

Special Meeting of the Vinita Utility Authority was held on Tuesday, January 25, 2022 at 5:30 p.m., in the City Council Meeting Room, 104 East Illinois, Vinita, Oklahoma. Public notice of the meeting was given by posting the public notice January 21, 2022 at 2:30 pm and agenda at City Hall on January 24, 2022 at 2:30 p.m.

Legal Counsel: Leonard Logan

Mayor Hoskin called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

MEETING MINUTES

1. The Pledge of Allegiance and the Salute to Oklahoma Flag was led by Skip Briley.
2. Roll Call. Members attending: Kevin Wofford, John Swift, Stephanie Hoskin, Dale Haire, Danny Lankford, Skip Briley, Terry Young. Absent: Roger Tyler
3. Recognition of visitors.

Mayor Hoskin recognized those in attendance.

4. Consideration and action regarding conduct of a possible joint and concurrent meeting, including possible Executive Session(s) with the Vinita City Council.

Mayor Hoskin reported a possible recovery of funds from a pending investigation from 2006.

Leonard Logan asked to hold a joint meeting to include the Vinita City Council Members to discuss this case at one time with possible Executive Session(s).

Motion by Briley, seconded by Wofford, to approve a possible joint and concurrent meeting, including possible Executive Session(s) with the Vinita City Council. Aye votes: Wofford, Swift, Hoskin, Haire, Lankford, Briley, Young. Nay votes: None. Motion carried.

VUA/City Council Meeting jointly and concurrently began at 5:36 pm.

5. Discussion, consideration and possible vote to go into Executive Session, jointly and concurrently with the Vinita City Council, pursuant to Title 25 O.S. § 307 (B)(4), and possibly on multiple occasions, for the purposes of allowing confidential communications between the Board of Trustees and the Vinita Utility Authority ("VUA") and its legal counsel, concerning a pending legal action, namely, Craig County Case No. CJ-2015-9, *City of Vinita and Vinita Utilities Authority vs. Jot Hartley, Travis Hartley, and The Hartley Law Firm*, if the VUA Board of Trustees, with the advice of its attorney, determines that disclosure will seriously impair the ability of the VUA Board of Trustees to process the litigation and/or corresponding claims or proceed in the public interest. Executive Session may be held jointly with an Executive Session of the Vinita City Council. This Executive Session may be convened, adjourned temporarily and reconvened during a mediation scheduled for January 26, 2022 in the above-referenced litigation, from time to time, and as many times as are necessary during the mediation, to allow the VUA Board of Trustees to accept and consider offers of settlement, and/or to convey offers and/or counter offers of settlement.

Motion by Wofford, seconded by Young, to approve to enter into Executive Session(s). Aye votes: Wofford, Swift, Hoskin, Haire, Lankford, Briley, Young. Nay votes: None. Motion carried.

Doors opened 7:30 pm

Motion by Lankford, seconded by Swift, to approve to return to regular meeting(s). Aye votes: Wofford, Swift, Hoskin, Haire, Lankford, Briley, Young. Nay votes: None. Motion carried.

No official action was taken during executive session.

Motion by Lankford, seconded by Young, to approve to recess the joint meeting(s) until January 26, 2022 at 1:00 pm. Motion passed.

January 26, 2022 at 1:00 pm.

Roll Call. Members attending: Kevin Wofford, Roger Tyler, John Swift, Stephanie Hoskin, Danny Lankford, Skip Briley, Terry Young. Absent: Dale Haire

Motion by Briley, seconded by Swift, to approve to enter into Executive Session(s). Aye votes: Wofford, Tyler, Swift, Hoskin, Lankford, Briley, Young. Nay votes: None. Motion carried.

Doors open 3:55 pm

Roll Call. Members attending: Kevin Wofford, Roger Tyler, Stephanie Hoskin, Danny Lankford, Skip Briley, Terry Young. Absent: Dale Haire and John Swift

Motion by Lankford, seconded by Tyler, to approve to return to regular meeting(s). Aye votes: Wofford, Tyler, Hoskin, Lankford, Briley, Young. Nay votes: None. Motion carried.

No official action was taken during executive session.

6. Discussion and possible action to jointly accept, reject and/or convey offers of settlement arising from the joint and concurrent Executive Session and corresponding mediation noted above. Offers may be considered, and/or counteroffers conveyed on multiple occasions during the course thereof.

Attorneys representing the City of Vinita and the Vinita Utilities Authority ("VUA") announced the settlement of a long-standing public finance lawsuit pending before the District Court of Craig County in Case No. CJ-2015-9, in return for the payment unto the City of Vinita and the VUA of the sum of \$375,000, plus payment of all mediation expenses incurred in obtaining the settlement. A prior settlement of earlier litigation against other parties had resulted in a savings for the City of Vinita in excess of one-half million dollars.

This will amicably conclude all remaining litigation arising from the City of Vinita's Wi-Fi and automatic meter reading system.

Motion by Lankford, seconded by Tyler, to approve the sum of \$375,000, plus payment of all mediation expenses incurred in obtaining the settlement. Aye votes: Wofford, Tyler, Hoskin, Lankford, Briley, Young. Nay votes: None. Motion carried.

7. Adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Motion by Lankford, seconded by Wofford, to adjourn. Motion: Passed.

ATTEST:

Brian K Prince
Brian Prince, City Clerk



Chuck Hoskin
Chuck Hoskin, Mayor

