

City Council Meeting Minutes

Bixby Municipal Building
111 N. Cabaniss Ave., Bixby, OK 74008
August 25, 2025 at 6:00 PM

The agenda for the regularly scheduled meeting of the Bixby City Council of the City of Bixby was posted on the bulletin board at the Bixby Municipal Building, 111 N. Cabaniss Ave., Bixby, OK 74008 on August 21, 2025, on or before 5:00 p.m.

Call to Order

Mayor Girard called the City Council Meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

Roll Call

Shannon Duran, City Clerk, called the roll, and the following were present:

Members Present

Mayor Girard
Vice Mayor Schultz
Councilor Hirshey
Councilor David
Councilor Payne

Staff Present

Joey Wiedel, City Manager
JT Hammons, City Attorney
Shannon Duran, City Clerk
Charles Barnes, Finance Director
Joe Sherrell, Fire Chief
Bryan Toney, Public Information Officer

Invocation

Pledge of Allegiance

Consent Agenda

- 1) Minutes for the Work Session dated 8/11/25.
- 2) Minutes for the City Council Meeting dated 8/11/25.
- 3) Consider and/or approve the Interlocal Agreement between Tulsa County and City of Bixby for use of staging area for 121st bridge repair.
- 4) Discuss and/or take action on authorizing staff to proceed with awarding the construction contract for a 160' x 65' multi-use concrete pad at Washington Irving Park to the lowest and best bidder, Stress Con, in the amount of \$67,000.00.

- 5) Consider and/or approve the 24-hour traffic study required by the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) for the 151st - Spartan Creek Development by Seratran, LLC for \$21,675.
- 6) Consider and/or approve Amendment No. 1 to Beck Design's agreement to add engineering services for the Dawes Building renovation in the amount of \$17,600.
- 7) Consider and/or approve purchase of 2025 Chevy Colorado from Jim Norton Chevrolet. Approved in for Parks Capital Equipment FY26 in the amount of \$37,745.00.
- 8) Discussion, consideration, and possible vote for approval of the purchase of the 2025 Chevy Tahoe from Jom Norton Chevrolet for \$63,744 from Capitol Improvements funds.
- 9) Consider and/or approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Bixby and the Firefighters Local 2651 for Fiscal Year 2026-2027.
- 10) Discuss and/or take action on the updated Development Agreement with Bixby Land Group LLC for the development of Henson Square 151 Harvard, for all uses permitted under Use Unit 12, 13, 14 and 18 with the exclusion of medical marijuana dispensaries and tobacco stores in the City of Bixby Zoning Code, as well as any additional uses previously approved by the Bixby City Council.

Mayor Girard said Items 1-10 on the Consent Agenda are up for discussion and consideration. Others who spoke: Joey Wiedel (City Manager), Richard Oltmann, Victoria Oltmann, Krystal Crockett, Josh Nave, Walter Gunn, and Dalena Dillon.

Mayor Girard pulls item 4 from the Consent Agenda for further separate discussion.

Mayor Girard asks for a motion to approve items 1-3 and 5-10 (Item 4 heard separately). Councilor David made a motion to approve, seconded by Vice Mayor Schultz. The vote was taken with the following results:

Items 1-3 and 5-10 carries

Carried:5-0

Ayes: David, Schultz, Payne, Hirshey, Girard

Nays:

Consent Agenda Item 4 –

Discussion and/or ActionItem 4: Discuss and/or take action on authorizing staff to proceed with awarding the construction contract for a 160' x 65' multi-use concrete pad at Washington Irving Park to the lowest and best bidder, Stress Con, in the amount of \$67,000.00.

Mayor Girard stated that Item 4 would be pulled from the Consent Agenda for discussion.

Mr. Wiedel provided an overview of the purpose and need for the proposed multi-use pad at Washington Irving Park. He noted that the concrete pad would support future community events currently held in downtown Bixby and is part of a long-term strategy for expanding public event space and planning for future growth in the park area.

Public Comments:

Richard Oltmann expressed concern specifically regarding the possible relocation of the ice rink from downtown to Washington Irving Park. He submitted a handout to the Council, which included signatures from downtown businesses in opposition to moving the ice rink. The handout was accepted by the Council and is attached to these minutes for the official record.

Josh Nave responded to Council inquiries regarding Bixby Winter Wonderland. He stated that his organization is willing to keep the event downtown for one more year if necessary, though emphasized that the long-term vision includes relocating to the park. Mr. Nave highlighted plans for enhancements at the park site, including train rides, a trolley, bounce houses, and other features to grow the event. He noted that last year's Winter Wonderland was the worst year in the past three, citing weather challenges like the "Arctic Blast" which created a large block of ice and caused delays in teardown.

Mayor Girard clarified that the item under discussion is not specifically about the ice rink, but rather about authorizing the construction of the concrete pad at Washington Irving Park.

Additional comments were heard from:

Victoria Oltmann

Krystal Crockett

Walter Gunn

Dalayna Dillon

Each speaker provided input on the implications of the proposed park developments and the potential relocation of events from downtown to the park.

Mr. Wiedel then requested that Item 4 be amended to reflect the correct contract amount. He noted that the agenda listed the amount as \$67,000.00, but the actual quoted amount provided in the agenda packet was \$61,700.00. He directed the City Clerk to amend the item accordingly. Discussion ensued regarding the updated figure and the overall project scope.

Mayor Girard called for a motion to table Item 4, pending further collaboration between the Engineering Department, the Chamber of Commerce, and City staff, seconded by Councilor Schultz. The vote was taken with the following results:

Carried:5-0

Ayes: Girard, Payne, David, Schultz, Hirshey

Nays: 0

Regular Agenda

- 1) Consider and/or Approve the appointment of Jason Rush as Municipal Judge.

Mayor Girard said Item 1 on the Regular Agenda is up for discussion and consideration.

Mayor Girard made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilor David. The vote was taken with the following results:

Carried:5-0

Ayes: Girard, David, Payne, Hirshey, Schultz

Nays: 0

- 2) Consider and/or Approve the appointment of Shena Burgess as Alternate Municipal Judge.

Mayor Girard said Item 2 on the Regular Agenda is up for discussion and consideration.

Mayor Girard made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilor Hirshey. The vote was taken with the following results:

Carried:5-0

Ayes: Girard, Hirshey, David, Payne, Hirshey

Nays: 0

Time: 6:55 pm

Mayor Girard passes to item 8 and will return to call items 3-7.

- 3) Discussion, consideration and possible vote for approval of Resolution No. 2025-20, formally recognizing W.B. Smith, P.E., CFM, as the Floodplain Administrator for the City of Bixby.

Mayor Girard said Item 3 on the Regular Agenda is up for discussion and consideration.

Item presented by Gwen Plante by Joey Wiedel, City Manager

Others who spoke:

Mr. Wiedel advises on the staffing needs for a Floodplain Administrator for the City of Bixby. Brief discussion ensued.

Mayor Girard asks for a motion to approve item 3. Councilor Hirshey made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilor Payne. The vote was taken with the following results:

Carried:5-0

Ayes: Hirshey, Payne, David, Schultz, Girard

Nays: 0

- 4) Discussion, consideration and possible vote for approve Ordinance 2532 amending the Bixby City Code, Title 5, Public Safety; Chapter 5, Offenses; Section 5-5D-12, prohibiting loud noises by modifying the collection tie for garbage collection.

Vice Mayor Schultz said Item 4 on the Regular Agenda is up for discussion and consideration.

Item presented by Levi Ethridge, Police Officer

Others who spoke: Gary Haltsted

Officer Ethridge provided the Council with an update, noting that this matter had previously been discussed during a work session. At that time, the Council considered revising the permitted hours for trash collection. The proposed adjustment would allow for trash pick-up between the hours of 5:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m., for trash collection only.

Public Comments:

Mr. Gary Halstead signed up to speak on this item and addressed the Council with his comments and concerns.

Following the presentation and public comment, members of the Council engaged in discussion regarding the proposed time adjustment, its potential impact on residents, and implementation

considerations.

Vice Mayor Schultz asks for a motion to approve item 4. Mayor Girard made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilor Payne. The vote was taken with the following results:

Carried:5-0

Ayes: Girard, Payne, David, Hirshey, Schultz

Nays: 0

- 5) Discussion, consideration, and possible vote to approve an emergency clause for Ordinance Number 2532 making it effective immediately upon passage since the immediate operation of the provisions of the Ordinance is necessary for the preservation of public health, safety, welfare, morals, and service to the citizens.

Vice Mayor Schultz said Item 5 on the Regular Agenda is up for discussion and consideration.

Item was presented by Levi Ethridge, Police Officer.

Others who spoke: Gary Haltsted

Officer Ethridge provided the Council with an update, noting that this matter had previously been discussed during a work session. At that time, the Council considered revising the permitted hours for trash collection. The proposed adjustment would allow for trash pick-up between the hours of 5:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m., for trash collection only.

Public Comments:Mr. Gary Halstead signed up to speak on this item and addressed the Council with his comments and concerns.

Following the presentation and public comment, members of the Council engaged in discussion regarding the proposed time adjustment, its potential impact on residents, and implementation considerations.

Vice Mayor Schultz asks for a motion to approve item 5. Mayor Payne made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilor Girard. The vote was taken with the following results:

Carried:5-0

Ayes: Payne, Girard, David, Hirshey, Schultz

Nays: 0

- 6) Discussion, consideration, and possible vote for approval of Ordinance 2527, pertaining to the partial closure of a public utility easement located at 14410 South Gary Avenue in the Estates at Harvard Ponds Addition, Bixby, Oklahoma, as requested by the property owner, Bill Law.

Mayor Girard said Item 6 on the Regular Agenda is up for discussion and consideration.

Item presented by Joey Wiedel, City Manager

Others who spoke:

Mayor Girard asks for a motion to approve item 6. Councilor Hirshey made a motion to approve, seconded by Vice Mayor Schultz. The vote was taken with the following results:

Carried:5-0

Ayes: Hirshey, Schultz, David, Payne, Girard

Nays: 0

- 7) Discussion, consideration, and possible vote to approve an emergency clause for Ordinance Number 2527, making it effective immediately upon passage, since the immediate operation of the provisions of the Ordinance is necessary for the preservation of public health, safety, welfare, morals, and service to the citizens.

Mayor Girard said Item 7 on the Regular Agenda is up for discussion and consideration.

Item presented by Gwen Plante, Project Manager

Others who spoke:

Mayor Girard asks for a motion to approve item 7. Councilor Hirshey made a motion to approve, seconded by Vice Mayor Scultz. The vote was taken with the following results:

Carried:5-0

Ayes: Hirshey, Schultz, David, Payne, Girard

Nays: 0

Recess declared at 8:53pm

Reconvene meeting at 9:20 pm- Mayor Girard returns to item 16

- 8) Discussion, consideration, and possible vote to approve the 2nd Reading of Ordinance 2518- Rezoning approximately 33.53 acres from Agriculture (AG) to Residential Single-Family (RS-2) and Commercial General (CG), Rezone Case BXZO-25.05, for a proposed residential development referred to as Greyhawk, located near the northeast corner of East 131st Street South and South Mingo Road.

Mayor Girard said Item 8 on the Regular Agenda is up for discussion and consideration.

Item presented by Gladys Gill, Assistant Planner

Others who spoke: David , Developer

Mr. Hammons advised the Council that this item had previously been presented and voted on. The first reading passed, however, the accompanying emergency clause failed. As a result, the item is now being presented for its second reading as required. Ms. Gill provided a brief summary outlining the events and timeline related to the ordinance's initial passage, including the previous vote and procedural requirements leading to the current reading. Following the summary, members of the Council posed questions and made inquiries directly to the developer, requesting clarification on various aspects of the project as it relates to the ordinance under consideration.

Mayor Girard asks for a motion to approve item 8. Councilor Payne made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilor Hirshey. Mayor Girard made the friendly amendment to add that the developer will add entrances with left-turn lanes and deceleration lanes. The vote was taken with the following results:

:5-0

Ayes: David, Payne, Hirshey, Schultz, Girard

Nays: 0

- 9) Discussion, consideration, and possible vote to approve Preliminary Plat BXPT-25.06 for the Bixby Performing Arts Center, a proposed development located at 50 North Montgomery Street in Downtown Bixby.

Mayor Girard said Item 9 on the Regular Agenda is up for discussion and consideration.
Item presented by Gladys Gill, Assistant Planner
Others who spoke: Joey Wiedel (City Manager)

Ms. Gill provided council with an overview of the proposed development. Brief discussions ensued between council and staff.

Mayor Girard asks for a motion to approve item 9. Councilor David made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilor Hirshey. The vote was taken with the following results:

Carried:5-0
Ayes: David, Hirshey, Payne, Schultz, Girard
Nays: 0

- 10) Discussion, consideration, and possible vote to approve the resubmittal of Preliminary Plat BXPT-21.17, submitted for a project currently known as 141st & Lewis Phase I, a proposed residential development located near East 141st Street South and South Lewis Avenue.

Mayor Girard said Item 10 on the Regular Agenda is up for discussion and consideration.
Item presented by Gladys Gill, Assistant Planner
Others who spoke:

Ms. Gill provided council with an overview of the proposed development. Brief discussions ensued between council and staff.

Mayor Girard asks for a motion to approve item 10. Mayor Girard made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilor Hirshey. The vote was taken with the following results:

Carried:5-0
Ayes: Girard, Hirshey, David, Payne, Schultz
Nays: 0

- 11) Discussion, consideration, and possible vote to approve Ordinance Number 2528 for Rezone Case BXZO-25.06, to rezone approximately 37 acres from Agriculture (AG) to Residential Single-Family (RS-2.5), for a proposed gated residential development referred to as Central Park on Mingo located approximately 1/4 mile south of East 121st Street South and east of South Mingo Road.

Mayor Girard said Item 11 on the Regular Agenda is up for discussion and consideration.
Item presented by Gladys Gill
Others who spoke: Megan Pasco (Applicant Tanner Consultants), Janet Dyer, Patrick Turner, and Mike Childers

Items 11–15 – Proposed Development

Ms. Gill provided an overview of the proposed development associated with Items 11 through 15, noting that all five items would be heard simultaneously for discussion purposes. She summarized the scope and intent of the project and referenced the procedural history leading up to the current consideration.

The following individuals signed up to speak on the item: Council hears from the following citizens: Janet Dyer and Patrick Turner

Council Discussion: Members of the Council inquired of Ms. Pasco, the applicant, regarding specific elements of the proposed development. Lengthy discussions ensued.

Exterior materials: The applicant is requesting that the first floor be constructed with 100% masonry, with an allowance for up to 25% cementitious fiber siding as part of the material mix.

Zoning adjustments: Further discussion took place regarding zoning classifications. The applicant agreed to revise the zoning request from RS-2.5 to RS-2 to align with recommendations and address concerns raised during the meeting.

Mayor Girard asks for a motion to approve item 11. Councilor David made a motion to approve the rezone to RS-2, seconded by Councilor Hirshey. The vote was taken with the following results:

Carried:5-0

Ayes: David, Hirshey, Payne, Schultz, Girard

Nays: 0

- 12) Discussion, consideration, and possible vote to approve an emergency clause for Ordinance Number 2528, making it effective immediately upon passage, since the immediate operation of the provisions of the Ordinance is necessary for the preservation of public health, safety, welfare, morals, and service to the citizens.

Mayor Girard said Item 12 on the Regular Agenda is up for discussion and consideration.
Item presented by Gladys Gill, Assistant Planner

Mayor Girard asks for a motion to approve item 12. Councilor David made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilor Hirshey . The vote was taken with the following results:

Carried:5-0

Ayes: David, Hirshey, Payne, Schultz, Girard

Nays: 0

- 13) Discussion, consideration, and possible vote to approve Ordinance Number 2529 for Planned Unit Development Case BXPUD-25.02, which encompasses approximately 37 acres for a proposed gated residential development referred to as Central Park on Mingo, located approximately 1/4 mile south of East 121st Street South and east of South Mingo Road.

Mayor Girard said Item 11 on the Regular Agenda is up for discussion and consideration.
Item presented by Gladys Gill

Others who spoke: Megan Pasco (Applicant Tanner Consultants), Janet Dyer, Patrick Turner, and Mike Childers

Ms. Gill gave a overview of the proposed development. Ms Gill states items 11-15 will be heard at the same time. See item 11 for discussions.

Councilor Hirshey inquires of the applicant pertaining to a masonry wall for the development. Further discussions ensued.

Mayor Girard makes a motion to approve with the caveat that the first floor will be 100% masonry with no submentious board, seconded by Councilor Payne. The vote was taken with the following

results:

Carried:3-2

Ayes: Girard, Payne, David

Nays: Hirshey and Schultz

- 14) Discussion, consideration, and possible vote to approve an emergency clause for Ordinance Number 2529, making it effective immediately upon passage, since the immediate operation of the provisions of the Ordinance is necessary for the preservation of public health, safety, welfare, morals, and service to the citizens.

Mayor Girard said Item 14 on the Regular Agenda is up for discussion and consideration.

Item presented by Gladys Gill

Others who spoke:

Mayor Girard makes a motion to approve, seconded by Councilor David. The vote was taken with the following results:

Emergency Clause Fails: 3-2

Ayes: Girard, David, Payne

Nays: Hirshey and Schultz

The City Attorney advises the emergency clause failed therefore the Ordinance will need to come back for a 2nd reading on the Planned Unit Development (PUD).

- 15) Discussion, consideration, and possible vote to approve a Preliminary Plat BXPT-25.05, submitted for Central Park on Mingo, a proposed gated residential development located approximately 1/4 mile south of East 121st Street South and east of South Mingo Road.

Mayor Girard says no action taken on this item and passes this item.

Applicant to reach out to staff for further discussions pertaining to the Plat

- 16) Discussion, consideration, and possible vote to approve Resolution No. 2025-19, pertaining to Comprehensive Plan Amendment Case No. BXCP-25.02, involving approximately 151 acres, to amend the Comprehensive Plan Land Use Map designation for the subject property from Industrial and Commercial to Commercial.

Mayor Girard said Item 16 on the Regular Agenda is up for discussion and consideration.

Item presented by Gladys Gill, Assistant Planner

Others who spoke: Joey Wiedel (City Manager), Mike Childers, Christie Rooney

Ms. Gill provided council with an overview of the proposed development. Several citizens have signed up to speak on this item. Council hears questions from citizens who spoke on this item. Council inquires of the City Manager pertaining to the development traffic study being complete under design and engineering studies have been done. Further discussions ensued. Council hears further from citizens.

Recess declared to allow time to look into development questions.

Time: 8:38pm

Vice Mayor Schultz calls for a brief recess to call items 3–6.

Time: 9:20pm

Mayor Girard returns to item 16.

Mr. Hammons provided the Council with an update, stating that further discussions were held with the developer during the recess. He noted that the conversations focused on clarifying specific aspects of the proposed development and addressing concerns previously raised by Council members and the public.

Mayor Girard asks for a motion to approve item 16. Council Hirshey made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilor David. The vote was taken with the following results:

Carried:5-0

Ayes: Hirshey, David, Payne, Schultz, Girard

Nays: 0

- 17) Discussion, consideration, and possible vote to approve Ordinance Number 2530 for Rezone Case BXZO-25.08, a request to rezone approximately 151 acres from Agriculture (AG) to Commercial General (CG), for a proposed commercial development referred to as Spartan Creek located approximately 1/4 mile west of South Memorial Drive and north of East 151st Street South.

Mayor Girard said Item 17 on the Regular Agenda is up for discussion and consideration.

Item presented by Gladys Gill, Assistant Planner

Others who spoke:

Mayor Girard asks for a motion to approve item 17. Councilor Hirshey made a motion to approve, seconded by Vice Mayor Schultz. The vote was taken with the following results:

Carried:5-0

Ayes: Hirshey, Schultz, David, Payne, Girard

Nays: 0

- 18) Discussion, consideration, and possible vote to approve an emergency clause for Ordinance Number 2530, making it effective immediately upon passage, since the immediate operation of the provisions of the Ordinance is necessary for the preservation of public health, safety, welfare, morals, and service to the citizens.

Mayor Girard said Item 18 on the Regular Agenda is up for discussion and consideration.

Item presented by Gladys Gill, Assistant Planner

Others who spoke:

Mayor Girard asks for a motion to approve item 18. Councilor David made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilor Hirshey. The vote was taken with the following results:

Carried:5-0

Ayes: David, Hirshey, Payne, Schultz, Girard

Nays: 0

- 19) Discussion, consideration, and possible vote to approve Ordinance Number 2531 for Planned Unit Development Case BXPUD-25.03, which encompasses approximately 151 acres for a proposed

commercial development referred to as Spartan Creek, located approximately 1/4 mile west of South Memorial Drive and north of East 151st Street South.

Mayor Girard said Item 19 on the Regular Agenda is up for discussion and consideration.

Item presented by Gladys Gill, Assistant Planner

Others who spoke:

Mayor Girard asks for a motion to approve item 19. Councilor Hirshey made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilor Payne. The vote was taken with the following results:

Carried:5-0

Ayes: Hirshey, Payne, David, Schultz, Girard

Nays: 0

- 20) Discussion, consideration, and possible vote to approve an emergency clause for Ordinance Number 2531, making it effective immediately upon passage, since the immediate operation of the provisions of the Ordinance is necessary for the preservation of public health, safety, welfare, morals, and service to the citizens.

Mayor Girard said Item 20 on the Regular Agenda is up for discussion and consideration.

Item presented by Gladys Gill, Assistant Planner

Others who spoke:

Mayor Girard asks for a motion to approve item 20. Councilor Hirshey made a motion to approve, seconded by Vice Mayor Schultz. The vote was taken with the following results:

Carried:5-0

Ayes: Hirshey, Schultz, David, Payne, Girard

Nays: 0

- 21) Discussion, consideration, and possible vote to approve a Preliminary Plat BXPT-25.07, submitted for Spartan Creek, a proposed commercial development located approximately 1/4 mile west of South Memorial Drive and north of East 151st Street South.

Mayor Girard said Item 21 on the Regular Agenda is up for discussion and consideration.

Item presented by Gladys Gill, Assistant Planner

Others who spoke: Joey Wiedel, City Manager

Ms. Gill provided council with an overview of the proposed project. Brief discussions ensued by staff and council. Mr. Wiedel advises that the proposed development is part of the Tax Increment Finance District (TIF).

Mayor Girard asks for a motion to approve item 21. Councilor David made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilor Hirshey. The vote was taken with the following results:

Carried:5-0

Ayes: David, Hirshey, Payne, Schultz, Girard

Nays: 0

- 22) Motion to enter into Executive Session:

- a. *Confidential communication and discussions among City Council and its attorney concerning litigation regarding Tulsa County v. City of Bixby. Authority: Oklahoma Open Meeting Act, Title 25 Oklahoma Statutes Section 307.B.4.*

Mayor Girard said item 22 on the Regular Agenda is a motion to enter into Executive Session.

Mayor Girard asks for a motion to enter into Executive Session. Councilor Hirshey made a motion to approve, seconded by Mayor Girard. The vote was taken with the following results:

Carried:5-0

Ayes: Hirshey, Girard, David, Payne, Schultz

Nays: 0

Time: 9:36-Entered into Executive Session

Hirshey, Girard, David, Payne, Schultz, JT Hammons (City Attorney), and Joey Wiedel (City Manager)

Time: 9:53pm

Return from Executive Session

Mayor Girard say no action was taken and enters back into Open Meeting.

23) Motion to exit Executive Session.

No vote was taken.

24) Consider and take any necessary action resulting from the discussions held during Executive Session concerning litigation regarding Tulsa County v. City of Bixby.

Mayor Girard said no action was taken in Executive Session

25) City Manager's Report

City Manager Joey Wiedel gave the City Managers report as follows:

Fire Department:

1. Fire Hydrant Testing

- o As a reminder - beginning in September, firefighters will conduct fire hydrant inspections and flushing across the city to maintain system readiness.

Public Works:

1.) Public Works Repair stats: Dated from July 21st to August 22nd

- Street sign repairs and replacements: 74 tickets created, 16 remain open.
- Street issues: 24 tickets created, 9 remain open.

- Right-of-way mowing or tree issues: 21 tickets created, 10 remain open.
- Pothole repairs: 160 tickets created, 50 remain open.
- Water and sewer issues: 9 tickets created, 7 remain open.
- Clogged storm drains or creek areas: 8 tickets created, 4 remain open.
- City building repairs: 6 tickets created, none remain open.
- Storm water repairs: 5 tickets created, 2 remain open.
- Curb or sidewalk repairs: 4 tickets created, 2 remain open.
- Traffic light repairs: 3 tickets created, 1 remains open.
- Sinkholes: 3 tickets created, 1 remains open.
- Water leaks: 1 ticket created, none remain open.

2.) Haikey Creek Bridge

- The project to replace the Haikey Creek bridge deck is under way
- Please use caution driving around this area and follow directions from surrounding signs.

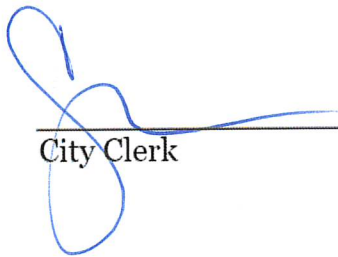
Parks Department

1. Promote Your Brand at Bentley Park!

- We are looking for local businesses to partner with us through sponsorships at Bentley Park Sports Complex.
- Sponsors will receive custom signage, banner placements, and website exposure.
- This is a great opportunity for businesses to gain visibility while supporting community youth sports and family activities.
- All sponsorships proceeds will be reinvested back into Bentley Park
- For more information:
 - Contact Kim Coody at 918-366-4430 ext. 448 or kcoody@bixbyok.gov,
 - ;Scan the QR codes on the screen,
 - ;Or, head to our website and social media pages

26) Adjournment

Adjournment was called at 9:59 pm



City Clerk

Mayor

[illegible]

Downtown River District Businesses Oppose Relocation of City of Bixby's Ice Rink to Washington Irving Park

Preserving Economic Momentum and Community Spirit in the Heart of Downtown Bixby

Introduction

Bixby is seeing a remarkable resurgence in the vibrancy and economic health of its downtown district. Carefully curated events, strategic investments, and the passionate efforts of local entrepreneurs, civic organizations and partnerships with the city have breathed new life into the Downtown River District, transforming it into a true destination for residents and visitors alike. However, the proposed relocation of the City of Bixby's Ice Rink, ran by Bixby's Winter Wonderland, LLC. from downtown to Washington Irving Park has raised serious concerns among downtown business owners, many of whom believe that such a move could significantly undermine the economic progress that has only just begun to take root.

The Role of the City of Bixby's Ice Rink in the Downtown River District Revitalization

The Ice Rink and events that Winter Wonderland provide are more than a seasonal celebration; they are one of the catalysts for economic and social activity in Downtown River District. Every year, the Ice Rink brings people downtown where they shop at local businesses, dine at independent restaurants, and enjoy the festive ambiance that only a walkable, lively downtown can provide. The synergy between the Ice Rink, Christmas Express Trolley, Winter Wonderland, Lights On, Festival of the Trees, Christmas Parade and the Buy Bixby Finale and the success of downtown businesses is undeniable—foot traffic swells, sales increase, and new customers discover all that downtown Bixby has to offer.

Downtown Businesses: Engines of Economic Growth

The businesses located the Downtown River District—ranging from cafes, innovative service providers and locally owned retailers—represent the backbone of the city's economic development strategy. These small enterprises create jobs, reinvest in the community, and serve as gathering places that foster a sense of belonging and pride.

The purpose of the Ice Rink was to give back to the residents and to help spur economic development in the Downtown River District. In the past year, several new businesses have emerged, and the foot traffic is growing. The Ice Rink, along with Festival of the Trees, Winter Wonderland, Lights On, Christmas Parade, Trolley Tours, and the Buy Bixby Finale are fundamental in creating more traffic to the Downtown River District.

The City of Bixby's Investment in the Downtown River District

It is also important to note that the City of Bixby has already made a substantial public investment in the Ice Rink as part of a broader strategy to revitalize the Downtown River District and boost sales tax revenue. This investment was not simply about creating a seasonal attraction—it was a deliberate effort to generate economic activity that supports

local businesses, sustains community events, and signals confidence in the long-term viability of downtown as the heart of Bixby. Relocating the Ice Rink to Washington Irving Park would not only diminish the economic impact on surrounding businesses, but it would also undercut the return on the city's own investment and the promise made to citizens that these resources would drive growth in the Downtown River District.

Recent Efforts to Build Up Downtown

The revitalization of downtown Bixby is a relatively recent phenomenon. Until only a few years ago, vacant storefronts and underutilized spaces were commonplace. Through cooperative efforts with the City, the Chamber of Commerce, and local investors, the area is being reimagined as a vibrant, welcoming space. Façade improvements, infrastructure upgrades, and streetscape beautification projects have created an environment where businesses will thrive, and community events can flourish.

Both the Ice Rink and Bixby's Winter Wonderland, LLC have played a foundational role in this renaissance, drawing attention to downtown's unique charms and serving as a showcase for what the Downtown River District can become. The event's success is evidence of the delicate but powerful relationship between community programming and economic development.

Concerns About Moving to Washington Irving Park

While Washington Irving Park is a valued community asset with its own appeal, many downtown business owners believe that relocating the Ice Rink there would fracture the synergy that has been so painstakingly cultivated in the heart of Bixby.

- **Loss of foot traffic:** With the Ice Rink moved away from downtown, the organic flow of visitors into local establishments is expected to decline. Washington Irving Park, while spacious, is not situated within easy walking distance of downtown shops and restaurants. The separation could discourage festival goers from exploring downtown, reducing the economic impact on the businesses that have come to rely on the event.
- **Undermining downtown's momentum:** The Downtown River District is still in its infancy as a revitalized economic engine. Moving the Ice Rink risks halting or even reversing the positive trends witnessed over the past few years. The Ice Rink's presence downtown signals to residents, developers, and potential business owners that the River District is the place to be, its absence could send the opposite message.
- **Community identity and tradition:** More than twelve years ago, the Bixby Historical Society launched the Festival of the Trees to promote awareness of the downtown area. This initiative was followed by the implementation of the Downtown River District revitalization project, and later, the addition of the Ice Rink to enhance local Christmas Traditions. The sights, sounds, and tastes of the Ice Rink, Winter Wonderland, Festival of the Trees, Christmas Express, Christmas Parade and other events are intertwined with the identity of the Downtown River District. Relocating the Ice Rink to a park—even one as beloved as Washington Irving—could dilute this sense of place and tradition.

Voices of Downtown Business Owners

Downtown business owners have expressed their opposition to the move not out of resistance to change, but out of a deep understanding of what is at stake. Many have invested their life savings, sweat equity, and dreams into building a district that can anchor Bixby's economic future. Their concerns are rooted in experience and a pragmatic assessment of how community events drive both dollars and spirit into the heart of the city.

Alternative Solutions and Suggestions

Both business owners and citizens are not opposed to the growth or enhancement of Bixby's holiday traditions. Rather, they advocate for solutions that preserve the essential connection between the Ice Rink and the downtown district.

- Invest in infrastructure improvements to downtown that allow for greater crowds, more attractions, and easier navigation, ensuring that the Ice Rink can continue to grow in the Downtown River District.
- Consult downtown business owners in the planning process, seeking their input and leveraging their expertise to maximize the Ice Rink's economic and cultural impact.
- Develop new events specifically for Washington Irving Park that complement, rather than replace, the downtown festivities.
- Upon completion of the Performing Arts Center, the Ice Rink should be moved to that location. This would keep it in the Downtown River District and enhance the Performing Arts Center during the Christmas Season. As an example, this is being done in downtown Tulsa at the BOK Center.

The Broader Implications for Bixby's Future

The debate over the location of the Ice Rink is not just about one event, but about the vision the city holds for its future. Will Bixby continue to invest in its downtown as a living, breathing center of commerce and community, or will it risk spreading its resources and energy too thinly? The answer will have ramifications for economic development, community identity, and the quality of life for residents across the city.

The City of Bixby's Ice Rink presence downtown is a tangible representation of Bixby's commitment to revitalization, local business, and communal celebration. Its relocation could inadvertently undermine the very progress the city seeks to achieve.

Conclusion

Downtown Bixby's businesses have sent a clear message: moving the Ice Rink to Washington Irving Park would not simply be a change of venue—it would represent a retreat from the downtown-centric strategy that has begun to bear fruit for the city as a whole. The Ice Rink is woven into the economic and cultural fabric of the Downtown River District, generating revenue, goodwill, and a sense of pride. To ensure continued growth and vibrancy, city leaders should consider solutions that build upon, rather than bypass, the downtown district. Only by listening to those who have invested in Bixby's heart can the city hope to balance celebration, progress, and prosperity for all.

Thank you for listening to our concerns.

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Teamology Co.

Blue Sky Technologies

Friends of Irving Foundation

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Business

My Girl Bakeshop
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 Nacy Hair Designs
 ME Design
 Indigo tie dye CO
 Family Traditions
 Family Traditions
 Alltech fire security
 Turq. Cowboy Stained Glass
 Bixby First Assembly of God
 Bixby First Assembly
 Signify Marketing
 Bixby Optimist Club
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Le's one stop

Bixby Flower Basket

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