

**MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR MEETING**

**APRIL 13, 2026**

The Board of City Commissioners met in a regular meeting on April 13, 2026, in the Council Chambers, 113 N. Elm Street, Sallisaw. Notice of the meeting was given by emailing to Sequoyah County Times; emailing KXXMX; by posting at city hall on April 10, 2026, at 10:45 A.M.; by posting on the city's website; and, by giving notice to the City Clerk.

Members present:	Ernie Martens, Kenny Moody, Josh Bailey, Julian Mendiola,	Mayor Member, Ward 1 Member, Ward 2 Member, Ward 3
Members absent:	Brad Hamilton	Member, Ward 4
Staff present:	Brian Heverly, Kim Jamison, Robin Haggard, Kayle Griffin, Keith Miller, George Bormann, Ben Spyres, Chris Carter, Christian Sizemore, Joe Lufkin, James Williams,	City Manager City Clerk Director of Finance Chief Accountant Community Development Director Economic Development Director Computer Technician Senior Code Inspector Network Director Patrolman Patrolman

Others present: Lynn Adams; Janet Baldwin; Lisa Mannon; Shawn Mannon; Jerry Powell; Angela Powell; Darrell Rudewick; Brenda Rudewick; Janice Reeves; James Baze; Sherry Cheek; Jim Cheek; Julie Becker; Debbie Phillips; Gladis Garcia; Jack Jamison; Monte Huff; Lisa Floyd; Vince Edwards; R. Bush; Janet Rittenberry; Tracie Hall; Stephen Thompson; Tonya Smith; David Smith; Pamela Gay; Philip Gay; Ron McAlister; Destiny Gourd; Barbara Whitmore; Amy Harris; Joe Cartwright; Jill Theodg; Chuck Clark; Others Unidentified.

**1. Meeting called to order**

Mayor Martens called the meeting to order. The meeting began at 6:00 p.m.

**2. Declaration of a quorum**

A quorum was declared present.

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

The City Manager led everyone present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. Installation of Marley Abell, Mayor, and John Owens, Chief of Police**

Municipal Judge Grant swore in Marley Abell as Mayor. District Judge Waters swore in John Owens as Chief of Police.

**5. Discussion and possible action on removal of any item from the consent agenda**

None.

**6. Consent agenda**

**a Possible action on minutes of regular meeting of March 9, 2026, and special meeting of March 24, 2026**

**b Possible action on Invoice Paid Report for March 2026**

Motion was made by Moody, seconded by Mendiola, for approval of the consent agenda.  
Vote: Moody aye; Mendiola aye; Bailey aye; Martens aye. Motion carried 4-0.

**7. Discussion and possible action on any item removed from the consent agenda**

None.

**8. Recognize retiree Steve Padgett and Terry Franklin**

The City Manager spoke of Steve Padgett's service to the City. Mr. Padgett was not able to be at the meeting. He then presented Chief Franklin with a retiree watch and spoke of his service to the City. Chief Franklin then spoke a few words to those present.

**9. Discussion and possible action on staff's request to reinvest the Cemetery Certificate of Deposit with Local Bank for 245 Days at 4.05% Interest**

Motion was made by Mendiola, seconded by Moody, for approval of staff's request to reinvest the Cemetery Certificate of Deposit with Local Bank for 245 days at 4.05% interest. Vote: Mendiola aye; Moody aye; Bailey aye; Martens aye. Motion carried 4-0.

**10. Discussion and possible action on staff's request to reinvest the Sallisaw Reserve Certificate of Deposit with Local Bank for 245 days at 4.05% Interest**

Motion was made by Mendiola, seconded by Moody, for approval of staff's request to reinvest the Sallisaw Reserve Certificate of Deposit with Local Bank for 245 days at 4.05% interest. Vote: Mendiola aye; Moody aye; Bailey aye; Martens aye. Motion carried 4-0.

**11. Discussion and possible action to cast Official Ballot for Brady Moore, City Manager, Stillwater, Cody Roe, City Manager, and Michael Shannon, City Manager, Guymon, for three (3) positions on the Board of Trustees of the Oklahoma Municipal Assurance Group (OMAG); each for three (3) year terms commencing on July 1, 2026**

Motion was made by Moody, seconded Mendiola, to accept the nominations. Vote: Moody aye; Mendiola aye; Bailey aye; Martens aye. Motion carried 4-0.

**12. Discussion and possible action on Ordinance No. 2026-04; *An Ordinance Amending Chapter 14, Article 1, Section 14-103 of the Sallisaw Code of Ordinances by Repealing Section 14-103 of Chapter 14, Article 1 and Adopting and Enacting a New Section 14-103 of Chapter 14, Article 1 to the Sallisaw Code of Ordinances and Declaring an Emergency (Abandoned airplanes)***

Motion was made by Moody, seconded by Bailey, for approval of Ordinance 2026-04. Vote: Moody aye; Bailey aye; Mendiola aye; Martens aye. Motion carried 4-0. Motion was made by Moody, seconded by Bailey, for approval of the emergency clause. Vote: Moody aye; Bailey aye; Mendiola aye; Martens aye. Motion carried 4-0.

**13. Discussion and possible action on Ordinance No. 2026-05; *An Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances by Adopting and Adding Section 82-207 to Article V of Chapter 82, and Declaring an Emergency (manufactured homes)***

Motion was made by Mendiola, seconded by Moody, for approval of Ordinance 2026-05, striking Section 82-207, d (1). Vote: Mendiola aye; Moody aye; Bailey aye; Martens aye. Motion carried 4-0. Motion was made by Mendiola, seconded by Moody, for approval of emergency clause. Vote: Mendiola aye; Moody aye; Bailey aye; Martens aye. Motion carried 4-0.

- 14. Discussion and possible action on Planning Commission Case No. PC2026-002; rezoning request from One-Family Residence District (R-1) to Highway Commercial and Commercial Recreation District (C-4) by Billy McHenry and Patty McHenry, and Ordinance No. 2026-06; *An Ordinance Amending the Zoning Map of Sallisaw an Declaring an Emergency***

Motion was made by Bailey, seconded by Moody, for approval of Planning Commission Case No. PC 2026-002 and Ordinance 2026-06. Vote: Bailey aye; Moody aye; Mendiola aye; Martens aye. Motion carried 4-0. Motion was made by Bailey, seconded by Moody, for approval of emergency clause. Vote: Bailey aye; Moody aye; Mendiola aye; Martens aye; Motion carried 4-0.

- 15. Discussion and possible action on Ordinance 2026-07; *An Ordinance Amending Chapter 18, Article III, Section 18-64 of the Sallisaw Code of Ordinances by Repealing Section 18-64 of Chapter 18, Article III and Adopting and Enacting a New Section 18-64 of Chapter 18, Article III to the Sallisaw Code of Ordinances, and Declaring an Emergency (Installations; adoption of National Electrical Code)***

Motion was made by Moody, seconded by Mendiola, for approval of Ordinance 2026-07. Vote: Moody aye; Mendiola aye; Bailey aye; Martens aye. Motion carried 4-0. Motion was made by Moody, seconded by Mendiola, for approval of emergency clause. Vote: Moody aye; Mendiola aye; Bailey aye; Martens aye. Motion carried 4-0.

- 16. Discussion and possible action on Ordinance No. 2026-08; *An Ordinance Amending Chapter 18 Of The Sallisaw Code Of Ordinances By Adding Article XII; ADA Standards For Accessible Design By Adopting And Incorporating By Reference The Requirements Of Title III Of The Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) And The Implementing Regulations At 28 C.F.R. Part 36; Establishing Local Accessibility Standards For Public Accommodations And Commercial Facilities; Providing For Enforcement; Providing For Severability; And Declaring An Effective Date (ADA)***

Motion was made by Mendiola, seconded by Bailey, for approval of Ordinance No. 2026-08. Vote: Mendiola aye; Bailey aye; Moody aye; Martens aye. Motion carried 4-0.

- 17. Discussion and possible action on Administrative Policy, 1.019.00; Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Complaint Policy and Procedures**

Motion was made by Moody, seconded by Mendiola, for approval of Administrative Policy 1.019.00, ADA Complaint Policy and Procedures. Vote: Moody aye; Mendiola aye; Bailey aye; Martens aye. Motion carried 4-0.

- 18. Review of the *Utility Rate Information and Idea Exchange Forum* held on March 26, 2026, as presented by the City Manager; and receive public comments concerning the *Utility Rate Information and Idea Exchange Forum* from Forum attendees (a two (2) minute time limit will be allowed for those speaking regarding the Forum)**

The City Manager gave an overview of the Utility Rate Information and Idea Exchange Forum that was held on March 26, 2026.

- 19. Hear from Mr. Shawn Rolston regarding reducing electric rates/utility bills; discussion and possible direction staff**

Melissa Mannon, a resident of Sallisaw, expressed serious concerns regarding recent electricity rate increases. She stated that the higher costs are placing significant financial strain on residents, particularly those on fixed incomes, forcing difficult choices between essential needs such as utilities, food, and medication.

Ms. Mannon emphasized that many residents are living in fear of receiving unaffordable utility bills and are reducing usage to unsafe levels, even when relying on critical medical equipment. She raised concerns about the potential health and safety impacts on vulnerable populations, including seniors, during extreme summer temperatures.

She also shared anecdotal experiences of residents facing utility shutoffs due to inability to pay and noted that Social Security increases are insufficient to offset rising costs. Ms. Mannon urged city officials to reconsider the rate increases and seek solutions that better support the community, particularly its elderly and disabled residents.

Mr. Rolston addressed the Council regarding concerns over rising electric rates and emphasized that policy decisions have significant impacts on the community. He encouraged city leadership to approach decision-making thoughtfully and with consideration for residents' well-being.

The speaker expressed appreciation for the opportunity for public input and for allowing open discussion at meetings. He referenced prior questions posed to city leadership and encouraged further evaluation of decision-making criteria.

He proposed that the City explore alternatives to address utility costs, including renegotiating its power agreement with the Grand River Dam Authority (GRDA) and considering development of a local power generation facility. He suggested such a project could potentially reduce costs, generate revenue, and support economic growth. He also

mentioned possible federal funding opportunities through rural energy programs.

Additionally, the speaker discussed the potential role of tribal governments, including the Cherokee Nation, in energy production and encouraged collaboration if the City does not pursue alternative solutions.

He concluded by urging the Council to prioritize residents' interests, address rising utility costs, and consider long-term solutions to benefit the community.

**20. Discussion and possible action on audit engagement letters with Jana A. Walker CPA, PLLC of Woodward, Oklahoma, for Fiscal Year 2026 audit services and landfill calculations**

Motion was made by Moody, seconded by Bailey, for approval of audit engagement letters allowing Jana A. Walker to complete the FY 26 audit and landfill calculations.

Vote: Moody aye; Bailey aye; Mendiola aye; Martens aye. Motion carried 4-0.

**21. Discussion and possible action on Letter of Engagement for Professional Services with RS Meacham, CPA's and Advisors, Clinton, Oklahoma, for Consulting Services Related to Financial Matters of the City of Sallisaw**

Motion was made by Mendiola, seconded by Moody, for approval of engagement letter with RS Meacham. Vote: Mendiola aye; Moody aye; Bailey aye; Martens aye. Motion carried 4-0.

**22. Discussion and possible action on Purchase Order No. 108511, issued to Techline, Inc. of Texas, in the amount of \$34,311.30 for the purchase of various sized electric poles**

Motion was made by Moody, seconded by Bailey, for approval of Purchase Order No. 108511 issued to Techline, Inc. of Texas in the amount of \$34,311.30. Vote: Moody aye; Bailey aye; Mendiola aye; Martens aye. Motion carried 4-0.

**23. Discussion and possible action on Purchase Order No. 108512, issued to Phillips Construction of Sallisaw, Oklahoma, in the amount of \$28,640.00, for the construction of a building pad at the Sallisaw Animal Care Facility**

Motion was made by Moody, seconded by Bailey, for approval of Purchase Order No. 108512 in the amount of \$28,640.00. Vote: Moody aye; Bailey aye; Mendiola aye; Martens aye. Motion carried 4-0.

**24. Receive update on economic development and grant activities**

The Economic Development Director gave an update, for informational purposes only.

**25. Receive update on current and future projects**

The Community Development Director gave an update, for informational purposes only.

**26. Receive update on the financial status of the city and activities of the finance department**

The Finance Director gave an update, for informational purposes only.

**27. Administrative reports**

- Announced the next board meeting scheduled for May 11.
- Reported that the “Spruce Up Sallisaw” cleanup initiative is underway, including ditch clearing, drainage work, and general city maintenance; volunteers are encouraged to participate, including events associated with Keep Oklahoma Beautiful and activities at Brushy Lake.
- Noted that Diamond Days has expanded to a two-day event (May 1–2).
- Advised that water customer contract renewals have been distributed, with proposed rate adjustments based on CPI plus 1%.
- Reported the City is under a consent order related to elevated copper levels at the wastewater treatment plant; an engineering study is required to identify the source and potential solutions. Clarified that this issue does not affect drinking water.
- Provided updates on projects, including bidding for a soccer field basin liner and ongoing maintenance and repairs at the city pool, which is scheduled to open Memorial Day weekend; lifeguard hiring and training are in progress.
- Announced that online reservations for RV sites and city facilities will be available starting May 21.
- Reported that the DiamondNet rebranding project has been delayed due to financial considerations; revisions are underway with an expected rollout in June or July.
- Concluded with continued emphasis on citywide cleanup efforts and drainage improvements.

**28. Discussion and possible action to convene in Executive Session for the purpose of conducting the review of the performance of and contract negotiations with the City Manager, as Authorized by Title 25 O.S., § 307 (B) (1) (2)**

Mr. Pace was not able to be present at the meeting and gave his recommendation for Executive Session to the City Manager by telephone prior to the meeting. Motion was made by Moody, seconded by Bailey, to convene in Executive Session. Vote: Moody aye; Bailey aye; Mendiola aye; Martens aye. Motion carried 4-0. Mayor Martens asked that Mayor Elect Abell join the session. Executive Session began at 7:17 p.m.

**29. Motion to reconvene to Regular Session**

Motion was made by Moody, seconded by Bailey, to reconvene back to Regular Session. Vote: Moody aye; Bailey aye; Mendiola aye; Martens aye. Motion carried 4-0. Regular Session reconvened at 7:49 p.m.

**30. Possible action or direction pursuant to Executive Session**

Motion was made by Mendiola, seconded by Bailey, to proceed as discussed to address in May. Vote: Mendiola aye; Bailey aye; Moody aye; Martens aye. Motion carried 4-0.

**31. Recognize Ernie Martens for his service to the community during his tenure as Mayor**

The City Manager presented Mayor Martens with a Certificate of Appreciation for his service to the community.


**32. Adjourn**

Motion was made by Moody, seconded by Mendiola, to adjourn the meeting. Vote: Moody aye; Mendiola aye; Bailey aye; Martens aye. Motion carried 4-0. The meeting ended at 7:53 p.m.

Approved this 11th day of May 2026.

  
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Marley Abell, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Kim Jamison, City Clerk

