

# Affidavit of Publication In the PAWNEE CHIEF

STATE OF OKLAHOMA,  
COUNTY OF PAWNEE ss:

Larry R. Ferguson, of lawful age, being duly sworn and authorized, says that he is Publisher of the PAWNEE CHIEF, a weekly newspaper published in the City of Pawnee, Pawnee County, Oklahoma, a newspaper qualified to publish legal notices, advertisements, and publications as provided in Section 106 of Title 25, Oklahoma Statutes 1971, as amended, and complies with all other requirements of the laws of Oklahoma with reference to legal publications.

That said notice, a true copy of which is attached hereto, was published in the regular edition of said newspaper during the period and time of publication and not in a supplement, on the following dates:

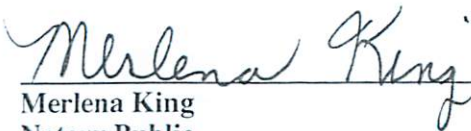
June 9, 2021

CITY OF PAWNEE PROPOSED  
BUDGET 2021 -2022



Publisher

Subscribed and sworn to before me this  
9th day of June, 2021.

  
Merlena King  
Notary Public

My Commission Expires March 8, 2025  
Commission No. 21003136

Publication Fee: \$125.00



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State Auditor  
and Inspector

*Pawnee*

## Renaming of county jail discussed; no vote taken

By Brandi Ball

Things got heated at this week's meeting of Pawnee County Commissioners, according to people who were in attendance.

The CHIEF was not present for the meeting, but officials and members of the public who were said discussion to possibly rename the jail sparked emotional outbursts.

No votes were taken, and it remained simply an item of discussion. It is possible it could be placed on a future agenda for more discussion or a vote to take or reject action.

Karen Woodrell-Gardner, the wife of slain sheriff Dwight Woodrell Jr. when he was murdered October 13, 2001, said the newly elected sheriff, Darrin Varnell, approached the family some time ago about renaming the jail "Dwight C. Woodrell Jr. Criminal

Justice Center."

Such decisions are not within the powers of a sheriff, so county commissioners, who manage all county operations, took up the matter on Monday for the first time. A letter from District Attorney Mike Fisher, delivered to the county clerk last week, said statutes give authority to commissioners to approve such moves.

Present for Monday's weekly meeting were commissioners Charles Brown and Jerry Skidgel, and Barry Donnelly, who is District 3 First Deputy and has acted as a commissioner since Dale Carter's retirement last month. (Carter's vacancy will be filled in a special election to be held on Sept. 14. Filing period opens June 21).

Commissioners contacted by the newspaper on Monday either would not

speak on the record, did not return our call or were unable to be reached at all.

Attendees say officials and family members of Woodrell, including one of his sons and others, were present, as well as were family members of the late undersheriff Monty Johnson, who died in a car crash while on duty in 2019. A former commissioner and other members of the public filled the room.

The Woodrell family says it is disappointed in the things commissioners said during the meeting, arguing against renaming the jail for their hero, a man who was the chief overseer of the facility during his tenure as sheriff.

According to several people in the room whose stories corroborate, commissioners said some reasons for not renaming the jail included that it

wouldn't be fair to other county officials who died while on duty or to county road crews who work with risk, too, they said. Also mentioned in the talks were that there "already" is a monument to Woodrell on the courthouse square (spearheaded by family and paid for by private donations) and a stretch of U.S. Highway 64 named after him by the state, attendees said.

The Woodrell family said it is hurt that, still 20 years after his murder, there has not been any effort by Pawnee County to honor Dwight Jr.

Woodrell-Gardner was out of town and not in attendance at the Monday meeting. She said she didn't know the item was on the agenda until late Sunday night.

If commissioners choose not to take up the

item again or if they vote against renaming of the jail after her late husband, Woodrell-Gardner said she will take necessary steps to circulate a petition to have the matter placed on a future ballot for citizens to decide.

"I never asked for this at all," Woodrell-Gardner said. "Renaming the jail is not something we ever asked for. We've not sought any attention or special treatment over the years, but when the idea was brought to us to honor Dwight, we thought it was a nice gesture. Now that I see the response from the commissioners, I will fight for it."

She released the following statement on social media after the meeting concluded:

"It's interesting how easily your husbands sacrifice for his county is forgotten. It's been 20 years since Dwight was shot 6 times, 5 in the back while checking on a local business. Today, the county commissioners (stated their opinions against) a resolution to name the county jail in honor of him. It was said "It wasn't fair to the other killed in the line of duty," "it would be a black eye to the citizens of Pawnee County," "we should be happy with what

we got." Wow. Just wow. This was all said by citizens of Pawnee County. It is so sad that politics play such an ugly role in honoring a murdered sheriff.

"We have never compared our loss to anyone else. Our family has never asked anything of the Powers of Pawnee County. The memorial in front of the courthouse was paid for by donations of Pawnee County citizens, (cared for) by a courthouse employee on her own time. Naming the jail after Dwight was suggested to us by the current sheriff's office. What an honor for our family knowing Dwight would be remembered this way. It's sad that it's rejected due to sad politics.

"We have found out we can take it to a vote of Pawnee County voters and I'm working on what needs to be done to accomplish this. I've sat back for the last 18 years while our family was ignored and his sacrifice slowly forgotten. But I just can't let this pass. I may need some help. So don't be surprised when I'm asking for help in this matter. Oh, and this is a perfect example of knowing what your elected officials stand for. I hope to see some new candidates for all these commissioners positions in the next few elections."

## Liquor tax collections increase in March

Alcoholic beverage tax collections for March 2021 were at \$15,332.82, compared to February's collections of \$12,745.84, an increase of \$2,586.98 according to Pawnee County Treasurer Carrie Tatum.

"Taxes collected from the sale of alcoholic beverages in the county go into the treasuries of cities and towns in the county," Tatum said.

Following is a chart showing the portion of the total collections allocated to each city/town.

	February	March	Diff.
CLEVELAND	\$5,988.83	\$7,204.37	+\$1,215.54
PAWNEE	4,045.36	4,866.43	+801.07
JENNINGS	668.70	804.43	+135.73
RALSTON	607.91	731.30	+123.39
WESTPORT	548.96	660.38	+111.42
HALLETT	230.27	277.00	+46.73
MARAMEC	167.64	201.66	+34.02
BLACKBURN	198.95	239.33	+40.38
SKEDDEE	93.95	113.02	+19.07
TERLTON	195.27	234.90	+39.63
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$12,745.84</b>	<b>\$15,332.82</b>	<b>+\$2,586.98</b>

### CITY OF PAWNEE PROPOSED BUDGET 2021 - 2022

<b>Administration</b>			
Personnel	\$	-	
Maintenance & Repair	\$	36,271.00	
Capital Outlay	\$	-	
	\$	56,271.00	
<b>Police</b>			
Personnel	\$	320,226.39	
Maintenance & Repair	\$	83,860.62	
Capital Outlay	\$	-	
	\$	404,087.01	
<b>Fire</b>			
Personnel	\$	200,431.04	
Maintenance & Repair	\$	74,722.62	
Capital Outlay	\$	-	
	\$	275,153.66	
<b>Street</b>			
Personnel	\$	125,299.29	
Maintenance & Repair	\$	42,910.00	
Capital Outlay	\$	9,000.00	
	\$	177,209.29	
<b>City Clerk</b>			
Personnel	\$	156,048.94	
Maintenance & Repair	\$	893.00	
Capital Outlay	\$	45,000.00	
	\$	201,941.94	
<b>Animal Control</b>			
Personnel	\$	26,992.44	
Maintenance & Repair	\$	5,753.00	
Capital Outlay	\$	25,000.00	
	\$	57,745.44	
<b>Dispatch</b>			
Personnel	\$	160,677.87	
Maintenance & Repair	\$	(163,677.87)	
Capital Outlay	\$	3,000.00	
	\$	-	

### GENERAL EXPENDITURES

<b>Library</b>			
Personnel	\$	56,463.30	
Maintenance & Repair	\$	45,036.70	
Capital Outlay	\$	4,500.00	
	\$	106,000.00	
<b>Park</b>			
Personnel	\$	98,662.66	
Maintenance & Repair	\$	29,600.00	
Capital Outlay	\$	8,000.00	
	\$	136,262.66	
<b>Cemetery</b>			
Personnel	\$	18,364.44	
Maintenance & Repair	\$	8,599.00	
Capital Outlay	\$	833.33	
	\$	27,796.77	
<b>Court</b>			
Personnel	\$	20,990.42	
Maintenance & Repair	\$	2,635.00	
Capital Outlay	\$	-	
	\$	23,625.42	
<b>General Government</b>			
Personnel	\$	105,288.27	
Maintenance & Repair	\$	6,703.00	
Capital Outlay	\$	-	
	\$	111,991.27	
<b>Ambulance</b>			
Personnel	\$	105,204.46	
Maintenance & Repair	\$	160,098.63	
Capital Outlay	\$	177,804.96	
	\$	443,108.05	
<b>911</b>			
Personnel	\$	-	
Maintenance & Repair	\$	43,745.00	
Capital Outlay	\$	-	
	\$	43,745.00	
<b>Total Expenditures General</b>			
	\$	2,064,937.51	
<b>Proposed Budget 2021 - 2022</b>			

### NOTICE OF PROPOSED BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing will be held at 5:30 pm on June 21, 2021, at the Pawnee City Hall, 510 Illinois Street, for the purpose of discussing and developing the city budget for the fiscal year, beginning July 1, 2021. The public hearing is open to the public and citizens comments on the proposed budget will be welcome. A copy of the proposed budget is available in the office of the City Clerk.