

Council Chambers
Municipal Building
February 23, 2010

The McAlester City Council met in Regular session on Tuesday, February 23, 2010, at 6:00 P.M. after proper notice and agenda was posted, February 18, 2010, at 3:37 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Priddle called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Priddle gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Council Roll Call was as follows:

Present: Chris Fiedler, Donnie Condit, John Browne, Haven Wilkinson, Buddy Garvin & Mayor Priddle
Absent: Sam Mason
Presiding: Kevin E. Priddle, Mayor

Staff Present: Peter J. Stasiak, Acting City Manager/Planning and Community Development Director; Gayla Duke, Chief Financial Officer; Mel Priddy, Community Services Director; William J. Ervin, City Attorney and Cora Middleton, City Clerk

CITIZENS' COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Shari Cooper addressed the Council regarding MEDS and some of their activities. She stated that her Board had received an email from Councilman Mason concerning their office move. Ms. Cooper distributed copies of the email to the Council. She then explained of the reasons for the move, of which, some were the need for better accessibility to the business district and more dependable internet service. She commented that the Gotcher Law Office was donating part of its unused office space, at no cost. She stated that the only cost for the space would be telephone and internet service. Ms. Cooper stated that she was a professional and would continue to carry herself as one and that the various groups within the City including the citizens needed to work together to help McAlester grow.

Mayor Priddle thanked Ms. Cooper for her time.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the Minutes from the February 4, 2010, Special Meeting of the McAlester City Council. (*Cora Middleton, City Clerk*)
- B. Approval of the Minutes from the February 9, 2010, Regular Meeting of the McAlester City Council. (*Cora Middleton, City Clerk*)

- C. Approval of Claims for February 10, 2010 through February 23, 2010. (*Gayla Duke, Chief Financial Officer*) In the following amounts: General Fund - \$82,070.50; Parking Authority - \$160.44; Nutrition - \$9,401.65; SE Expo Ctr/Tourism Fund - \$13,840.34; E-911 - \$31,252.34 and Economic Development - \$14,403.73.
- D. Concur with Mayor's appointment of Don Lewis to the McAlester Regional Health Center Authority for a term that expires February 28, 2011. (*Kevin E. Priddle, Mayor*)
- E. Concur with Mayor's Re-appointment of Brian Lott to the McAlester Economic Development Service, Inc. Board for a term to expire November 1, 2012. (*Kevin E. Priddle, Mayor*)
- F. Concur with Mayor's Re-appointment of Weldon Smith to the McAlester Regional Health Center Authority for a term to expire February 28, 2016. (*Kevin E. Priddle, Mayor*)

Councilman Condit moved for approval of the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilman Fiedler.

Before the vote, Mr. Stasiak explained that check number 49447 had been voided and replaced by check number 49561. He stated that an expense item that belonged to the gas company had been included in the payment to AT&T.

Mayor Priddle stated that the motion stood with the changes noted. There was no other discussion and the vote was taken as follows:

AYE: Councilman Fiedler, Condit, Browne, Wilkinson, Garvin & Mayor Priddle
 NAY: None

Mayor Priddle declared the motion carried.

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

None

SCHEDULED BUSINESS

- 1. Presentation by David Wadley and possible discussion on Ambulance Services. (*Owner, Wadley Ambulance Services*)

Executive Summary

This agenda item involves a presentation on Ambulance Services.

Councilman Wilkinson moved to open the floor for the presentation by David Wadley concerning Ambulance Services. The motion was seconded by Councilman Browne.

Before the vote, David Wadley addressed the Council regarding EMS and ambulance services in the City of McAlester. He commented that he had not seen any advances in the EMS services

offered by the City and if the City would change its license from Basic to Intermediate it could increase the amounts charged for services rendered. He suggested that the City could place an additional monthly charge on the utility bill for ambulance services and it would make those services more affordable for many of the citizens. Mr. Wadley stated that this type of fee would not need to be approved by a vote of the citizens, just approval by the Council. He added that this fee could raise enough funds that the Ambulance/EMS could pay for themselves.

There was a brief discussion among the Council concerning Mr. Wadley's comments and suggestions, possible rise in unnecessary ambulance calls, having an opt out option and requesting the Audit and Finance Advisory Committee review this matter.

Pamela Smith addressed the Council commenting that she had been in the City since 1979 and was the owner of Paramed Ambulance Service. She stated that she had already implemented a monthly fee, which did work, and there were unnecessary calls. Ms. Smith stressed that the ambulance service needed to be run like a business, but the City would not get rich furnishing an ambulance service.

There was no action for this item.

2. Presentation of Treasury Report and financial information for Month ending January 31, 2010. (*Gayla Duke, Chief Financial Officer*)

Executive Summary

This agenda item involves Treasury Report and financials for Month ending 1-31-10.

Councilman Fiedler moved to open the floor for the presentation of Treasury Report and financial information for Month ending January 31, 2010. The motion was seconded by Councilman Condit.

Before the vote, Ms. Duke addressed the Council stating that she was encouraged with the sales tax collected this month and was anxious to see next months numbers. She stated that the financials had been inserted in the Council packets and there were extras for the public. She reviewed a few of the issues she had researched and addressed since she had began working for the City of which were, the City was over pledged on collateral at the bank meaning every thing at the local bank was protected and she had requested to receive monthly statements on the escrows. Ms. Duke commented that at the end of January the City had a balance of \$12,584,199.00 in the local bank at the end of January. She informed the Council that online billing for the Utility Department and the Court would be available March 1, 2010 and would be accessible through a link on the City's homepage. She added that there would be a \$3.25 fee added to any Utility payment and a \$3.50 fee added to any Court payment. She also stated that the online feature would be a very good tool for the citizens to review their Utility accounts.

There was a brief discussion among the Council regarding the revenue and expenses, where the City was in regard to the Budget and the beginning fund balance.

There was no action taken on this item.

3. Consider, and act upon, approving 5310 Transit Assistance Contract with the Oklahoma Department of Human Services Department. (*Mel Priddy, Director Community Services*)
Executive Summary

This item involves a motion to approve a 5310 Transit Assistance Contract with ODHS.

Councilman Wilkinson moved to approve 5310 Transit Assistance Contract with the Oklahoma Department of Human Services Department. The motion was seconded by Councilman Condit.

Before the vote, Mel Priddy addressed the Council explaining that the City of McAlester's Nutrition Department had been awarded a grant for one (1) 14 passenger bus, 22 feet with lift at an estimated cost of \$53,000.00. He stated that this would be the third such grant the City had received from DHS for a lift equipped van. He added that these vans are used to transport the seniors to and from the Stipe Nutrition Center and this van would be replacing a 1999 Ford Goshen 14 passenger van with 127,254 miles. Mr. Priddy commented that the City's match would be \$8,700.00 and those funds would come from the Nutrition budget.

Councilman Fiedler asked if local vendors had bid on this purchase. Mr. Stasiak and Mr. Priddy stated that this was a Department of Human Services grant. There was no other discussion, and the vote was taken as follows:

AYE: Councilman Wilkinson, Garvin, Fiedler, Condit, Browne & Mayor Priddle

NAY: None

Mayor Priddle declared the motion carried.

4. Consider, and act upon, an Agreement for the Fireworks Display with Hance Pyrotechnics for 2010 schedule July 4th Celebration in the amount of \$25,000.00. (*Mel Priddy, Director Community Services*)

Executive Summary

This item involves a authorizing the Mayor to sign an Agreement with Hance Pyrotechnics in the amount of \$25,000 for the July 4th fireworks display.

Councilman Browne moved to approve an Agreement for the Fireworks Display with Hance Pyrotechnics for 2010 schedule July 4th Celebration in the amount of \$25,000.00. The motion was seconded by Councilman Fiedler.

Before the vote, Mel Priddy addressed the Council stating that this was the third year to use this company, there had been no problems with them in the past, they had done a good job and the fire works show had always been good.

Before the vote, Joyce Carlson addressed the Council asking how the City could do this when the City was in such dire needs.

There was a brief discussion among the Council that included Mr. Stasiak and Mr. Priddy. During this discussion, the Council agreed that they had a problem expending this money when

the employees had furlough days, asking for sponsors from the community, which funds would be used for this event should it be approved and possibly tabling it for further study.

Mr. Stasiak commented that this was a feel good event and when the City was looking at cuts, many of the events that the community had come to expect were considered. He also stated that this item could be put out for a couple of weeks.

Mayor Priddle moved to amend the motion to table this item until the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Condit.

Before the vote, Vice-Mayor Garvin commented that this was important for many reasons. There was another brief discussion among the Council about the matter. Ms. Duke stated that the funding was in the Expo/Tourism fund and could not be used for anything in the General Fund. Councilman Condit asked if the Acting City Manager could take a straw poll of the Non-Uniformed Council.

There was no other discussion and no action was taken on this item.

AYE: Councilman Garvin, Fiedler, Condit, Browne, Wilkinson & Mayor Priddle

NAY: None

Mayor Priddle declared the motion carried.

5. Consider, and act upon, authorizing the Mayor to sign Application for Federal Assistance with the FAA. (*Mel Priddy, Director Community Services*)

Executive Summary

This item involves a authorizing the Mayor to sign a grant application for Federal Assistance with FAA.

Councilman Fiedler moved to authorize the Mayor to sign Application for Federal Assistance with the FAA. The motion was seconded by Councilman Condit.

Before the vote, Mr. Priddy explained that this was a 2010 grant application for Federal Assistance for approximately \$115,000.00 and with an estimated cost to the City of \$5,750.00. He added that this was for the McAlester Regional Airport. He stated that this was for the design phase of a one million two hundred thousand dollar grant. There was no other discussion, and the vote was taken as follows:

AYE: Councilman Fiedler, Condit, Browne, Wilkinson, Garvin & Mayor Priddle

NAY: None

Mayor Priddle declared the motion carried.

6. Consider, and act upon, authorizing the Mayor to sign an amendment to the City's Airport Consultant Services Contract with LBR, Inc. (*Mel Priddy, Director Community Services*)

Executive Summary

This item involves a authorizing the Mayor to sign an amendment to the City's Airport Consultant Services Contract with LBR, Inc.

Councilman Condit moved to authorize the Mayor to sign an amendment to the City's Airport Consultant Services Contract with LBR, Inc. The motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Garvin.

Before the vote, Mel Priddy addressed the Council stating that this was part of the 2010 and 2011 Airport project that was identified and approved by the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission. He stated that the discussion section of the agenda report had inadvertently been left out of the agenda packet but it should have been distributed prior to the meeting.

Mayor Priddle asked the City Attorney if he was okay with the amendment. Mr. Ervin commented that this did not require a legal opinion but the Council needed to be aware that they were authorizing the related fees to be paid. There was no other discussion, and the vote was taken as follows:

AYE: Councilman Fiedler, Condit, Browne, Wilkinson, Garvin & Mayor Priddle

NAY: None

Mayor Priddle declared the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

None

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Stasiak thanked the representative from LBR for attending the meeting and being available if the Council had any questions. He then commented that today was his one year anniversary with the City of McAlester.

REMARKS AND INQUIRIES BY CITY COUNCIL

Councilman Fiedler stated that the Choctaw Nation Career Day was scheduled for April 7, 2010. The Italian Festival was coming up on May 22nd and 23rd. He thanked Ms. Smith for her comments, he has always supported EMS and he hoped the Audit and Finance Advisory Committee would seriously look at the EMS service.

Councilman Condit requested better communication of the days that trash would not be picked up and he thanked Mr. Stasiak for the job he has done in responding to all of the requests that he receives.

Mr. Stasiak commented that he would look at the Furlough day schedule in March to help address the problem and the City was experimenting with the Utility bills. He added that the

information was being put into the newspaper and on the radio, but he realized that the City was only reaching 30% of the citizens.

Councilman Browne asked about getting a “Slow, Children Playing” sign set up on Ottawa. He commented on the road conditions on South Main. He encouraged the citizens to attend the community theatre. He then stated that he had received Amy John’s resignation letter and he expressed his appreciation for her service on the MEDS Board.

Councilman Wilkinson commented on Mr. Stasiak’s responsiveness to the Council’s requests. He stated that the street patch demonstration was very good and that 4th Ward had a lot of street problems. He added that the City needed to find a solution to the street problems. He then suggested that more information be placed on the City’s television channel.

Mayor Priddle commented that he had been very impressed with the street patching at the intersection of First Street and Washington, it had been completed in fifteen (15) minutes. He stated that the City needed to provide the tools so the employees could do the jobs.

Vice-Mayor Garvin stated that he had also been impressed with the street patching demonstration. He commented that the machine could decrease the number of employees, equipment and worker’s compensation claims. He added that the City needed to look at a crack filling machine also.

RECESS COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Priddle asked for a motion to recess the Regular Meeting to convene the Authorities. Councilman Browne moved to recess the Regular Meeting and convene the Authorities. The motion was seconded by Councilman Fiedler and the vote was taken as follows:

AYE: Councilman Wilkinson, Garvin, Fiedler, Condit, Browne & Mayor Priddle

NAY: None

Mayor Priddle declared the motion carried, and the Regular Meeting was recessed at 7:35 P.M.

RECONVENE COUNCIL MEETING

The Regular Meeting was reconvened at 7:37 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, Councilman Wilkinson moved for the meeting to be adjourned, seconded by Vice-Mayor Garvin. The vote was taken as follows:

AYE: Councilman Browne, Wilkinson, Garvin, Fiedler, Condit & Mayor Priddle

NAY: None

Mayor Priddle declared the motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:37 P.M.

Kevin E. Priddle, Mayor

ATTEST:

Cora Middleton, City Clerk