

WHEREAS, James Madison, the father of our federal Constitution, wrote that "consent of the governed" requires that the people be able to "arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives," and

WHEREAS, every citizen in our participatory democracy has an inherent right to access to government meetings and public records; and

WHEREAS, an open and accessible government is vital to establishing and maintaining the people's trust and confidence in their government and in the government's ability to effectively serve its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the protection of every person's right to access to public records and government meetings is a priority of the Stillwater City Council; and

WHEREAS, the Stillwater City Council is committed to openness and transparency in all aspects of its operations and seeks to set a high standard in this regard.

WHEREAS, the Stillwater City Council commits during this Sunshine Week, commemorating the anniversary of James Madison's birth, and throughout the year to work diligently to enhance the public's access to government records and information, to increase information provided electronically and online, and to ensure that all meetings of deliberative bodies under its jurisdiction, are fully noticed and open to the public.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Gina J. Noble, Mayor of the City of Stillwater, Oklahoma, do hereby proclaim the week of March 20 through 26, 2016 in the City of Stillwater as:

"SUNSHINE WEEK: OPEN GOVERNMENT"

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the City of Stillwater to be affixed this 21st day of March, 2016.

GINA J. NOBLE, MAYOR

ATTEST:

ELIZABETH CHRZ, CITY CLERK