



1st Floor Conference Room, City Hall
401 S. Johnstone Avenue
Bartlesville, OK 74003

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

**Monday, January 27, 2025
5:30 p.m.**

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

MINUTES

The Notice of Meeting and Agenda was posted at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, January 23, 2025.

City Council attending were Mayor James S. Curd, Jr., Vice Mayor Trevor Dorsey, Councilmembers, Aaron Kirkpatrick, and Larry East. Councilman Tim Sherrick was not in attendance.

City staff in attendance were Mike Bailey, City Manager, Laura Sanders, Assistant City Manager, City Attorney Jess Kane, Chief Communications Officer Kelli Williams, Library and History Museum Director Kiley Roberson, IT Director Matt McCollough, and Executive Assistant Elaine Banes.

- 1. Mayor Curd called the workshop meeting of the Bartlesville City Council to order at 5:42 p.m.**
- 2. Roll call was held and a quorum established.**
- 3. The invocation was provided by Mr. Kirkpatrick.**
- 4. Citizens to be heard.**

Twenty-one citizens spoke with 17 citing the use drag shows as a political platform tactic, inclusion/acceptance, compassion, artistic expression, censorship, racism, homophobia, facism, how RIGD is not an actual medical diagnosis, legal expenses becoming a burden to taxpayers if a lawsuit is filed, 1st Amendment rights, tabling any action to prohibit drag shows in public for further clarity, and general opposition to a proposed ordinance banning drag queen shows in public. The 17 were Avery Higgs, Angela Utley, Rev. Kelley Becker, Hillary Kamplain, Spencer Brandley, Noah Meadows, Anne Franklin, Volta Veri, Schawna Jaekle, Devin Williams, Homer Heffington, Rev. Tammy Schmitt, Brandon Wade, Rebecca Renfroe, Nicholas LeMay, Michelle Larkin, and Rachel Gurell,

Two citizens spoke in favor of banning drag queen performances in public, LaChelle Griffin and Shawn Barker, and Jim Heney cited Bible verses in support of his opposition to drag shows.

Mr. Rabin commented on the room the meeting was held in being inadequate for the topic being addressed, and that people in attendance should remove their masks.

5. Discussion about possible regulations related to adult oriented entertainment in public spaces.

Mr. Bailey opened the Item stating that this is a discussion item requested by and for the Councilmembers. They have each heard Mr. Kane's presentations and recommendations and now wish to discuss the subject and proposals they may have. Mr. Kirkpatrick began by thanking everyone who were in attendance and who spoke during citizens to be heard. He added that he feels most citizens share common values, want to feel safe, want to have their 1st Amendment Rights upheld, and have their parental rights respected. He stated that he feels with what he is proposing that values and safety will be addressed. He reported that his ordinances and resolution are not about drag, but about the health and well-being of children. He asked citizens to consider his proposals through the lense of children's health. The proposed resolution would establish an oversight committee to review and approve/disapprove special events of over 500 people. Mr. Dorsey stated that the proposed documents to appear to focus on children's health and inquired if City Attorney Kane feels they are constitutional. Mr. Kane began by covering how the Council has heard his presentations and recommendations. He reiterated that he is not a 1st Amendment expert and recommends that should the proposed ordinances and resolution be considered for adoption, that an expert in this field should be engaged. He did offer compliments to Mr. Kirkpatrick for his ideas and developing the ordinances and resolutions. He added that should they be adopted, there he does not feel there would be an avenue for litigation. Although, should the proposed committee find that the drag show event is not suitable and deny the event application, a lawsuit would then ensue. Therefore, there may not be a lawsuit in the adoption of the proposed ordinances, but there will be a lawsuit if the drag show event is denied as a result of them.

Discussion covered the Texas A&M lawsuit, which was a campus lawsuit, therefore not applicable; the Tennessee case whose outcome is still under review; the events that exacerbated protests about drag shows being held in Unity Park; how the focus should be on the safety and health of children; how it may be best to await additional Supreme Court decisions on the subject; and that Oklahoma Senate Bill 550 has been brought forward in the current session that may address the issue by the State and not place the burden on individual cities and towns. Mayor Curd commended Mr. Kirkpatrick on his work on the proposed ordinances and resolution, and Mr. Dorsey thanked Mr. Kane for his research on the subject. Mr. Kirkpatrick encouraged the public to continue to reach out to him with their input on how to address the issue. He added that he would place his proposed ordinances and resolution on his website.

After a brief recess, the meeting continued at 7:45 p.m.

6. Discussion about Council appointments to Authorities, Boards, Commissions and Committees.

Mr. Bailey provided an excel worksheet to the Council to review the various committees and which Councilmembers serve on and which ones they may want to serve on. Discussion while reviewing resulted in a general consensus as follows:

Adams Golf Course Operating Committee – Vice Mayor Dorsey

Adult Center Trust Authority – N/A

Ambulance Commission – N/A

Bartlesville Convention & Visitor's Bureau (Visitor Inc.) – Vice Mayor Dorsey and Mr. Kirkpatrick

Bartlesville Development Authority – Mayor Curd and Vice Mayor Dorsey


Bartlesville Redevelopment Trust Authority – Mr. East

Bartlesville Film Authority – Mayor Curd

Board of Adjustment – N/A
City Council – All City Council members
City Planning Commission – Mr. Kirkpatrick
Community Center Trust Authority – Mr. Sherrick
Construction and Fire Code Appeals Board – N/A
Downtown Landscape Task Force – Mayor Curd and Mr. Kirkpatrick (Ward 3 and 4 required)
Employee Advisory Committee – N/A
History Museum Trust Authority – Mr. Sherrick
Keep Bartlesville Beautiful – Mr. Kirkpatrick
Library Board - NA
Library Trust Authority – Mr. East
Park Board – Vice Mayor Curd
Sewer System Improvement Oversight Committee – Vice Mayor Dorsey
Street and Traffic Committee – Mr. East
Tax Incentive District Review Committee – Vice Mayor Dorsey
Tower Green Design Committee – Mayor Curd and Mr. Sherrick
Transportation Committee Mr. Sherrick and Mr. East
Unsheltered Homeless Task Force – Mr. Kirkpatrick and Mr. East
Water Resources Committee – Mayor Curd and Mr. Kirkpatrick
White Rose Cemetery Board - N/A

No action was taken. Consideration and approval will be taken at the February 3, 2025 City Council meeting.

7. There being further business to address, Mayor Curd adjourned the meeting at 8:11 p.m.


James S. Curd, Jr.


Jason Muninger, CFO/City Clerk

Deputy City Clerk

