

The McAlester City Council met in a Regular session on Tuesday, May 26, 2020, at 6:00 P.M. after proper notice and agenda was posted, May 21, 2020 at 4:58 P.M.

Call to Order

Mayor Browne called the meeting to order.

Pastor Kelley Benson, North Town Church of Christ gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Council Roll Call was as follows:

Present in Person: Weldon Smith, Maureen Harrison & John Browne
Present via Teleconference: Cully Stevens, Steve Cox, James Brown & Zach Prichard
Absent: None
Presiding: John Browne, Mayor

Staff Present: Pete Stasiak, City Manager, Sherri Swift, CFO; Toni Ervin,
Assistant City Manager and Cora Middleton, City Clerk

Staff Attending via Teleconference: William J. Ervin, City Attorney

Citizens Comments on Non-Agenda Items

Residents may address Council regarding an item that is not listed on the Agenda. Residents must provide their name and address. Council requests that comments be limited to five (5) minutes.

There were no citizen comments.

Consent Agenda

All matters listed under the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine by the City Council and will be enacted by one motion. There will not be separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately.

- A. Approval of the Minutes from the May 12, 2020, Special Session of the McAlester City Council. *(Cora Middleton, City Clerk)*
- B. Approval of the Minutes from the May 12, 2020, Regular Meeting of the McAlester City Council. *(Cora Middleton, City Clerk)*
- C. Approval of Claims for May 6, 2020 through May 19, 2020. *(Sherri Swift, Chief Financial Officer)* In the following amounts: General Fund - \$50,621.26; Parking

Authority - \$95.02; Landfill Reserve/Sub-Title D - \$4,315.00; Educational Fund - \$1,322,961.02; SE Expo Center - \$584.26; E-911 - \$4,106.08; Economic Development - \$3,758.95; Grants & Contributions - \$97,966.71; CDBG Grants Fund - \$34,713.26; Fleet Maintenance - \$8,127.01; Worker's Compensation - \$1,750.00; CIP Fund - \$23,360.49; Technology Fund - \$860.00; Stormwater Fund - \$21,148.11; Infrastructure Fund - \$289,535.49 and MRHC-Cancer Center Fund - \$39,894.17.

- D. Consider and act upon, adoption of Teleconference Meeting Instructions for public meetings. (*Stephanie Giacomo, Public Information*)
- E. Concur with the Mayor's appointment of Dr. Johnny Zellmer to the McAlester Hospital Board to replace Dr. Mark Seghal for a term to expire February, 2023. (*John Browne, Mayor*)
- F. Consider and act upon, authorizing the Mayor to sign the update to the Wholesale Water Purchase Contracts. (*Sherri Swift, Chief Financial Officer*)
- G. Consider and act upon, approval of a resolution appointing Dalton Carlton to serve on the Board of Directors of the Association for Landfill Financial Assurance (ALFA). (*Cora Middleton, City Clerk*)

Councilwoman Harrison requested that items "C, F and G" be removed for individual consideration.

A motion to approve the Consent Agenda items "A, B, D and E" was made by Councilman Smith and seconded by Councilman Brown.

There was no further discussion, and the vote was taken as follows:

AYE: Councilmembers Smith, Brown, Stevens, Cox, Harrison, Prichard & Mayor Browne
NAY: None

Mayor Browne declared the motion carried.

Mayor Browne asked Vice-Mayor Stevens which of the items had he wanted pulled. Vice-Mayor Stevens confirmed that it was item "F".

Items removed from Consent Agenda

- C. Approval of Claims for May 6, 2020 through May 19, 2020. (*Sherri Swift, Chief Financial Officer*) In the following amounts: General Fund - \$50,621.26; Parking Authority - \$95.02; Landfill Reserve/Sub-Title D - \$4,315.00; Educational Fund - \$1,322,961.02; SE Expo Center - \$584.26; E-911 - \$4,106.08; Economic Development - \$3,758.95; Grants & Contributions - \$97,966.71; CDBG Grants Fund - \$34,713.26; Fleet Maintenance - \$8,127.01; Worker's Compensation - \$1,750.00; CIP Fund - \$23,360.49;

Technology Fund - \$860.00; Stormwater Fund - \$21,148.11; Infrastructure Fund - \$289,535.49 and MRHC-Cancer Center Fund - \$39,894.17.

Councilwoman Harrison inquired about several payments on the claims list and asked about one of the accounts showing to be over budget.

Manager Stasiak explained each of the payments and clarified that if a line item account was over budget then funds from the same department would be moved from an account that was not over budget.

There was no further discussion, and a motion to approve Item “C”, claims for May 6, 2020 through May 19, 2020 was made by Councilman Smith. The motion was seconded by Mayor Browne, and the vote was taken as follows:

AYE: Councilmembers Smith, Stevens, Cox, Brown, Harrison, Prichard & Mayor Browne
NAY: None

Mayor Browne declared the motion carried.

F. Consider and act upon, authorizing the Mayor to sign the update to the Wholesale Water Purchase Contracts. (*Sherri Swift, Chief Financial Officer*)

Councilwoman Harrison inquired about the “Miscellaneous” section of the Wholesale Water Purchase contracts.

Manager Stasiak explained that this section allowed the City to sell water to the Districts and it was not a loan.

Vice-Mayor Stevens inquired about the Districts being affected by water outages, the replacement of valves in the Districts service areas, how long it would take to replace the valves.

Manager Stasiak stated that the Districts were affected the same as the City, and the City was trying to replace the valves in-house. He explained that if the City could not get the valves replace within sixty (60) days they would be contracted with an outside contractor.

Mayor Browne commented that the Audit & Finance Committee had been reviewing the contracts with City staff and would be bringing something to the Council soon.

Vice-Mayor Stevens commented that the item should be tabled until the Audit & Finance Committee could make their presentation.

Manager Stasiak commented he would recommend getting the contracts in place and then come back to Council with definitive information.

Councilman Prichard asked about the cost of producing treated water.

There was no further discussion, and a motion to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the update to the Wholesale Water Purchase Contracts was made by Councilman Smith. The motion was seconded by Mayor Browne, and the vote was taken as follows:

AYE: Councilmembers Smith, Cox, Brown & Mayor Browne

NAY: Councilmembers Harrison, Prichard & Stevens

Mayor Browne declared the motion carried.

G. Consider and act upon, approval of a resolution appointing Dalton Carlton to serve on the Board of Directors of the Association for Landfill Financial Assurance (ALFA). (*Cora Middleton, City Clerk*)

Councilwoman Harrison inquired about having an employee on an advisory board and what the \$4,000.00 fee was for.

Manager Stasiak explained that Dalton Carlton over saw the City's landfill and the \$4,000.00 was the City's portion of the quarterly fee for the accounting and collection of information to report to the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality.

There was no further discussion, and a motion to approve RESOLUTION NO. 20-13, appointing Dalton Carlton to serve on the Board of Directors of the Association for Landfill Financial Assurance (ALFA) was made by Councilman Smith. The motion was seconded by Mayor Browne, and the vote was taken as follows:

AYE: Councilmembers Smith, Brown, Harrison, Prichard, Stevens, Cox & Mayor Browne

NAY: None

Mayor Browne declared the motion carried.

A motion to open a Public Hearing to address the proposed FY 2020/2021 Budget and an ordinance amending the FY 2019/2020 Budget was made by Councilman Smith. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Harrison, and the vote was taken as follows:

AYE: Councilmembers Smith, Harrison, Prichard, Stevens, Cox, *Brown & Mayor Browne

NAY: None

Mayor Browne declared the motion carried, and the Public Hearing was opened at 6:27 P.M.

*The meeting was paused at 6:25 P.M. until Councilman Brown could be added back to the meeting via teleconference.

Public Hearing

All persons interested in any ordinance listed under Scheduled Business shall have an opportunity to be heard in accordance with Article 2, Section 2.12(b) of the City Charter.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FY 2020/2021 FOR THE CITY OF MCALESTER.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF McALESTER, OKLAHOMA, AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2656 WHICH ESTABLISHED THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019-20; REPEALING ALL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

There were no comments, and a motion to close the Public Hearing was made by Councilman Smith. The motion was seconded by Mayor Browne, and the vote was taken as follows:

AYE: Councilmembers Smith, Prichard, Stevens, Cox, Brown, Harrison & Mayor Browne

NAY: None

Mayor Browne declared the motion carried, and the Public Hearing was closed at 6:28 P.M.

Mayor Browne stated that since Item 1 could be lengthy the Council would address Item 2 first.

Scheduled Business

2. Consider and act upon, a Memorandum of Understanding between the McAlester Public Works Authority and the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 80, Pittsburg County, Oklahoma that authorizes the release of funds derived from City Ordinance 2159, for the acquisition, construction, and renovation of educational facilities.
(Peter Stasiak, City Manager, Randy Hughes, MPS Superintendent)

Executive Summary

Motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding that conveys to ISDA80 the sum of \$983,066.85 to be used for the acquisition, construction, and renovation for McAlester Public Schools.

Manager Stasiak reviewed how the sales tax receipts from this Educational Bond had been paid out to the School District in the past. He explained that this particular sales tax had expired and the bond debt had been paid. He added that the School District had requested the balance of the sales tax proceeds from Ordinance 2159 and had plans that qualified for the use of the funds.

Mayor Browne clarified that when the School District would request funds from the sales tax bond proceeds the City would have to verify that the projects qualified before they could release any of the funds.

Councilwoman Harrison thanked Mayor Browne for his clarification.

There was no further discussion, and a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding that conveys to ISD No. 80 the sum of \$983,066.85 to be used for the acquisition, construction, and renovation for McAlester Public Schools was made by Councilman Smith. The motion was seconded by Councilman Brown, and the vote was taken as follows:

AYE: Councilmembers Smith, Brown, Stevens, Cox, Harrison, Prichard & Mayor Browne

NAY: None

Mayor Browne declared the motion carried.

1. Discussion and possible action on, the adoption of recommended changes made by the Mayor and Council to the Preliminary Budget and funding provisions during the Public Hearing held May 26, 2020. (*Peter Stasiak, City Manager*)

Executive Summary

Discussion and possible action on the adoption of the recommended changes provided by the Mayor and Council.

Manager Stasiak addressed the Council explaining the Public Hearing was part of the Budget process and he commented that he would like to receive comments and questions on the proposed Budget, from the Council, with funding mechanisms.

There was discussion regarding adding an Animal Control Officer back to personnel, the cost of that position, the Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Krebs to address vicious dog calls, the other positions that needed to be filled, how the PSO Summer program affected the City, where the funds from that program went, increasing the technology fee on citations to help cover the cost of an Animal Control Officer, how much revenue was generated through the technology fees, moving funds from Tourism to help with the Parks Department, moving funds from Street Reconstruction to use on water and sewer line issues, moving funds from the Expo to help in the Parks Department, the amount of funds generated with the Hotel/Motel tax and how much of a decrease was projected, how both the Expo and the City's Parks did not generate revenue to cover their costs, what the Expo and Parks did for the City, the water line study status, is an auction was anticipated, what would be auctioned, the amount of revenue that might be raised and what effect the water bill cutoffs were having on the City.

Manager Stasiak stated that the amount of cutoff fees that had been waived for non-profits was \$48,872.50, the fee to pay by credit card that had been waived was \$6,790.00, the late fees that had been waived was \$17,021.23 and the Stormwater fees that had been waived was \$88,221.47. He added that the total amount of fees that had been waived was \$160,905.20. He stressed that this was funds that the City would not receive.

There was further discussion regarding reimbursements, the number of times that the budget was required to be published, the final budget that was approved by the Council would be sent to the State Auditor, the funds in the Contingency account, what those funds how those funds would be used, removing the projected revenue from the Retail Development and the Contingency account and using those funds for the pools, and the Council not having any control over a large expense.

Mayor Browne commented that the discussion was getting outside the Councils purview, that the Charter prohibited the Council from the day to day operations of the City and the Council and Mayor needing to develop ways to open the pools.

There was another brief discussion regarding the City's liability of allowing another organization to open and operate the City's pools.

No action was taken on this item.

3. Consider and act upon, authorizing the Mayor to sign Change Order #1 from Sunrise Construction, LLC in the amount of \$3,502.00. This is to add a clean out on a discovered clay tile sewer main including solid sleeve coupling, 45-degree fitting, solid cap, concrete apron in street and aggregate base backfill for the 2019 CDBG Sewer Project. This Change Order also adds 7 days to the project moving the date of Substantial Completion to May 29, 2020. (*Dalton Carlton, Public Works Director*)

Executive Summary

Motion to authorize the Mayor to sign Change Order #1 from Sunrise Construction, LLC in the amount of \$3,502.00. This is to add a clean out on a discovered clay tile sewer main including solid sleeve coupling, 45-degree fitting, solid cap, concrete apron in street and aggregate base backfill for the 2019 CDBG Sewer Project.

Manager Stasiak addressed the Council explaining that during the CDBG 2019 Sewer Project a clay tile sewer main had been discovered crossing the new PVC sewer main. He stated that this Change Order would add \$3,502.00 to the cost of the project and seven (7) days moving the projected completion date to May 29, 2020.

There was no discussion, and a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign Change Order #1 from Sunrise Construction, LLC in the amount of \$3,502.00. This is to add a clean out on a discovered clay tile sewer main including solid sleeve coupling, 45-degree fitting, solid cap, concrete apron in street and aggregate base backfill for the 2019 CDBG Sewer Project. This Change Order also adds 7 days to the project moving the date of Substantial Completion to May 29, 2020 was made by Councilman Smith. The motion was seconded by Mayor Browne, and the vote was taken as follows:

AYE: Councilmembers Smith, Brown, Harrison, Prichard, Stevens, Cox & Mayor Browne

NAY: None

Mayor Browne declared the motion carried.

4. Consider and act upon, authorizing the Mayor to sign the Contractor's Final Pay No. 3 and Certificate of Substantial Completion for the contract with Built Right Construction, LLC for the Block 231 Alley Drainage Improvements and accept the project as completed. (*Dalton Carlton, Public Works Director*)

Executive Summary

Motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the Contractor's Final pay No. 3 in the amount of \$4,399.50 and the Certificate of Substantial Completion for the contract with Built Right Construction, LLC for the Block 231 Alley Drainage Improvements and accept the project as completed.

Manager Stasiak addressed the Council explaining that this project had been to address a flooding issue. He stated that all work had been completed on the project, the final inspection had been performed on April 29, 2020 and the two (2) year warranty would be in effect as of April 29, 2020.

There was no discussion, and a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the Contractor's Final Pay No. 3 and Certificate of Substantial Completion for the contract with Built Right

Construction, LLC for the Block 231 Alley Drainage Improvements and accept the project as completed was made by Councilman Smith. The motion was seconded by Mayor Browne, and the vote was taken as follows:

AYE: Councilmembers Smith, Stevens, Cox, Brown, Harrison, Prichard & Mayor Browne
NAY: None

Mayor Browne declared the motion carried.

5. Consider and act upon, an Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 2656 which established the budget for fiscal year 2019-2020; repealing all conflicting ordinances; providing for a severability clause; and declaring an emergency. *(Sherri Swift, Chief Financial Officer)*

Executive Summary

Motion to approve the budget amendment ordinance.

CFO Swift addressed the Council explaining that there had been a couple of errors in the original exhibits and she distributed revised exhibits. She then reviewed the exhibits explaining that the first two (2) exhibits were to appropriate funds for Debt Service and the last exhibit was to appropriate funds for capital project expenditures.

Councilwoman asked for clarification of where the revisions to the exhibits was.

CFO Swift explained that there had been a formula in the last column that was not needed.

ORDINANCE NO. 2686

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF McALESTER, OKLAHOMA, AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2656 WHICH ESTABLISHED THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019-20; REPEALING ALL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

A motion to approve **ORDINANCE NO. 2686**, amending FY 2019/2020 Budget was made by Councilman Smith and seconded by Mayor Browne. There was no further discussion, and the vote was taken as follows:

AYE: Councilmembers Smith, Stevens, Cox, Brown, Prichard & Mayor Browne
NAY: Councilmember Harrison

Mayor Browne declared the motion carried.

A motion to approve the EMERGENCY CLAUSE was made by Councilman Smith and seconded by Mayor Browne. There was no discussion, and the vote was taken as follows:

AYE: Councilmembers Smith, Cox, Brown, Harrison, Prichard, Stevens & Mayor Browne
NAY: None

Mayor Browne declared the motion carried.

6. Discussion and update on the 2019 Moving McAlester Forward Comprehensive Plan.
(*Peter Stasiak, City Manager*)

Executive Summary
Discussion.

Manager Stasiak addressed the Council explaining that Councilman Prichard has requested an update of what had been accomplished over the last few months relative to the Comprehensive Plan. He commented that there were six (6) core areas that had been identified by City Staff. He stated that the study of the Wastewater plants would be completed soon and would be presented to Council at the June 9, 2020 meeting. He briefly highlighted some of the areas of the Wastewater Plants that had been identified in the study. He commented on the decrease in crime that had occurred in the City since the COVID-19 Pandemic and stated that an increase could possibly occur with the opening up of the City. He reviewed the crime statistics. He reviewed the Stormwater Implementation and Education and informed the Council that 2,108,600 total pounds of debris had been removed from the City's streets, ditches and canals since January 1, 2020 and since the beginning of the fiscal year 5,997,600 total pounds of debris had been removed. The next area that he reviewed was "Employee Satisfaction and Retention" commenting that they were attempting to stay in contact with the employees and furnish as much information as possible. He then updated the Council on the thirty-eight (38) employees that had been furloughed, the fourteen (14) employees that had taken early retirement and the eleven (11) or twelve (12) unfilled positions. He added that the one hundred seventy (170) employees that were currently working had all lost benefits and taken pay cuts. He stated that the Compensation Report would hopefully be completed in June and it would furnish the City with a lot of good information. He updated the Council on the Expansion of the EMS Transport, stating that had been put on hold. He explained that for the last ten (10) weeks both Chief Brewer and Assistant Chief Brooks had been working with Emergency Management. He then updated the Council on the Sidewalks and Trails connectivity, explaining that the "Waterways Trail Grant" was for a new trail that went from Monroe to Electric along the canal. He stated that the City was working with landowners to gain right of ways. A grant for Rotary Park had been submitted and a grant for a trail from Parker Elementary to Thunderbird Park. He stated that bike lanes had been installed on various streets throughout the City. He commented that sidewalks were being designed for Wade Watts Blvd. from Strong to the overpass and the other segment of sidewalks would be constructed when the Street crew was completing the concrete panel replacement. He added that a sidewalk on Strong from Electric to Polk had been looked at and deemed feasible. He finished saying that he would like to come back later with a more formal presentation.

No action was taken on this item.

7. Presentation of the Monthly Financial Update. (*Sherri Swift, Chief Financial Officer*)

Executive Summary
Discussion.

CFO Swift addressed the Council reviewing the City's financial status as of April 30, 2020. During her review she stated that the year was approximately 83.33% complete with the General Fund revenues being 5.72% under budget and the expenditures being 4.59% under budget. She commented that the MPWA revenue was 6.89% under budget while its' expenditures were 8.11% under budget. She reviewed the sales tax receipt, the use tax receipt and water sales comparison for the previous two (2) years. She finished her update with the Treasury Report that furnished cash on hand information.

No action was taken on this item.

8. Presentation of the Mayor's Annual State of the City Address. (*John Browne, Mayor*)
Executive Summary
Presentation.

Mayor Browne presented the Council with his Annual State of the City Address as follows:

"The past year has certainly been a tale of two cities. "It was the spring of hope the winter of despair", to steal a line from Dickens.

We began the year coming off a very successful previous twelve months only to encounter a near perfect storm of adverse circumstances half-way through fiscal year. From July first through the first half of the year we were cruising right along, getting things accomplished such as closing the deal on the Shops of McAlester project, improving the safety and availability of our water supply by replacing and relocating parts of our 30 inch supply line from Lake McAlester and a 20 inch line from the treatment plant, Rebuilding and refurbishing our secondary pump station located on Coal Creek, creating the downtown street scape which lead to the most successful downtown Christmas Seasons in memory, we passed a disorderly house ordinance which will help neighborhoods address residences that allow criminal activity to take place, all these things plus many more. We still had much more to work on but things were going pretty well.

As the first of the year began, we started seeing some problems begin. Our Audit and Finance Committee noticed a trend in our rural water sales. The sales were showing a consistent drop in volume used. This did not follow the pattern of usage within city limits, which stayed fairly equal to the previous year. The committee asked city staff to look into how our rural water sales compared to other cities in Oklahoma and how much we were making based on what each district paid. As it turned out, in some cases, we were charging less than our cost to produce. This, along with the likelihood that the aging meters had slowed down, has led to the possibility of future sales price adjustments and the installation of new meters.

The next hurdle we reached was the oil and gas industry effectively shutting down in the U.S. This came about because Saudi Arabia and Russia got into a price war which drove the price way down from approximately \$65 per barrel to a low of \$20 per barrel. This caused a huge oversupply of oil. So much so that there was literally nowhere to store it. This lead to the futures contracts for oil drop into negative territory for a brief period. American oil is more expensive to produce than either Russian or Saudi oil so the drop in price per barrel hits us particularly hard and has cost us many jobs. Oklahoma relies strongly on the oil and gas industry to fund our economy. McAlester is no different. We have lost a large number of jobs but in addition to the

jobs, our hotel/motel industry rely heavily on renting rooms to those in the energy business. When a decline like this occurs, there is a cascading effect from it. Hotels/motels sell less rooms, less rooms means less people needed to run the business. It also means less customers to buy from our businesses which leads to lower sales tax collections for the city. Also, along with that happening, many of the laid off workers from the oil business and service industry, no longer have the same purchasing power. This also adds to the loss of revenue. From the city's perspective, loss of revenue causes the city to make adjustments in the budget which can lead to furloughs and pay cuts, both of which have been put in place. The loss of the oil and gas business was a bad enough hit to our local economy but there was more to come, much more. COVID 19, the Corona Virus, forced the shutdown of large parts of the economy. Many businesses were closed and social distancing caused many people to stay home or only go out for essential items. While this was necessary, and as far as social distancing should still be practiced, it has caused another big reduction in sales tax revenue, projected to be at least twice as much as the oil and gas loss. The cumulative affect being the city had to cut over \$4 million in spending. This, of course, will make the upcoming year one of the most difficult ever. The city has taken a safe, conservative approach to this year's budget. The idea is to create a budget that is on the low side with the thought that if we recover quicker than expected we can add items back into the budget, instead of having to make more cuts should our projections prove to be inaccurate. I applaud the city administration for creating a budget at a time when it is nearly impossible project what future revenue will be. This budget makes sure that our debt obligations are met while also providing funding for our core services.

In closing, we have a great team to help us through this crisis. Our City Manager and Staff are using a well thought out process to keep us fiscally responsible. Our employees, Non-uniform and both unions Fire and Police, are pitching in to help cut costs and come up with innovative ways to address the situation. Everyone is working together to move us forward. This also includes our many community partners, who are themselves going through similar problems. Our schools, Pittsburg County, our Emergency Management Team, and many others are all working to minimize the impact of the virus pandemic's effects on us. Lastly, there are two groups that deserve special recognition for what they do every day to keep our community going and provide care. All the people who continued to work through this crisis so that we could buy groceries and supplies, gasoline, curbside food and food delivery, and many other essential needs. You guys are truly heroes. To the healthcare workers, there are no words to adequately express the thanks we owe. From the front line professionals to the support personnel to those working in nursing homes and home health providers, you will probably never know how many lives you have touched and no matter how many thanks you receive, it will never be enough. Thank you. We will recover from this, it will take some time, maybe even years, but we will come back. We have too many good people in our city to ever let anything keeps us down.

I started with a quote from Dickens and will close with one from C.S. Lewis:
"There are far better things ahead than any we leave behind"."

No action was taken on this item.

New Business

Any matter not known, or which could not have been reasonably foreseen prior to the time of posting the Agenda in accordance with Sec. 311.9, Title 25, Oklahoma State Statutes.

Manager Stasiak addressed the Council explaining that the City of McAlester's Grant Writer, Stephanie Giacomo had received an email from the State of Oklahoma providing the Federal Funding Certification to the City of McAlester on Sunday, May 24, 2020, one day prior to the Memorial Day Holiday. He stated that do to this timing, this item could not have been reasonably foreseen prior to the posting of the agenda. He added that this Certification must be approved and submitted prior to June 1, 2020, in order to be eligible for reimbursement from the State of Oklahoma from the Coronavirus Relief Fund as created by the CARES Act.

There was a brief discussion concerning the amount of reimbursement that the City might receive if the reimbursement could have been used for assistance programs and the reimbursement being for only direct costs to the City.

A motion to approve the Federal Funding Certification and authorize the Grant Writer and Administrator as the legally authorized representative was made by Councilman Smith and seconded by Councilwoman Harrison.

There was no other discussion, and the vote was taken as follows:

AYE: Councilmembers Smith, Brown, Harrison, Prichard, Stevens, Cox & Mayor Browne

NAY: None

Mayor Browne declared the motion carried.

City Manager's Report

- Report on activities for the past two weeks.

Manager Stasiak reported that the City had been informed that Stage Department Store had filed bankruptcy and was changing to Gordmans, J.C. Penney's was closing 240 of its 850 stores and the City did not have any idea if this would affect the McAlester store. He stated that the City had been negotiating the Republic Service contract and would be bringing the recommendations with the contract to the Council. He then announced that Mel Priddy had retired from the City after 48 years of service. He added that his last day would be this Friday and has been on vacation since week. He commended and thanked Director Priddy for his service.

Remarks and Inquiries by City Council

Councilman Smith thanked Director Priddy for his service and congratulated the City for the completion of the round-a-bout.

Councilman Brown congratulated Director Priddy on his retirement.

Councilwoman Harrison congratulated Director Priddy, she commented on the absentee voting on the June 30, 2020 elections, and she thanked the veterans and volunteers for mowing the North Town Cemetery.

Councilman Prichard inquired about the Fire and Police Unions negotiations, the water line that was running along Washington on top of the ground and the amount of money spent on both of the Second Street projects.

Manager Stasiak stated that he hoped to meet with the Unions this week, the water line had been originally been on the south side of the road with connections to the houses running under the road and this would move the lines from under the road and it would be buried as soon as the area dried. Manager Stasiak stated that the figure he had furnished had been for all of the work.

Councilmen Stevens and Cox did not have any comments for the evening.

Mayor's Comments and Committee Appointments

Mayor Browne thanked Director Priddy for his 48 years of service. He congratulated all of the retirees and added that the City was doing all it could do to get all of the employees back to work as soon as possible. He then thanked the employees that had worked through all of this.

Recess Council Meeting

Councilman Smith moved to recess the Regular Meeting and convene the Authorities. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Harrison.

There was no discussion, and the vote was taken as follows:

AYE: Councilmembers Smith, Harrison, Brown, Prichard, Stevens, Cox & Mayor Browne
NAY: None

Mayor Browne declared the motion carried and the meeting was recessed at 8:04 P.M.

Reconvene Council Meeting

The Regular Meeting was reconvened at 8:06 P.M.

A motion to recess the Regular meeting for an Executive Session pursuant to Title 25 O.S. § 307(B)(1) for confidential communications between a public body and its attorney to discuss the employment, hiring, appointment, promotion, demotion, disciplining or resignation of any individual salaried public officer or employee, more particularly City Manager, Peter Stasiak, was made by Councilman Smith. The motion was seconded by Mayor Browne.

There was no further discussion, and the vote was taken as follows:

AYE: Councilmembers Smith, Harrison, Prichard, Stevens, Cox, Brown & Mayor Browne

NAY: None

Mayor Browne declared the motion carried and the meeting was recessed at 8:07 P.M.

Executive Session

Recess into Executive Session in compliance with Section Title 25 Section 307 B.1 et.seq. Oklahoma Statutes, to wit:

- Consider and Act to convene in executive session pursuant to Title 25 O.S. § 307(B)(1) for confidential communications between a public body and its attorney to discuss the employment, hiring, appointment, promotion, demotion, disciplining or resignation of any individual salaried public officer or employee, more particularly City Manager, Peter Stasiak.

Reconvene into Open Session

The Council returned to Open session at 8:39 P.M. Mayor Browne stated that the Council had recessed the Regular meeting for an Executive Session in accordance with Title 25 O.S. § 307(B)(1) for confidential communications between a public body and its attorney to discuss the employment, hiring, appointment, promotion, demotion, disciplining or resignation of any individual salaried public officer or employee, more particularly City Manager, Peter Stasiak. Only that matter was discussed, no action was taken, and the Council returned to Open session at 7:06 P.M., and that constitutes the minutes of the Executive Session.

A motion to offer City Manager Pete Stasiak the enclosed contract, which includes the same number of furlough days as the other Non-Uniform employees and a two percent (2%) reduction in the retirement contribution was made by Mayor Browne and seconded by Councilman Smith.

There was no discussion, and the vote was taken as follows:

AYE: Councilmembers Smith, Prichard, Stevens, Cox, Brown & Mayor Browne

NAY: Councilmember Harrison

Mayor Browne declared the motion carried.

Mayor Browne thanked Manager Stasiak for his service.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, Councilman Smith moved for the meeting to be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Harrison.

There was no discussion, and the vote was taken as follows:

AYE: Councilmembers Smith, Harrison, Stevens, Cox, Brown, Prichard & Mayor Browne

NAY: None

Mayor Browne declared the motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:41 P.M.

ATTEST:

John Browne, Mayor

Cora Middleton, City Clerk