

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL
WORK STUDY SESSION
HELD BY THE MOORE CITY COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 8, 2022 – 5:15 P.M.
UPSTAIRS CONFERENCE ROOM
301 N. BROADWAY, MOORE, OKLAHOMA**

The City Council of the City of Moore met at Moore City Hall in the upstairs conference room, 301 North Broadway, Moore, Oklahoma on September 8, 2026, at 5:15 p.m. with Mayor Mark Hamm presiding.

Adam Webb
Councilman, Ward I

Kathy Griffith
Councilwoman, Ward I

Melissa Hunt
Councilwoman, Ward II

Rob Clark
Councilman, Ward II

Sid Porter
Councilman, Ward III

Louie Williams
Councilman, Ward III

PRESENT: Griffith, Porter, Hunt, Williams, Webb, Clark, Hamm
ABSENT: None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: City Manager, Brooks Mitchell; Assistant City Manager, Jerry Ihler; Assistant City Manager/Director of Public Affairs, Deidre Ebrey; City Attorney, Brian Miller; Community Development Director, Elizabeth Weitman; Police Chief Todd Gibson; Parks and Recreation Director, Sue Wood; and Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Whitney Wathen.

OTHERS PRESENT: Chris Apel

Agenda Item Number 2 being:

DISCUSSION REGARDING OPTIONS TO FUND FUTURE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS.

Mayor Hamm gave a presentation on funding options for future capital improvement projects following a permanent one-cent sales tax initiative that failed by a margin of 532 votes on April 7, 2026. Key issues identified for the proposition failing is a lack of specificity in project lists, concerns over a permanent tax, and more communication with the voters.

Discussion was held on the merits and drawbacks of various funding mechanisms such as General Obligation ("GO") bonds and temporary sales tax increases, while emphasizing the importance of transparency, voter communication, and project prioritization.

FUNDING MECHANISMS:

General Obligation Bonds

The City currently relies on GO bonds for capital projects involving streets, drainage, and infrastructure. Millage rates have been capped by Council at 16.5 mills. Discussed limiting future GO bonds to drainage

projects to reduce the millage rate to 11 mills by 2030. Alternatively maintain a broader scope to include infrastructure.

Sales Tax Options

- Permanent one-cent sales tax would allow for long-term planning but was unpopular due to it being a permanent tax and causing Moore to have one of the highest sales tax rate in the metro area.
- A temporary sales tax for a period of six to ten years was discussed. A 3/4 cent sales tax increase would raise \$72 million over eight years, 7/8 cent would raise \$84 million, and 9/10 cent would raise \$86 million.
- A Hybrid Model would combine a reduced temporary sales tax with continued limited GO bonds.
- Reallocate 1/4 cent sales tax from Parks/Public Works to public safety operations to address rising operational costs without increasing overall tax rate.

Utility Rate Adjustments

Discussed raising water bills to cover \$16 million in wastewater treatment improvements with possible increases ranging from \$0.25 to \$5 month depending on amortization.

IMPLEMENTATION AND TIMING:

Implement:

- Project list specificity to include itemized lists of projects—both large (e.g., public safety facility, major street repairs) and small (e.g., splash pads, playgrounds, park upgrades).
- Announce one small, visible project each month (e.g., basketball court, turf field) to build trust and demonstrate progress.
- Emphasized need for graphics, website breakdowns, and regular updates to clarify what tax increases will fund and show ongoing results.
- De-emphasize millage rate reduction
- Millage rate to be managed internally keeping it between 10 to 12 mills.

Timing and Coordination/Community Engagement

- Next steps hinge on the outcome of November's GO bond and sales tax renewal votes. Proposed timeline for new sales tax initiative is April or June.
- Monitor Oklahoma County/Oklahoma City ballot measures that could affect metro sales tax rates and voter sentiment.
- Plan to involve residents via town hall meetings, surveys, and direct communication.
- Emphasis on allowing citizens to vote on clearly defined packages, increasing accountability and trust.
- Obtain staff input on project selection and feasibility.

Project Examples

- Street Projects: S. Broadway, Eastern between 12th Street and 27th Street, NW 27th from I-35 to Hillcrest, with matching funds from ODOT.
- Public Safety Facility: Estimated at \$65–70 million; potential to phase police and fire components.

DECISIONS AND NEXT STEPS

A consensus of the Council wished to move forward with a temporary sales tax increase of 3/4 cent or 7/8 cent while maintaining some GO bonds and improving public engagement and accountability.

ACTION ITEMS:

- City Manager to prepare options on various sales tax rates with associated project lists and cost estimates for Council/public consideration for next work study targeted for the end of October. Reminders of meeting sent by email.
- Develop graphics and website updates for public outreach.
- Aim to finalize plans by early December for an April election.
- Continue internal management of millage rate without making public promises on reductions.

Agenda Item Number 3 being:

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Williams moved to adjourn the special Work Study Session, second by Councilwoman Hunt. Motion carried unanimously.

Ayes: Griffith, Porter, Hunt, Williams, Webb, Clark, Hamm
Nays: None

The work study session was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

TRANSCRIBED BY:

RHONDA BAXTER, Executive Assistant

FOR:

LOUIE WILLIAMS, MPWA Secretary

These minutes passed and approved as noted this ____ day of _____, 2026.

ATTEST:

VANESSA KEMP, City Clerk