



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

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

**Monday, May 4, 2026
Immediately following the
Bartlesville Municipal Authority
Special Meeting
beginning at 5:30 p.m.**

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

MINUTES

**(The Notice of Meeting was posted December 12, 2025 and
the Agenda was posted April 28, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.)**

City Council in attendance was Mayor James S. 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; Stephanie Clifton, sitting in for Jess Kane, City Attorney; Jason Muninger, CFO/City Clerk; Micah Siemers, Director of Engineering; Keith Henry, Public Works Director, Larry Curtis, Director of Community Development; Kiley Roberson, Library Director; Acting Police Chief Troy Newell; Deputy Police Chief Andrew Ward; Police Captain Daniel Elkins; Fire Chief H.C. Call; Deputy Fire Chief Barry Campbell; Matt McCollough, IT Director; Alicia Shelton, Accounting & Finance Supervisor; and Elaine Banes, Executive Assistant.

- 1. The business meeting of the Bartlesville City Council was called to order by Mayor Curd immediately following the Bartlesville Municipal Authority meeting at 5:35 p.m.**
- 2. Roll Call was conducted a quorum established.**
- 3. Public Comments on Agenda Items.**

Bridget Wood – Agenda Item 13. – Ms. Wood stated that she was concerned about privacy issues and considered the ALPR (Flock) cameras an invasion of privacy due to reports of security vulnerabilities. She requested the cameras be removed.

Josh Lock – Agenda Item 13. – Mr. Lock stated his opposition to the ALPR (Flock) cameras and how one camera is placed in a location that he feels is not capturing ingress or egress into the city. He recommends the Council approve Option B of Councilmember Sherrick’s proposals.

Eddie Collins – Agenda Items 6.c.vi., 8., and 13. – Mr. Collins stated that he is against the process used for bio sludge disposal, that further testing should be considered (6.c.vi.). He is also opposed to utility rate increases, and action should be tabled until the rate study is complete (Item 8.). He concluded stating that he continues to be opposed to the use of ALPR (Flock) cameras (Item 13.).

Jim Ware – Agenda Item 6.c.i. – Mr. Ware stated his appreciation to the City Council for reviewing and amending the downtown angle parking laws to accommodate motorcyclists so they are allowed to back into the parking spaces. He encouraged them to vote yes to amend the law.

- 4. City Council Announcements and Proclamations.**
 - **Flood Insurance Month – May 2026 – presented by Councilmember Kirkpatrick.**

- National Police Week – May 11-17, 2026 – presented by Vice Mayor Dorsey. He also announced his congratulations of Officer Sierra Compton who represented the police department and Bartlesville at the 11th Annual Smoke & Guns MMA & Boxing Charity Event, and Deputy Chief Andrew Ward for receiving the Young Professional of Bartlesville 2026 Emerging Star in Government award.

Mr. Bailey reported that Josh Clemons, Sparklight Technician, has been attending City Council, City Planning Commission and Board of Adjustment meetings for 18 years, recording the meetings so that viewers can watch from home. Mr. Clemons has taken a new position at Sparklight so tonight is his last meeting. Mr. Bailey stated his appreciation to him, and Mr. Clemons received a round of applause for his service.

5. Authorities, Boards, Commissions and Committee Openings

- Two openings on the Tree Committee
- Two openings on the White Rose Cemetery Board

Mayor Curd read the openings and encouraged citizens to volunteer. Applications can be found on the City website and in the City Manager's office.

6. Consent Docket

a. Approval of Minutes

- i. The Regular Meeting Minutes of April 6, 2026.
- ii. The Special Meeting Minutes of April 21, 2026.

b. Approval of Resolutions

- i. Amending the budget of the City of Bartlesville for fiscal year 2026~~5~~ - 26 appropriating unanticipated revenue for the Fire Department.

c. Approval and Ratification of Agreements, Change Orders, Consent Orders, Contracts, Engagement Letters, Leases, MOU's, Ordinances and Proposals.

- i. Adoption of an amendment to Bartlesville Ordinance Chapter 19, Article 10 Section 350 Angle Parking Procedure by adding a motorcycle exception.
- ii. Engagement Letter for Arbitrage Compliance Services with Arbitrage Compliance Specialists in the amount of \$650.00.
- iii. Change Order #3 from Keohn Construction Services for the Construct Box Hangar – Bartlesville Airport project, with no budget impact.
- iv. Consent Order 26-039 from the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality on the wastewater collection and treatment system.
- v. On-Demand Contract with B-Town Construction for the installation and decommissioning of water distribution lines of various sizes with the City of Bartlesville's water distribution system, with a cap of \$100,000 or a duration of six months, whichever comes first.
- vi. Biosolid Disposal Agreement with Bob Chaney to allow the City to deliver treated wastewater biosolids for beneficial agricultural use for property described as parts of SW/2 OF SE/4, SECTION 30, TOWNSHIP 27N, RANGE 13E; N/2 OF NW/4 AND W/2 OF NW/4, SECTION 30, TOWNSHIP 27N, RANGE 13E; NE/4 OF NE/4 AND SE/4 OF NE/4 AND NE/4 OF NE/4 OF NW/4, SECTION 30, TOWNSHIP 27N, RANGE 13E; E 1/2 SW LESS N 1/2 NE SW: E 1/2 LOT 4: SE NW SW: S 21.04 AC LOT 4 LESS SW 98.54 AC SEC 19 TOWNSHIP 27N RANGE 13E.
- vii. Memorandum of Understanding between the City and the Bartlesville Professional Fire fighters, Local 200, IAFF, to update Article 25, Section 2 of the IAFF Collective Bargaining Agreement, setting subsidy rates for calendar year 2026.

- viii. Deed easement from Public Service Company of Oklahoma (PSO) on City-owned properties for an underground secondary feed and transformer to support the new box hangar along with future hangar development.
- d. Approval of Oklahoma Municipal Assurance Group Ballot**
 - i. Approve casting City of Bartlesville votes for incumbents Justin Battles from Mustang, Tim Lyon from Midwest City, and Pam Polk from Durant to the Oklahoma Municipal Assurance Group (OMAG) Board of Trustees.
- e. Receipt of Bartlesville NEXT Progress Report**
 - i. Bartlesville NEXT Progress Report April 2026.
- f. Receipt of ALPR (Flock Cameras) Report**
 - i. ALPR Report for April 2026
- g. Receipt of Financials**
 - i. Interim financials for nine months ending March 31, 2026.
- h. Receipt of Bids**
 - i. Bid No. 2025-2026-018 Utility Tractor with Front Loader

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. Mr. East asked to have Agenda Items 6.c.iv., vi. and 6.g.i. pulled for discussion.

Vice Mayor Dorsey moved to approve the Consent Docket with the exception of Agenda Items 6.c.iv., vi., and g.i., seconded by Mr. Kirkpatrick.

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

Agenda Item 6.c.iv. Consent Order 26-039 from the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality on the wastewater collection and treatment system.

Mr. East stated that he had questions about consent orders and that he would like to further understand the implication of them. Mr. Lauritsen explained that whenever the City has wastewater that bypasses treatment before it is released into the environment, it must be reported to the State, by law. Most incidences that cause a bypass often results in customers flushing wipes down the toilet, mechanical issues (which have been/or are being repaired), but the majority of them are related to rain events. The system is designed to handle a 2½ inches of rain, so anything over that, there is the potential of a bypass. This is not uncommon throughout the State. Public outreach and education are ongoing particularly about keeping wipes out of the system. He added that about 75% of the bypass issues will be addressed with the wastewater plant upgrades which ties in with the utility rates being increased that is included in the proposed budget. Further discussion covered how most bypasses happen at the pump stations; environmental factors; and being consistent in repairs and public education.

Agenda Item 6.c.vi. Biosolid Disposal Agreement with Bob Chaney to allow the City to deliver treated wastewater biosolids for beneficial agricultural use for property described as parts of SW/2 OF SE/4, SECTION 30, TOWNSHIP 27N,

RANGE 13E; N/2 OF NW/4 AND W/2 OF NW/4, SECTION 30, TOWNSHIP 27N, RANGE 13E; NE/4 OF NE/4 AND SE/4 OF NE/4 AND NE/4 OF NE/4 OF NW/4, SECTION 30, TOWNSHIP 27N, RANGE 13E; E 1/2 SW LESS N 1/2 NE SW: E 1/2 LOT 4: SE NW SW: S 21.04 AC LOT 4 LESS SW 98.54 AC SEC 19 TOWNSHIP 27N RANGE 13E.

Mr. East stated that he had concerns regarding the proximity of the property to the city and the Caney River, which serves as a water source. He added that the State is currently conducting studies on this disposal process and could eventually prohibit this type of release. Mr. Lauritsen reported that this process has been used for several years on approximately 20 different properties. He explained that all testing is conducted in accordance with State law and that the biosolids are not applied as dry fertilizer but are instead injected into the ground, significantly reducing the potential for runoff. He stated that this is currently the City's only method for disposing of biosolids.

Mr. Lauritsen further noted that the property under discussion is located close to town, which reduces transportation time and associated operational costs. He stated that there are no concerns from a water quality standpoint because activated carbon is utilized in the City's treatment system. He emphasized that this method is a fully legal and regulated means of biosolids disposal.

Mr. Bailey stated that he and Mr. Lauritsen have participated in discussions at the State level with Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) and other municipalities regarding this issue. He explained that the only alternative would be transporting the biosolids to a landfill for disposal; however, that option is also heavily regulated, and many landfills will not accept biosolids. Mr. Lauritsen added that biosolids can also be incinerated, but the City does not have the necessary facilities, and constructing such infrastructure would be extremely costly. He reiterated that he was confident and comfortable with the recommended disposal method. Mr. Bailey confirmed that the City operates within an established regulatory framework and that this remains the most cost-effective disposal option available.

Mr. Sherrick presented research indicating that Washington County possesses several characteristics that may increase biosolid-related risks, including hydrologic sensitivity. He stated that his research suggested potential impacts to both cattle and water quality. Mr. Sherrick inquired about the site restrictions imposed on participating properties, and Mr. Lauritsen outlined the applicable restrictions required under State law. Mr. Sherrick also asked about occupational exposure concerns. Mr. Lauritsen explained that property owners are informed of all restrictions, including the requirement that treated areas remain inaccessible to the public for 30 days following application, and that regarding employees transporting biosolids to the application sites, Mr. Lauritsen stated that handling and transportation are part of the employees' regular job responsibilities.

Regarding soil infiltration, Mr. Sherrick asked whether the City had conducted studies at Adams Ranch (one of the properties in use for many years) to determine whether contaminant accumulation levels were increasing over time. Mr. Lauritsen confirmed that annual testing is performed and stated that the results could be provided to Mr. Sherrick. Mr. Sherrick then asked whether the City would consider placing a moratorium on approving this particular property until pending legislation establishing stricter testing and control standards had been finalized. Mr. Lauritsen responded that the City would continue using the biosolids application process on currently contracted properties because disposal operations must occur daily. He explained that suspending the process was not a viable option. He further stated that the proposed property in this action would provide greater flexibility in managing operational costs, and noted that the City has only 30 days of on-site storage capacity. He concluded that a moratorium would not stop the process but would simply require the City to continue operations under existing arrangements.

Mr. Sherrick stated that he was not comfortable approving the contract because he believed the potential risks outweighed the benefits. Mr. East concluded that, although he shared many of Mr. Sherrick's concerns, he now understood that this is currently the only practical method for biosolids disposal and therefore did not oppose approving the contract.

Mr. Kirkpatrick added that this type of disposal process has existed for many years but is now receiving increased attention because of chemicals introduced over time. He stated that local governments face challenges addressing the issue while the Federal government appears reluctant to take stronger action, including concerns related to reduced funding for the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which may slow the implementation of additional regulations. Mr. Kirkpatrick stated that, because the City is actively testing both the land and water supply, acting responsibly, and distributing biosolids across multiple locations rather than concentrating them in one area, he believes this remains the best available process at this time. He also stated that he had spoken with an engineer who developed an alternative treatment system; however, the estimated cost was approximately \$90 million, making it unrealistic given the City's ongoing rate increases.

Vice Mayor Dorsey agreed that alternative disposal methods would be extremely costly and stated that, although regulatory improvements may still be needed, approving an additional property is the most practical course of action at this time.

The Mayor stated that he shared the concerns raised during the discussion but believed the agreement under consideration represented the best path forward at present.

Mr. Sherrick reiterated that he could not support approval of the agreement.

Agenda Item 6.g.i. Interim financials for nine months ending March 31, 2026.

Mr. East referred to page six of the interim financial report, specifically the combined BMA water operating funds. He noted that, with approximately 75% of the fiscal year completed, actual revenue was only about 40% of the budgeted amount, while expenditures were only slightly above that percentage. Mr. Muninger explained that the figures could be misleading because the expenditure side includes an anticipated \$8 million BMA expense related to construction costs for the AMI system, which has not yet occurred. Mr. Bailey stated that one of the unusual aspects of governmental accounting involves the treatment of debt proceeds as revenue until repaid, then expenditures. He explained that, unlike private-sector accounting practices, loan proceeds are reflected differently in government financial statements. He further noted that the City has not yet taken out the loan for the AMI system, so the amount currently appears under debt proceeds. He added that water fee revenues are approximately 10% below expectations. Mr. Muninger explained that the necessary funds would be drawn from the fund balance. Referring to the chart at the front of the report, he further clarified that the average percentage shown for the fiscal year does not directly reflect revenue collection trends. Rather, it reflects the actual amount collected to date, which is currently approximately 7.5% lower when compared to prior years.

Mr. East referred to page six of the interim financials showing the combined water operating the BMA water funds. With 75% of the year lapsed, the City is only at about 40% of actual budget for income, and expenditures are just barely over that as well. Mr. Muninger stated that this can be misleading because on the expenditure side there is an \$8 million BMA expense for expected construction cost for the AMI system which has not happened yet. Mr. Bailey stated that one of the weird things about government and government debt, is revenue. When it is paid, it is shown as an expense, which does not work that way for anything else. He explained that the City has not taken the loan out for the AMI system, so it is under debt proceeds. The water fees are below expectations at 10%. Mr. Muninger explained that the funds potentially needed will be pulled from the fund balance. He further explained, referring to the chart in the front of the report, that the average percentage of the year is not indicative of the revenues. It shows what is actually being collected which at this point would be roughly 7.5% in comparison to other years.

Mr. Sherrick requested that Item 6.c.vi. be voted upon separately.

Vice Mayor Dorsey moved to approve Agenda Items 6.c.iv and 6.g.i, seconded by Mr. East.

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

Vice Mayor Dorsey moved to approve Agenda Item 6.c.vi., seconded by Mr. Kirkpatrick.

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

7. Discuss and take possible action to award Bid No. 2025-2026-018 for Utility Tractor with Front Loader for the Water Treatment Plant. Presented by Vice Mayor Dorsey.

Vice Mayor Dorsey presented the bid and award information.

Vice Mayor Dorsey moved to award Bid No. 2025-2026-018 to P&K Equipment, including all the add-on alternates, in the amount of \$61,126.30, seconded by Mr. East.

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

8. Public hearing and possible action on a Resolution adopting the City of Bartlesville Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 and establishing budget amendment authority, authorizing the cancellation of encumbrances which are not due and payable as of June 30, 2026, and re-appropriating amounts of cancelled encumbrances to the same fund and department for Fiscal Years 2026-2027. Presented by Jason Muninger, CFO/City Clerk.

Mr. Muninger reported that the resolution presented included changes that were discussed at the April 21 workshop. Using a PowerPoint, he reviewed the change to the Personnel Summary to reflect an additional maintenance worker at the golf course and to change the golf course personnel and capital schedule to reflect the addition of a maintenance worker, moving a temporary position to a full-time employee. He provided a budgetary recap covering Sales tax - 1% reduction, Use Tax - 2% reduction, 13.4% increase in utility rates effective July 1, 2026, and personnel reflecting a 2.5% COLA and merit raises as warranted at 2.5%. In response to a question the Mayor had posed, Mr. Muninger explained that the numbers used last fiscal year in personnel salaries was higher than proposed for this year was due to new positions last year.

Mr. Muninger continued by reviewing the Resolution to be adopted, and concluded that a public hearing is required. The Mayor opened the public hearing 6:36 p.m. Mr. Josh Lock inquired on the COLA and merit raises. Mr. Muninger responded that the COLA provided to employees is based on the inflation rate effective July 1, 2026, and merit raises are tied to an employee's evaluation and are granted (if approved) using the anniversary date of employment. Mr. Lock inquired how the 5% compares to historical routine increases. Mr. Bailey explained again that COLA is based on inflation so it can fluctuate, and the 2.5% for merit is pretty standard. Mr. Lock also inquired about the increase in utility rates and the comments made to him by some citizens that the meters are not working correctly, or are not being read for several months. Mr. Bailey stated that there can be malfunctions in the aging automated system, and that they are read manually every month, if there is a malfunction detected. He continued that the automated system was put into place 14 years ago, and there are some that may not be transmitting, but the meter itself is still working. A report is received by the utility office about failed meters, and the nature of the malfunction can be either be the meter no longer turning or could be that a node is not transmitting. The City is looking at upgrading the system. Mr. East confirmed that the increase in rates has to do with maintenance and chemicals and other factors that supply water to citizens. Mr. Bailey confirmed. Mr. Sherrick inquired if fuel costs have to do with the rate increases. Mr. Bailey stated that fuel costs are certainly one component but that the largest component is actually the increased cost of chemicals and supplies. Further discussion covered how transfers between the enterprise departments cover increase in costs, and for personnel in those departments. Mr. Kirkpatrick offered that one of the biggest line items is for the electricity that run the pumps in the water department. He commended Mr. Lauritsen and his staff for implementing the process for

drawing all of the water exclusively from the river which is a savings, and to all of the citizens who have been conserving water. Discussion then ensued on the utility rate increases; how a consultant will provide a report at the June meeting, and an additional ordinance increasing rates will be presented at that meeting. Mr. Bailey stated that the Mayor had inquired if the City could look into shifting some of the cost increase from the base rate to the volumetric rates to assist those in lower income situations or one fixed income. There being no one else appear to speak, the Mayor closed the public hearing at 6:46 p.m.

Mr. Sherrick confirmed that the utility rate increase will be brought forward in June, and then inquired about his request to add an additional police officer to personnel. Mr. Muninger stated that he had prepared an alternate resolution to include the addition if the Council prefers. Mayor Curd stated that he is in favor of adding another officer and had ensured prior to this meeting that there would be adequate funds. Mr. Muninger reported on how the funds would be taken from other funds to allow for this addition in this budget.

Mr. East wished to discuss the COLA and merit increases wanting confirmation that these increases allow the organization to fall more in line with other comparable cities, and that a compensation study is being conducted to ensure competitive wages and benefits. Mr. Bailey confirmed and explained the compensation plan currently in place. He again explained how the COLA is determined, and went on discuss how difficult it is to hire and keep employees, and that there are many vacancies in Water, Wastewater, Streets, Parks and Sanitation which have been empty for years.

Mr. Kirkpatrick returned to the alternate resolution that will add an additional police officer, asking if this coming from a place that the job is not getting done, are the police understaffed, is it to balance overtime pay? Mr. Bailey responded that the Chief had initially asked for two additional officers and staff did not recommend any new positions. He went on to explain that the number of officers deemed appropriate is one per thousand citizens. Using that metric, the City is behind by four officers, although the number of officers since 2016 has increased by 21, which is a great improvement. The force has specialized units and RSO's and if there are not enough patrol officers for a shift due to sickness, vacation or training, the specialized units have to fill that gap. The main target has been 80 officers and that target is getting close, and also keep the special units whole every day. Mr. Kirkpatrick inquired why adding the positions did not make the first budget recommendation. Mr. Bailey stated that it was primarily from an overall budget perspective explaining that his first priority is to make sure employees are getting the salary they need, the second priority is to keep at least a relatively substantial amount of money in capital to cover projects that may not have been included in the GO Bonds that can come out of nowhere, or for unanticipated needs or expenses. Therefore, staff tends to push as much as possible into the Capital Reserve and allow it to grow higher. The initial transfer into Capital Reserve was over \$600,000, and obviously adding a new position will reduce it, but it will still have enough for any projects that may be necessary. He stated the he did communicate with Mr. Sherrick and Mayor Curd that the funds for an additional officer will result in moving money out of Capital Reserve and placing it into a recurring expense. There is discretion if later there is a need for the funds, such an open officer position may not be filled. There is always a need for additional officers, it was a call to save money. Mayor Curd stated that since there was no indication that a project would not be completed if these funds were transferred coupled with the need for additional security, he agreed with Mr. Sherrick to ask the Council to approve the additional position. Mr. Kirkpatrick stated his reasoning for his questioning lies in the trend line he has seen where inflation outpaces revenue growth and the City could be essentially be affected. He added that he just wants to make sure the salary increases and new position is necessary, and inquired if he was overthinking as he is new to municipal finance. Mr. Bailey agreed that it was along those lines that new positions were not included in the original proposed budget, but alleviated Mr. Kirkpatrick's concerns that adding the position would not push the City "over a cliff", adding that police staffing, as all staffing, is monitored and that he always supports having more policemen on the street. He added that the department is well-staffed and well-trained and whether one more position is added or not, the City is well protected by its police force. Mr. Kirkpatrick inquired if this action could be tabled for further consideration. Mr. Bailey stated that the budget can be adopted

in June, but due to other conflicts, it is preferred to be adopted at this meeting. He did confirm that an amendment can be made at a later date if needed. The budget has to be adopted by June 30 by law. Mr. Kirkpatrick conceded.

Mr. Sherrick moved to approve the alternate Resolution adopting the FY 2026-27 Budget that adds the additional full time police officer, seconded by Mr. East.

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

Mr. Bailey expressed his appreciation to Mr. Muninger, his staff and the City Directors for their work on the budget. He added his appreciation of Micah Siemers who prepares and manages all the Capital Improvements Program. The full budget can be found at this link: <https://www.cityofbartlesville.org/departments/finance-treasury-city-clerk/financial-document-archives/>

9. Discuss and take possible action to approve the Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027. Presented by Micah Siemers, P.E., Director of Engineering.

Mr. Siemers reviewed the G.O. Bond and Sales Projects since 1999. He provided the new projects from the Wastewater Fund, Wastewater Regulatory Fund, City Hall Fund, Capital Reserve Fund, and Sales Tax Fund. Mr. Siemers report with complete list of projects can be found at <https://www.cityofbartlesville.org/city-government/city-council/meeting-agendas/> clicking on 5/2/26 Packet, Item 9. CIP projects including their status can be found at: <https://www.cityofbartlesville.org/departments/engineering/> and clicking on Project Tracker.

Mr. East moved to approve the CIP Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 as presented, seconded by Mr. Sherrick.

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

10. Presentation and receipt of the FY 2025-2026 Annual Report of the Bartlesville Development Authority, and take possible action to approve the proposed operating budget for FY 2026-2027, appropriating funds from the Economic Development Fund to support annual operations. Presented by Chris Batchelder, President, Bartlesville Development Authority.

Mr. Batchelder began by expressing appreciation for the opportunity to serve taxpayers through business recruitment efforts and the funding of the Economic Development Fund. Using a PowerPoint presentation, he provided an industry recap, discussed expansion projects at the Bartlesville Industrial Park, and highlighted the construction of a new commercial maintenance hangar at the airport. He also discussed a stakeholder summit focused on developing a new airframe and powerplant skilled training program, noting that TCT is taking steps to implement the program. Mr. Batchelder noted that a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new taxi lane and taxiway was held last September. The project also opened additional sections of airport real estate for significant future development and recruitment opportunities. He reported that 130 people have taken advantage of the resident recruitment program meeting the required criteria. Retail development continues to grow along the Highway 75 corridor, while downtown Bartlesville continues to thrive. Inquiries from developers and retail consultants are received daily.

Regarding the budget, Mr. Batchelder reported that the appropriation request totaled \$655,088, with an additional cash carryover of \$202,486. Within the personnel budget, he plans to provide a 2.4% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for three full-time employees. Employee benefits increased 15% last year, and based on advice from the organization's advisor, an 18% increase has been budgeted. The salary line is 21% lower year over year, and the overall personnel category is down 16%.

On the administrative side, Mr. Batchelder stated there are no significant changes aside from a change in auditing firms, which resulted in savings of \$10,000 compared to last year's budget. Overall, this category is down 3%. Program expenditures remain flat, and the overall budget is down 11% year over year.

Mr. East asked for an explanation of what defines a primary industry business. Mr. Batchelder stated that the State of Oklahoma, through the Department of Commerce Quality Jobs Act, provides the definition of a primary industry, which he offered to provide to the Council. He explained that the classification primarily includes manufacturing, oil and gas, and aerospace industries, and that this definition serves as the basis for their program.

Mr. Bailey added that the resident recruitment program was created to assist companies with relocation incentives and has been very successful. Mr. East then asked about the required length of commitment for individuals who receive the residential incentive. Mr. Batchelder stated there is no restriction on how long a person must live in Bartlesville after accepting the incentive.

Mayor Curd asked for clarification regarding the acronym "MRO." Mr. Batchelder explained that it stands for Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul in the aviation industry. He stated that aeronautical businesses are required by law to have aircraft serviced at least annually. As aircraft continue to age while remaining in service, these facilities have become increasingly important. He noted that Bartlesville already has a thriving business that services Falcon aircraft. Mr. Batchelder further stated that the airport is considered a significant asset due to its runway and advanced technology infrastructure. He explained that the MRO sector presents substantial growth opportunities. He also referenced the Oklahoma Department of Aviation and Aerospace program, which funds 40% of the cost of constructing a new hangar. He noted that the TCT Airframe and Powerplant (A&P) program previously mentioned is necessary to train local workers for jobs with companies being recruited to the airport. He stated that all of these efforts are intended to support long-term economic growth. Mr. Batchelder also noted that Mike Richardson, airport director, has plans for smaller hangars to be constructed on the far east side of the airport. Mayor Curd then asked him to explain the benefits of having a municipal airport in a community the size of Bartlesville. Mr. Batchelder stated that an employee with the Oklahoma Department of Aviation and Aerospace explained to him that many trained Air Force pilots eventually become commercial pilots, while others obtain their flight training and certifications through local airport flight programs. He added that many cities generate significant revenue through airport fuel sales. He also noted that the Lincoln Electric team flies into the airport and that the airport creates opportunities for shipping, MRO operations, and the recruitment of suppliers and parts companies to support new aviation-related industries. Additionally, the local airfield is increasingly attractive to individuals who own private aircraft.

Mr. Kirkpatrick asked whether the definition of primary industries could be modified. Mr. Batchelder responded that discussions have been held regarding the inclusion of the

hospital and school district as recruitment tools. He stated that further discussions are needed to identify additional potential funding sources.

Mr. Kirkpatrick moved to approve the Bartlesville Development Authority Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 as presented, seconded by Mr. Sherrick.

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

11. **Discuss and take possible action to approve the annual contract between the City of Bartlesville and the Bartlesville Development Authority for Economic Development Services for the period of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027. Presented by Chris Batchelder, President, Bartlesville Development Authority.**

Mr. Batchelder provided the annual contract stating his appreciation and happy to serve the community.

Mr. Kirkpatrick moved to approve the annual contract of the Bartlesville Development Authority Economic Development Services for FY 2026-2027 in the amount of \$655,088 and to appropriate to the BDA the unrestricted funds remaining with BDA on June 30, 2026 to fund the budget as presented, seconded by Mr. East.

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

12. **Presentation and receipt Visitors Inc. FY 2025-26 Annual Report, take possible action to approve the Visitors Inc. Fiscal Year 2026-27 Operating Budget, and take possible action to approve the FY 2026-2027 Marketing Destination Agreement. Presented by Maria Gus, Executive Director, Visit Bartlesville.**

Ms. Gus, using a PowerPoint, provided the mission, focus areas and economic development of Visitors Inc. and reviewed key achievements. She reported that there was a \$36.9 million in total economic impact, \$16.1 million in visitor spending, 111,070 event attendance, \$742,522 fiscal impact (ytd) and 10-12% of all spending from visitors. She provided information on how they drive results, their digital strategy, and goals for the future. She presented a contract request of \$345,000 in alignment with the current agreement and its established formula. This represents a \$100,000 reduction, or 22% decrease from last year. With the level of adjustment, she concluded that their approach will be highly targeted and disciplined, prioritizing the strategies that deliver the strongest return while leveraging established partnerships to ensure continued visibility and measurable results for the community.

Mr. East inquired about the decrease in budget asking if it is due to how the calculation is set for the lodging tax. Ms. Gus responded that she believed that is part of the explanation. Projections are based on industry standard, information received from hotel revenue, and making an effort to pare back from where those estimates led them for the last couple of years. Mr. Kirkpatrick stated that he has a renewed desire to look at the City's hotel motel tax structure and that research is being done recently over short-term rentals. Ms. Gus added that guest tax will certainly help the Community Center, as it is one of Bartlesville's major tourist attractions. The hotel motel tax has not been raised for many years. Compared to other cities, Bartlesville is on the low-end with the rate now in place.

Vice Mayor Dorsey moved to approve Visitors Inc. Budget, and Marketing Destination Agreement for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 in the amount of \$345,000 and appropriate the unrestricted funds remaining with Visit Bartlesville on June 30, 2026 as presented, seconded by Mr. Kirkpatrick.

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

13. Discuss and take possible action on proposed amendments to Ordinance No. 3600, Chapter 15 of the Bartlesville Municipal Code, regarding the regulation of Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) technology, including two policy options for Council consideration. Presented by Councilmember Tim Sherrick.

Mr. Sherrick presented two proposed ordinances intended to replace the previously distributed resolutions, noting that ordinances must be amended by ordinance rather than by resolution. He explained that Option 1 would impose additional restrictions by requiring command staff to obtain judicial authorization before accessing the department's Flock information, except in cases involving an imminent threat to life, Amber or Silver Alerts, or fleeing suspects. Option 2 would limit the use of the ALPR cameras solely to parking enforcement purposes. He stated that he believes the current ordinance violates certain Fourth Amendment rights of citizens. He then reviewed each proposed option and outlined what he believed to be the merits of each approach.

At 8:00 p.m., the Council unanimously agreed to extend the meeting by an additional 30 minutes.

Acting Police Chief Troy Newell respectfully expressed his and the police department's support for the continued use of Flock and ALPR technology and explained the reasons for that support. He stated that the technology is an effective tool that provides objective, real-time information. Chief Newell stated that he and his officers are committed to using the technology responsibly and under strong policies designed to safeguard privacy and ensure accountability. He strongly recommended that the Council maintain the technology currently in place.

Chief Newell then turned the presentation over to Deputy Police Chief Andrew Ward, who provided information regarding the department's use of the Flock Safety system. He reported that 1,244 inquiries had been made through the system during the past year and explained that the system has assisted local law enforcement in recovering stolen vehicles, investigating hit-and-run and violent crime cases, locating missing and vulnerable individuals, and coordinating with other jurisdictions to solve crimes committed both locally and elsewhere. He also shared several examples of successful outcomes resulting from the department's use of the Flock Safety system, including one incident involving an individual experiencing a mental health crisis who was located by officers and getting him connected with mental health resources. Deputy Chief Ward stated that Bartlesville currently operates 10 cameras which, pursuant to restrictions previously imposed by a majority of the Council, are located only at ingress and egress points along the city limits. Captain Daniel Elkins presented statistical information, including cost comparisons between traditional officer-based enforcement and Flock camera operations. He emphasized that law enforcement agencies have historically served as custodians of important records and evidence, which are essential to the administration of justice. Captain Elkins stated that records are not merely administrative tools but are critical to accountability, criminal investigations, and historical documentation. He also reviewed data retention practices, access controls, and compliance procedures. He added that officers are entrusted with handling sensitive information in many capacities,

and that trust extends to the management of Flock data and other records used to protect public safety. He concluded by stating that the use of ALPR cameras continues to improve public safety and save lives.

Discussion between Council members and police personnel included a review of crime statistics before and after implementation of the cameras. Additional discussion addressed how, prior to purchasing the Flock cameras, Bartlesville had entered into a memorandum of understanding with other agencies to share information in support of criminal investigations. Council members inquired as to why case numbers are not included in monthly reports, with police representatives explaining that active investigations and privacy concerns prevent disclosure until cases become public record. Several Council members expressed appreciation for the police department and its service to the community.

Mr. Sherrick stated that he believed Option 2 had limited support but continued to believe that Option 1 better protects citizens' Fourth Amendment rights. He stated that he would recommend approval of Option 1.

Mr. Kirkpatrick stated that he had met with police officers and department administration regarding the use of Flock technology and acknowledged that the system has been helpful. However, he stated that he no longer supports Flock Safety as a corporate vendor because he does not consider the company to be a trustworthy partner. He added that during those meetings, police officers had recommended another vendor, Axon Enterprise, with whom the department has already worked extensively. He stated that both he and Mr. East participated in a Zoom meeting with representatives from Axon to learn more about the company and its services. He also noted that the police department has received proposals from other companies interested in replacing the Flock system. Mr. Kirkpatrick stated that he believes Axon merits additional consideration because the company has successfully stored the department's body camera footage for several years. He expressed appreciation for the police department's advocacy regarding tools they believe are most effective for law enforcement purposes, however, he also noted that the perspectives of police officers and elected Council representatives may differ because Council members must also consider the concerns and priorities of their constituents. Mr. Kirkpatrick then returned to Mr. Sherrick's proposed Option 1, which would require judicial authorization before accessing Flock data, and asked City Attorney Kane how such a requirement would function in practice. Mr. Kane responded that he did not believe the City would be required to obtain judicial authorization, or a warrant, to access information that it already owns.

Mr. Sherrick referenced a case from Colorado that he had researched concerning individual privacy rights. He reiterated that he wants law enforcement to have the tools necessary to perform their duties while also protecting citizens' constitutional rights. He stated that he believes Option 1 strikes an appropriate balance because it would not alter the number of cameras or the method of data collection, but instead would add Fourth Amendment protections. Mr. Kane responded to the Colorado case referenced by Mr. Sherrick, stating that the court's opinion was very specific and explicitly limited to CSLI (cell-site location information). He read portions of the court's opinion and concluded that it would be inappropriate to apply that ruling beyond CSLI at this time. However, he acknowledged that the case is currently under appeal and that a different ruling could emerge through that process.

Mr. Kirkpatrick then asked Mr. Sherrick whether he would be willing to postpone action on both options until an RFP process could be completed and reviewed. He stated that, while he still had interest in Option 1, he would prefer to gather additional feedback and continue working collaboratively to determine the best approach for the community. Mr. Kirkpatrick stated that he was not prepared to vote on either Option 1 or Option 2 at this time. Mr. Sherrick agreed to continue discussions with Mr. Kirkpatrick and stated that he was willing to defer action for the evening. Ms. Sanders stated that new RFPs for alternative vendors had already been issued but would not be ready for Council action until the July meeting.

No action was taken.

14. New Business.

There was no new business to report.

15. City Manager and Staff Reports.

Mr. Bailey reported that there will be a full report brought to the City Council regarding the recent fire at the Blue Whale facility in the near future. Discussions are ongoing with Blue Whale administration reviewing the response and what is expected from both the City and Blue Whale. He thanked the first responders and appreciated the mutual aid to all responders, as well as to the Blue Whale employees who assisted that night. ODEQ has been on-site and any information the City receives from them, will be shared with the Council and community. Firefighters were offered exposure testing and none of them reported being ill, and there was no exposure to the community. Vice Mayor Dorsey stated that he was at the scene of the fire and felt that all parties involved did a tremendous job containing the situation.

16. City Council Comments and Inquiries.

Mayor Curd appreciated the discussions at the meeting, and that the budget was adopted for another year.

17. There being no further business to address, Mayor Curd adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.



Jason Muninger, CFO/City Clerk



James S. Curd, Jr., Mayor

