

The **Special Public Hearing Vinita City Council Meeting** was held on Tuesday, August 22, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. in the City Council Meeting Room, 104 East Illinois, Vinita, Oklahoma. Public notice of the meeting was given by posting the agenda at City Hall on August 18, 2023 at 1:45 p.m.

Legal Counsel: Leonard Logan

Mayor Josh Lee called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

### **MEETING MINUTES**

1. The Pledge of Allegiance and the Salute to Oklahoma Flag was led by Councilor Skip Briley
2. Roll Call. Members attending: Kevin Wofford, Roger Tyler, John Swift, Stephanie Hoskin, Dale Haire, Danny Lankford, Skip Briley, Terry Young. Absent: None.

3. Welcoming remarks by Mayor Josh Lee.

Mayor Josh Lee welcomed all guest in attendance and those who participating on the City of Vinita YouTube Channel. He then led into how the meeting would be conducted and asked Legal Council Leonard Logan to lead off with the purpose of the hearing.

4. Purpose of hearing; protocol to be followed; range of potential action to be taken at conclusion thereof by City Attorney Leonard Logan.

Leonard Logan gave an overview of what annexation is and why it is necessary. Mr. Logan referred to the notice of public hearing and notice for annexation and its purpose. He then noted that everyone who will want to speak may have that opportunity.

5. Discussion about proposed development projects; reasons Vinita chosen as location for development; projected economic impact on area by Mansion Entertainment Group.

Gene McComb gave an overview of the project on land owned by MEG and how this will compare to a Disney quality Theme Park. He noted the importance of the property to be annexed into the City of Vinita to help support with utilities, fire, police, zoning and all the benefits that the City has to offer. This park will include many jobs for this area some will attract salaries as high as \$82,000 and many at the resort in the \$55,000 annual salary. This annexation will provide many tax dollars for not only the City but including this region of Oklahoma. Experts have projected hundreds of millions of dollars. There are several other phases that have not been announced but some include local farm to table beef, poultry, and local farming. The job opportunities for local tradesman have included HVAC, electrical, and plumbing just to name a few.

6. Discussion of need for municipal infrastructure and service expansions for proposed annexed areas by Mayor Josh Lee.

Mayor Lee spoke on City services that is offered. For this annexation Lee projected Fire and Police services to be immediately provided. The Trash or Solid Waste would be provided next as it is an incentive to the City. Water and Sewer services will need additional funding sources. The City is not a rich town and the City cannot fund such a project. This project will need other funding support with grants and State funding. We are also working with other water resources in the area including Craig County Water District 2, Ketchum Water as well as Bernice and Afton.

7. Opening of public comments and questions by Mayor Josh Lee  
The opening of public comment was opened up by Mayor Lee. There were over twenty five public speakers in regards for the annexation. Some wanted to reject the proposals and others spoke in favor for the proposed annexation. Some of the questions included:

Why only 70' on some of the roads and who will take care of the roads?

Will the annexed property need to follow public nuisance ordinance as some of this property contains low land, high grass and project vehicles?

Will this land still be able to be used as Agricultural?

Why annex when we don't need the services you are noting?

How can we be annexed when we can't vote for it or for this panel?

When will the property be zoned and how will that pertain to me?

Why I was not notified or why was I notified?

Why the different footages of annexation?

Can this annexation be modified for minimized until more growth begins?

All great questions were delivered to the Council and answered accordingly.

8. Closing of public comments and questions by Mayor Josh Lee.

Closing of the comments was time stamped at 7:03 p.m.

9. Discussion, consideration, and possible action by Vinita City Council regarding extent of proposed annexation.

Dr Lankford responded to the questions and asked does the City need to go to Road 220 and 310 at this time? He suggested removing the 70' annexation on Road 220 and 310.

Stephanie Hoskin noted all of the public input with suggestions to modify the map for annexation with some compromise from the public tonight.

Motion by Hoskin, seconded by Lankford, to reject the proposed annexation proposal. Roll Call: Aye votes: Wofford, Tyler, Swift, Hoskin, Haire, Lankford, Briley, Young. Nay votes: None. Motion carried.

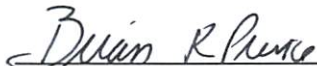
10. Final comments and explanation of status and future direction of proposed annexation as a result of City Council's actions by City Attorney Leonard Logan.

Logan noted that the council has heard the people and they have rejected the annexation proposal. There will be no further action tonight. A later meeting can be set and notice will be sent out with new proposed annexation.

11. Adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Motion by Briley, seconded by Young, to adjourn. Motion: Passed.

ATTEST:

  
Brian Prince, City Clerk



  
Josh D. Lee, Mayor