 individuals transitioned into housing
  - 2 individuals connected to outpatient care
  - Continued collaboration with the Washington County Jail reentry team

Overall, from February through August 2025, the team completed 265 successful engagements, 445 homeless follow-ups, and provided opioid education to 39 individuals. Multiple clients achieved stable housing or treatment placements, and the program has led to a reduction in repeat law enforcement calls and use-of-force incidents.

Chief Ickleberry summarized that the program officially launched in January 2025 and after a delayed hiring process is now fully staffed and functioning effectively. The City has sufficient grant funds to continue operations for the coming year, and staff recommend renewal of the program for another term. He stated that the program has become an essential partnership for the City of Bartlesville, successfully addressing both immediate needs and long-term solutions for homelessness, addiction, and public safety.

Discussion covered the Council's appreciation for the update and commended the Chief and his department for their continued leadership in public safety and compassionate response; that the grant funding originates from the original statewide opioid settlement, not the most recent lawsuit; and that unspent funds remain available to support ongoing services. Mr. Kirkpatrick shared a personal example of the program's effectiveness and his appreciation of Officer Sierra Compton, a member of the Crisis Interdiction Team and the City's Unsheltered Homelessness Task Force. It was agreed that the program has been transformative, providing compassionate, community-based solutions and relieving law enforcement of duties better handled through outreach and treatment. Chief Ickleberry concluded, acknowledging that not every officer is suited for such challenging work and commended Officer Compton and others in the program for their exceptional dedication.

Vice Mayor Dorsey moved to renew the existing Contract for Services with GRAND Mental Health to continue this program for the second year as required under the FY 2024 Opioid Abatement Grant Award as presented, seconded by Mr. Sherrick.

Voting Aye: Mr. Sherrick, Mr. East, Mr. Kirkpatrick, Vice Mayor Dorsey, Mayor Curd  
 Voting Nay: None  
 Motion: Passed

13. Accept the Keep Bartlesville Beautiful Annual Update 2025. Presented by Larry Curtis, Director, Community Development.

Mr. Curtis presented an update on the activities and progress of Keep Bartlesville Beautiful (KBB), noting that the organization has been active for a little over a year. He provided an overview of key accomplishments, challenges, and upcoming initiatives, referencing a detailed report included in the Council's packet. His reported covered:

#### Highlights and Accomplishments:

- **Tree Planting:**  
In partnership with *Upward Trees*, KBB recently planted 23 trees along the medians of Frank Phillips Boulevard and Highway 75/Washington Boulevard. This project was supported by a \$15,000 grant from Phillips 66 and completed just over a week and a half ago.
- **Downtown Planters:**  
The Downtown planters were cleaned, refreshed, and replanted as part of KBB's beautification efforts. Eight planters were newly planted with greenery expected to flower next season.
- **Wildflower Planting –Silver Lake Triangle:**  
KBB conducted a successful wildflower planting at the intersection of Watauga and Silver Lake Triangle. The effort exceeded expectations due to highly fertile soil, resulting in robust growth. The area has since been mowed for the season, and next year's plan includes replanting with shorter wildflower varieties for improved visibility and maintenance.
- **Bench Replacement Program:**  
A survey of downtown benches identified several in need of repair or replacement. KBB will replace or refurbish 10 benches downtown, expected to arrive later this month. Installation will occur in partnership with the Parks Department.
- **Public Art and Murals:**  
The organization is exploring opportunities for new murals and public art installations across the community to enhance visual appeal.
- **Native Plant Initiatives:**  
KBB continues to partner with the Native American Medicinal Garden group (Kansas) and other organizations to expand native plantings throughout Bartlesville.
- **Volunteer Engagement:**  
KBB has collaborated with The Lighthouse, local schools, and community volunteers to support planting and beautification efforts. The group is a member of Keep Oklahoma Beautiful, the statewide affiliate, and has built a growing network of engaged local partners.

Mr. Curtis noted that KBB applied for an Oklahoma Code Enforcement Association (OCA) grant but was not selected for funding this year. The organization plans to reapply next year and is also pursuing private donations and alternative grant opportunities to support upcoming projects. He reports that some challenges encountered were:

- **Project Coordination with ODOT:** Initial delays were encountered with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation; however, recent collaboration with the new division director has improved progress.
- **Irrigation and Maintenance:** Ongoing irrigation issues in downtown planters are being addressed in cooperation with the Parks Division.
- **Unsuccessful Grant Cycle:** The OCA grant application was not funded, but lessons learned will inform future submissions.

Continuing, Mr. Curtis reported that looking ahead, KBB plans to:

- Expand the Bench Replacement Program downtown and in other public areas.
- Implement new beautification initiatives along Pathfinder Parkway in partnership with the Parks Board.

- Plant additional wildflower beds in select public spaces.
- Relocate the statue currently at Joe Allen Loyal Park to the roundabout at Silver Lake and Price Road, enhancing the area's public art presence.
- Prepare community beautification projects in anticipation of the United States' 250th anniversary celebration in 2026.

Discussion covered appreciation for KBB's dedication and progress. Mr. Kirkpatrick, who serves on the KBB board, confirmed the program's growing impact and collaboration with the City's Park Board. He noted that Keep Bartlesville Beautiful fills a unique gap between public works and community beautification, stating that while the City focuses on infrastructure and maintenance, KBB addresses aesthetic and environmental enhancements that enrich Bartlesville's character. Mr. Curtis and Mr. Kirkpatrick were commended for their leadership, who went on to recognize The Lighthouse, Bartlesville High School Ag Department, and local youth groups for their volunteer support. Mr. Kirkpatrick concluded by noting that while this was initially the committee he was least enthusiastic to join, it has become one of the City's most productive and rewarding groups.

No formal action was required.

**14. Discuss and take possible action on approval of detailed goals as part of the Bartlesville NEXT Strategic Plan. Presented by Laura Sanders, Assistant City Manager.**

Ms. Sanders presented the revised Bartlesville Next Strategic Plan to the City Council, highlighting that the full plan consists of approximately 30 slides, which had been included in the Council's packet. She emphasized that her presentation would provide a high-level overview rather than a slide-by-slide reading. Beginning with the Development Process, she reported that City staff met four times over the last six months to evaluate and incorporate the City's mission statement and vision; citizen input via the Polco survey; the Comprehensive Plan; and the City Council Leadership Statement, which outlines the Council's focus on development and economic growth, community cohesion and identity, and quality of life. Key updates and recommendations are as follows:

1. Mission Statement
  - Current: "Through collaboration, we strive to provide exceptional public service and enhance the distinctive character of our community."
  - Proposed: "Enhancing our community through exceptional service."
  - Rationale: More concise, memorable, and retains the spirit and intent of the original.
2. Vision Statement
  - No changes; remains: "A Leading Community By Choice."
3. Core Values
  - Values remain: Integrity, Community, Service, Teamwork, Communication, Innovation
  - Definitions revised to better align with the Council's leadership statement and organizational intent.

Ms. Sanders continued reporting on strategic priorities and objectives as follows:

1. Financial Strength and Operational Excellence
  - Key Objectives & Goals:
    1. Staff recruitment, retention, development, safety, and morale (7 goals)
    2. Workplace improvement and modernization (accreditation, performance-based evaluation, IT integration; 5 goals)
    3. Communication and feedback (citizen and employee feedback; 4 goals)
    4. Governance best practices and municipal criminal code updates (2-year initiative)
2. Economic Vitality
  - Key Objectives & Goals:

1. Reevaluation of development policies (1 goal with multiple subparts)
2. Collaboration with economic development partners (2 goals)
3. Retention and attraction of young professionals and families (1 goal)
3. Community Collaboration
  - o Focus areas: Child care, housing, homelessness, recreational sports and programming (1 key objective with multiple goals)
4. Effective Infrastructure Network
  - o Key Objectives & Goals:
    1. Asset management program for infrastructure (1 main goal with steps)
    2. Road condition improvements using PCI (Pavement Condition Index)
    3. Storm sewer system improvement plan (2 goals)
5. Quality of Life
  - o Key Objectives & Goals:
    1. Embrace unique community cultures (Library and City Beat initiatives)
    2. Develop and maintain healthy lifestyle options (parks, recreation, transportation)
    3. Ensure clean, bright, and vibrant community spaces (2 goals)

Discussion covered praise for Ms. Sanders' leadership and coordination in developing the plan who stated that emphasis was placed on the collaborative nature of the plan, with input from City directors and hundreds of participants. Continued discussion recognized the plan as an important tool for long-term, deliberate planning and noted the value of stepping back from day-to-day operational issues to focus on strategic priorities. Mr. Bailey highlighted the strength of the City's directors, noting the group's ability to work collaboratively and generate actionable plans that move the community forward.

Vice Mayor Dorsey moved to approve the detailed goals as part of the Bartlesville NEXT strategic plan as presented, seconded by Mr. Kirkpatrick.

Voting Aye: Vice Mayor Dorsey, Mr. Sherrick, Mr. East, Mr. Kirkpatrick, Mayor Curd  
 Voting Nay: None  
 Motion: Passed

15. Status update on FY 2025-2026 Agreement negotiations between the City of Bartlesville and Bartlesville Professional Fire Fighters, Local 200. Presented by Jess Kane, City Attorney.

Mr. Kane provided a status update on the ongoing negotiations between the City of Bartlesville and the Bartlesville Professional Firefighters Local 200 (IAFF Local 200). He reported that negotiations for the 2025–2026 agreement began in January and are ongoing; that the City has initiated the statutory arbitration process, naming its arbitrator; the Fire Union has named its own arbitrator; the parties are cooperating to name a third arbitrator through the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS); and that the arbitration process is currently on hold due to the FMCS furlough resulting from the federal government shutdown. He continued providing the key negotiation issues as follows:

1. Promotional Process Reform
  - o Bartlesville is the largest municipality in Oklahoma that still promotes firefighters based on seniority.
  - o Other comparable municipalities promote based on merit, rewarding excellence rather than longevity.
  - o The city's proposed reform is to continue to reward longevity, but base promotions on merit and achievement.
2. Double-Time Pay for Forced Back Shifts
  - o Due to minimum staffing requirements, the City can force back firefighters when a shift may fall below minimum manning levels.
  - o Prior to 2023, forced-back firefighters were compensated at time-and-a-half.
  - o In 2023, the contract increased compensation to double time, per Union request.

- Overtime for minimum manning has cost the City over \$400,000 in fiscal years 2023–2025.
  - Current policies can result in high-cost overtime, including scenarios where senior employees earning over \$100,000 are paid double time to cover shifts for lower-paid employees, when lower paid firefighters are unable to cover.
3. Sick Leave Usage
- Bartlesville firefighters used 12,414 hours of sick leave in fiscal year 2025, averaging 188 hours per firefighter which is significantly higher than comparable cities.
  - Examples of sick leave misuse include employees attending golf tournaments or performing personal business during sick leave.
4. Compensation and Benefits
- All firefighters earn over \$50,000 annually, with some exceeding \$100,000.
  - The union has requested a 6.5% raise, compared to 5% granted to other City employees.
  - Current clothing allowance is \$775 (average for peer cities: \$433). Union demand is \$1,200–\$1,500, nearly three times the peer average.

Mr. Kane concluded that the City's position is to seek fair and competitive compensation, balanced with responsible use of public funds. The reforms are intended to encourage merit-based promotions, prevent contract provisions susceptible to abuse, maintain equitable pay practices across City employees, and that the City remains open to negotiation with the Union during the arbitration hold.

Discussion covered that during the interim process while FMCS arbitration is paused, negotiations can continue outside arbitration; typical arbitration duration can vary depending on arbitrator availability; and the update and the complexity of the negotiations are acknowledged and appreciated. No formal action was taken. Mr. Kane stated that he will provide updates as negotiations progress.

16. New Business.

There was no new business.

17. City Manager and Staff Reports.

Mr. Bailey reported that the splash pads will close October 26.

The duck blind drawing is scheduled for 9 a.m. on October 24, 2025 at the Hudson Lake boat ramp. The fee is \$10 if drawn.

He encouraged citizens to sign up for City Beat newsletter.

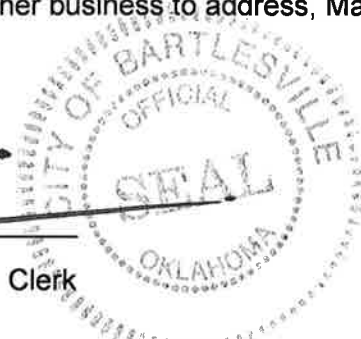
18. City Council Comments and Inquiries.

Mayor Curd reported there are many great activities happening around the community and encouraged citizens to attend and participate.

Mr. Kirkpatrick reported that the Library/BPD/BFD block party was a success and had great food.

19. There being no further business to address, Mayor Curd adjourned the meeting at 7:51 p.m.

  
 Jason Muninger, CFO/City Clerk



  
 James S. Curd, Jr., Mayor