

The McAlester City Council met in a Regular session on Tuesday, July 9, 2019, at 6:00 P.M. after proper notice and agenda was posted, July 5, 2019 at 8:18 A.M.

Call to Order

Mayor Browne called the meeting to order.

Roy Prince, Pastor North Gate Baptist Church gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Council Roll Call was as follows:

Present: Weldon Smith, Cully Stevens, Travis Read, James Brown, Maureen Harrison, Zach Prichard & John Browne

Absent: None

Presiding: John Browne, Mayor

Staff Present: Pete Stasiak, City Manager; Toni Ervin, Asst. City Manager; Jayme Clifton, Community Development Director; Stephanie Giacomo, Grant Writer/Public Information Officer; Brett Brewer, Fire Chief; Billy Sumner, Tourism/Expo Manager; Mel Priddy, Community Services Director; David Horinek, Public Works Director; William J. Ervin, City Attorney and Cora Middleton, City Clerk

Recognition and Awards

Mayor Browne announced Detective Brant Gamble as June “Employee of the Month”. Mr. Gamble received a plaque, a Certificate of Appreciation, a Personal Planner and a Gift Certificate.

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 28, 2019, Regular Meeting of the McAlester City Council. *(Cora Middleton, City Clerk)*
- B. Approval of the Minutes from the June 11, 2019, Special Meeting of the McAlester City Council. *(Cora Middleton, City Clerk)*
- C. Approval of Claims for June 19, 2019 through July 2, 2019. *(An-Chen Lai, Chief Finance Officer)* In the General Fund - \$91,606.02; Nutrition - \$583.41; Landfill Res./Sub-Title D - \$5,527.97; State Forfeiture Fund - \$32,141.68; Tourism Fund - \$10,429.13; SE Expo Center - \$2,236.99; E-911 - \$1,496.01; Economic Development - \$4,743.90; Grants & Contributions - \$706.43; CDBG Grants Fund - \$955.20; Fleet Maintenance - \$14,041.96; Worker's Compensation - \$1,001.00; Dedicated Sales Tax – MPWA - \$6,000.00; CIP Fund - \$70,999.92; Federal Forfeiture Fund - \$2,083.60; Technology Fund - \$46.22; Stormwater Fund - \$34,786.93 and Infrastructure Fund - \$85,615.58.
- D. Consider and act upon, to renew a Resolution supporting a new Public Library Building and endorsing a fund-raising campaign by the Friends of the Library of McAlester, Inc. *(Peter Stasiak, City Manager)*
- E. Consider and act upon, authorizing the Mayor to sign a contract between the City of McAlester and McAlester Main Street for funding for the 2019/2020 fiscal year in the amount of \$30,000 as per the approved 2019/2020 Budget. *(Christi John, President, McAlester Main Street)*
- F. Consider and act upon, acceptance of a bid from Ideal Cleaning in the amount of \$3,000 per month to provide cleaning services to the City of McAlester buildings. *(Toni Ervin, Asst. City Manager)*
- G. Concur with the Mayor's appointment of Dalante Redway to the Housing Authority for a term to expire July 31, 2021. *(John Browne, Mayor)*
- H. Consider and act upon, indefinitely postponing Tort Claim filed by Anna Myers. *(Cora Middleton, City Clerk)*
- I. Consider and act upon, authorizing the purchase of the annual security license upgrades from DELLEMC for existing Sonicwall Firewalls, adding additional features to protect all the city owned connected devices. *(James Stanford, IT Computer Support Specialist)*

Councilman Read requested that item "D" be removed for individual consideration.

Manager Stasiak stated that item "D" needed to be corrected. The item should not reference "The Friends of the Library" but Southeastern Public Library System of Oklahoma (SEPLSO).

A motion to approve the Consent Agenda items "A through C and E through I" was made by Councilman Smith. The motion was seconded by Councilman Read.

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

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

Mayor Browne declared the motion carried.

Items Removed from Consent Agenda

- D. Consider and act upon, to renew a Resolution supporting a new Public Library Building and endorsing a fund-raising campaign by the Friends of the Library of McAlester, Inc. *(Peter Stasiak, City Manager)*

Councilman Read commented on the language in the last paragraph of the resolution and asked if it was the intention for City staff to work with the Library on the development of a new Library.

Manager Stasiak commented that the City would work with the Library just like it was currently doing.

Michael Hull, Executive Director of Southeastern Public Library System of Oklahoma 401 N. 2nd Street addressed the Council explaining the process of developing a new Library and the responsibilities of both parties.

There was discussion concerning which communities this would affect, who owned the current Library, what the plans were for the building when a new Library was built, looking at existing structures, looking at all options for the most cost effective, if the City had a building that would accommodate the needs of the Library and if the present Library were sold what would be done with those funds.

A motion to adopt RESOLUTION NO. 19-15, with amending language “the City of McAlester encourages the Southeastern Public Library System of Oklahoma to also look at existing buildings to serve as a new Library for McAlester was made by Councilman Prichard. The motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Stevens.

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

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

Mayor Browne declared the motion carried.

A motion to open a Public Hearing to address two (2) ordinances and the proposed Mullen Park Splash Pad Project was made by Vice-Mayor Stevens and seconded by Councilman Smith. There was no discussion, and the vote was taken as follows:

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

NAY: None

Mayor Browne declared the motion carried and the Public Hearing was opened at 6:14 P.M.

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 MULLEN PARK SPLASH PAD PROJECT LOCATED AT 303 W. SPRINGER, McALESTER, OKLAHOMA

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.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 82, OFFENSES AND NUISANCES, OF THE McALESTER CITY CODE, CREATING SECTION 82-24, POSTING ADVERTISEMENTS, ETC., ON PROPERTY OF ANOTHER; REPEALING ALL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, 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 Councilman Read, and the vote was taken as follows:

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

NAY: None

Mayor Browne declared the motion carried and the Public Hearing was closed at 6:15 P.M.

Scheduled Business

1. Discussion and possible action, on approval of certain costs related to the Fire Department. Funds to be used from the City of McAlester's Fire Department's portion of the county quarter cent excise tax for fire services. *(Brett Brewer, Fire Chief)*

Executive Summary

Motion to approve the purchase of fire hose to be used on the Fire Engines. Purchases to be made with funds from the City of McAlester's Fire Department's portion of the county quarter cent excise tax for fire services.

Chief Brewer addressed the Council explaining that during the Departments annual fire hose testing several hoses failed the NFPA 1962 standards. He stated that the failed hoses could not be put back in service and therefore the Department needed to replace that hose. He added that the Department had obtained three (3) quotes to replace the hose with the lowest from OK Fire, LLC which is a local vendor. He commented the purchase could be made in an amount not to exceed \$7,800.00 and the funds would be from the City's portion of the County quarter cent excise tax for fire services.

After a brief discussion of what would be done with the old hose, a motion to approve the purchase of fire hose with the City's portion of the County quarter cent excise tax for fire services in an amount not to exceed \$7,800.00 from OK Fire, LLC was made by Councilman Prichard. The motion was seconded by Councilman Smith, and the vote was taken as follows:

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

NAY: None

Mayor Browne declared the motion carried.

2. Consider and act upon, a Resolution authorizing the change from part-time to a full-time position of a van driver/kitchen aide and to be placed on the non-uniform pay plan at pay grade 112-01 for the FY 2019-2020. (*Mel Priddy, Community Services Director*)

Executive Summary

Motion to approve the resolution for the full-time position of a van driver/kitchen aide.

Director Priddy addressed the Council explaining that the part-time van driver had been a full-time position until budget cuts in 2010. He stated that Senior Citizen participation had increased in the last several years and this position would also work as a kitchen aide as needed. He commented that the City had applied for grants for two (2) new Senior vans and had been approved for the first van to arrive today. He added that a part-time driver would not be able to do the necessary trips that were required each month.

A motion to approve RESOLUTION NO. 19-16, authorizing the change from part-time to a full-time position of van driver/kitchen aide was made by Councilman Smith. The motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Stevens. There was no further discussion, and the vote was taken as follows:

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

NAY: None

Mayor Browne declared the motion carried.

3. Consider and act upon, a Resolution authorizing the submittal of a grant application to the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department for the William P. Mullen Park Splash Pad Project. (*Stephanie Giacomo, Grant Writer*)

Executive Summary

Motion to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the resolution for the submittal of the grant application for the William P. Mullen park Splash Pad Project.

Ms. Giacomo addressed the Council explaining that this Resolution would authorize the City to resubmit a grant application for the Mullen Park Splash Pad. She informed the Council that the total project cost needed to be changed from "cost not to exceed \$400,00.00" to "cost not to exceed \$600,000.00".

Billy Jack Boatright, 810 E. Park Avenue addressed the Council expressing his support for the Splash Pad Project in Mullen Park.

There was discussion regarding the correct spelling of Mullen, that this grant had been applied for previously and part of the fifty percent (50%) match would-be in-kind services.

A motion to authorize the Mayor to sign RESOLUTION NO. 19-17, for the submittal of a grant application for the William P. Mullen park Splash Pad Project was made by Councilman Smith and seconded by Councilman Read. There was no further discussion, and the vote was taken as follows:

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

Mayor Browne declared the motion carried.

4. Consider and act upon, accepting the bid amount of \$208,259.00 from Sunrise Construction, LLC, and authorizing the Mayor to sign the Notice of Award for the 10th Street Canal Bank Stabilization Project. (*Robert Vaughan, Infrastructure Solutions Group*)

Executive Summary

The recommendation is to accept the bid from Sunrise Construction, LLC for a total amount of \$208,259.00 and authorize the Mayor to sign the Notice of Award for the 10th Street Canal Bank Stabilization Project.

Dale Burke, PE President Infrastructure Solutions Group, LLC addressed the Council explaining that sealed bids for this project had been opened on May 30, 2019 at 2:00 P.M. with three (3) of the five (5) contractors that had picked up bid packages submitting bids. He stated that Sunrise Construction, LLC had been the apparent low bidder with a base bid of \$208,259.00. He added that it was their recommendation to award the contract to Sunrise Construction, LLC in the amount of \$208,259.00.

Councilman Smith asked if Infrastructure had experience with this company. Mr. Burke stated that they had and this company was doing projects for the City right now.

A motion was made by Councilman Smith and seconded by Councilman Read to accept the bid from Sunrise Construction, LLC in the amount of \$208,259.00 and authorize the Mayor to sign the Notice of Award for the 10th Street Canal Bank Stabilization Project.

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

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

Mayor Browne declared the motion carried.

5. Consider and act upon, authorizing the Mayor to sign Change Order #2 from Sunrise Construction, LLC. This reconciles the final quantities of work and results in a net deduct of (\$7,830.00) for the Indiana Avenue Drainage Improvements Project. (*Robert Vaughan,*

Infrastructure Solutions Group)

Executive Summary

Motion to authorize the Mayor to sign Change Order #2 from Sunrise Construction, LLC. This reconciles the final quantities of work and results in a net deduct of (\$7,830.00) for the Indiana Avenue Drainage Improvements Project.

Dale Burke, PE President Infrastructure Solutions Group, LLC addressed the Council explaining that this was the wrap up of the project and reconciled the final quantities. He added that this Change Order resulted in a net deduction of \$7,830.00.

Councilwoman Harrison asked for clarification of the Change Order.

Mr. Burke explained that this amount is never paid to the contractor.

A motion to authorize the Mayor to sign Change Order #2 from Sunrise Construction, LLC reconciling the final quantities of work and resulting in a net deduction of \$7,830.00 for the Indiana Avenue Drainage Improvements Project was made by Councilman Brown. The motion was seconded by Councilman Read, and the vote was taken as follows:

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

NAY: None

Mayor Browne declared the motion carried.

6. Consider and act upon, authorizing the Mayor to sign Change Order #1 from Built Right Construction, LLC in the amount of \$5,982.00 for the Connally Addition Sewer Improvements Project. This Change Order adds 26 linear feet of 8-inch PVC Sewer Main and 1 (one) 4-foot diameter standard manhole. It also extends the substantial completion date 30 days to September 19, 2019. (*Robert Vaughan, Infrastructure Solutions Group*)

Executive Summary

Motion to authorize the Mayor to sign Change Order #1 from Built Right Construction, LLC in the amount of \$5,982.00 for the Connally Addition Sewer Improvements Project.

Dale Burke, PE President Infrastructure Solutions Group, LLC addressed the Council explaining that during the construction of the sewer project at Connally the contractor ran into an old barracks that no one knew was there and the sewer line had to be rerouted around that structure.

Mayor Browne asked if that dated back to the WWII POW Camp.

Mr. Burke confirmed that it did and added that the manhole that was there was covered and the structure had been bypassed before. He added that it had not been identified while the survey was being done.

Councilman Prichard inquired about the buildings and fences that had been built on the easement and how that was addressed.

Mr. Burke stated that those issues were addressed as they come up and always work with City staff to ensure on the same page.

There was no further discussion, and a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign Change Order #1 from Built Right Construction, LLC in the amount of \$5,982.00 for the Connally Addition Sewer Improvements Project was made by Councilman Smith. The motion was seconded by Councilman Read, and the vote was taken as follows:

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

NAY: None

Mayor Browne declared the motion carried.

7. Consider and act upon, declaring certain vehicles and equipment surplus property in accordance with the Code of Ordinances Sec 2-410 and authorize the City Manager to sell them in accordance with the Code of Ordinances Sec 2-411. *(Toni Ervin, Asst. City Manager)*

Executive Summary

Motion to declare 2009 Freightliner Dump Truck surplus and authorize the disposal.

Assistant Manager Ervin addressed the Council explaining that this was the twin to the previous truck that had been surplused at a previous meeting. She informed the Council that this truck was experiencing the same issues and repairs were not cost effective. She added that they were working with Premier Truck Sales.

Manager Stasiak commented that the truck was currently out of service.

There was a brief discussion concerning a possible repair bill on the truck and Assistant Manager Ervin stated that there was not a bill.

A motion to declare a 2009 Freightliner Dump Truck as surplus and authorize its disposal was made by Councilman Read and seconded by Councilman Smith. There was no further discussion, and the vote was taken as follows:

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

NAY: None

Mayor Browne declared the motion carried.

8. 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. *(Toni Ervin, Asst. City Manager)*

Executive Summary

Motion to approve the budget amendment ordinance.

Assistant Manager Ervin addressed the Council reviewing the exhibits for the Council explaining the exhibit A-1 was to transfer funds from the General Fund to the Capital Fund to purchase the 10-Wheel Dump Truck, exhibit A-2 is to appropriate funds to purchase the Street Dump Truck and A-3 was discussed at the last meeting to transfer from Tourism to appropriate funds for Parks and Historical District.

There was discussion concerning the definition of Historical District, which laws distinguished Federal or State structures or districts, the money received from the Choctaw Nation that had been used for parks and if there was a plan for the use of the funds from Tourism.

ORDINANCE NO. 2660

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.

Councilman Read moved to vote on Exhibit A-3 separately. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Harrison.

Before the vote, Director Clifton commented that there was an Historical District in McAlester and the Oklahoma Historical Society had a list of the structures that made up that District.

There was no further discussion on Exhibit A-3 of **ORDINANCE NO. 2660**, and the vote was taken as follows:

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

Mayor Browne declared the motion carried.

A motion to approve Exhibits A-1 and A-2 of **ORDINANCE NO. 2660** was made by Vice-Mayor Stevens and seconded by Councilman Read. There was no discussion, and the vote was taken as follows:

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

Mayor Browne declared the motion carried.

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Stevens and seconded by Councilman Brown to approve Exhibit A-3.

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

AYE: Councilmembers Stevens, Brown, Prichard & Harrison

NAY: Councilmembers Smith, Read & Mayor Browne

Mayor Browne declared the motion carried.

9. Consider and act upon, authorizing the purchase of a 2019 Western Star 4700SF 10-wheel dump truck from Premier Truck Sales in Tulsa. (*David Horinek, Public Works Director*)

Executive Summary

Motion to approve and authorize the purchase of a 2019 Western Star 10-wheel dump truck with drop axles from Premier Truck Sales for \$124,011.44.

Director Horinek addressed the Council explained that this truck was very similar to the truck that had been previously purchased and would be used as a haul truck for the Public Works Division.

After a brief discussion concerning the State bid and this price being the State bid price a motion was made by Vice-Mayor Stevens and seconded by Councilman Smith to approve and authorize the purchase of a 2019 Western Star 10-Wheel Dump Truck with drop axles from Premier Truck Sales for \$124,011.44. The vote was taken as follows:

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

NAY: None

Mayor Browne declared the motion carried.

10. Discussion and presentation on the OKLA Theater. (*Billy Sumner, Tourism Manager*)

Executive Summary

Presentation.

Tourism Manager Sumner addressed the Council presenting them with information concerning the OKLA Theater and its history. He explained that the Ardeneum Heritage Association Inc. currently owned the OKLA and wished to present the OKLA to the City for its' 150th anniversary. He reviewed the renovations that had been completed and those that were planned. He reviewed possible uses, objectives for the OKLA and a financial plan.

There was discussion concerning how much money it would take to complete the renovations.

Burt Thomas, President of the Ardeneum of Oklahoma Charitable and Educational Foundation, Inc. addressed the Council explaining that the Ardeneum had partnered with the City in the past and they wanted to ensure that the OKLA was used for how it was meant to be used. He commented on the emotional draw that the OKLA could have on that area for the City, and he reviewed some of the renovations that had been made to the building.

There was discussion regarding available parking, who was doing the renovations, if they were local contractors, the repairs to the marquee and roof, addressing the segregation that occurred during the 50's and 60's, providing new memories for citizens, how the City would operate the OKLA, if it would be ran as a for profit business, grant and funding opportunities.

Manager Stasiak commented that the City had the expertise to run the OKLA, it was a great opportunity for the City and it could be an anchor for that area of the City.

Councilman Prichard commented that he would like the City to get out of the event center business and package this as a private project.

Councilman Read asked Manager Stasiak that before this item was brought back to the Council that some reasonable numbers be put together on cost to get this done in five (5) years and to maintain it. He commented that he didn't want to take on an obligation that the City said it would do without knowing the costs.

Attorney Ervin commented that the packet only contained one (1) resolution and he asked if the Ardeneum would provide the second resolution.

Mr. Thomas stated that yes, they would.

There was no action taken on this item.

Councilman Read stated that item number 8 had an EMERGENCY CLAUSE that did not get voted on.

Mayor Browne asked Attorney Ervin if the EMERGENCY CLAUSE had to be voted on separately. Attorney Ervin stated that the items were not separated only voted on separately then only one vote on the EMERGENCY CLAUSE needed to be taken.

Councilman Brown move to approve the EMERGENCY CLAUSE for **ORDINANCE NO. 2660**. The motion was seconded by Councilman Smith, and the vote was taken as follows:

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

Mayor Browne declared the motion carried.

11. Consider and act upon, an ordinance amending McAlester City Code Chapter 82, Offenses and Nuisances, creating Section 82-24, Posting Advertisements, Etc., on Property of Another; repealing all conflicting ordinances, providing for severability and declaring an emergency. (*Jayme Clifton, Community Development Director*)

Executive Summary

Motion to act upon and approve the above ordinance amending McAlester City Code Chapter 82, Offenses and Nuisances, creating Section 82-24, Posting Advertisements, Etc., on Property of Another; repealing all conflicting ordinances, providing for severability, declaring an emergency, and authorizing the Mayor to sign the ordinance.

Director Clifton addressed the Council explaining that the City of McAlester's previous Code had included Section 82-76, Posting advertisements, etc., on property of another. But this section had been deleted without memo when the Code of Ordinances had been recodified in

September 2017. She added that this section was instrumental in enforcement efforts in keeping the community clean and preventing the posting of items on areas such as traffic signs, utility poles and on right-of-ways.

There was discussion regarding if this language would prevent people from putting signs on sidewalks, who and how this section of the Code would be enforced, if it was enforced now, how it could not be enforced since it was not in the Code, the offense would be determined by the City Judge, what the biggest problem was, if people were given time to remove the signs before receiving a citation and that letters were sent to individuals that could be identified giving them time to collect their signs.

ORDINANCE NO. 2661

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 82, OFFENSES AND NUISANCES, OF THE McALESTER CITY CODE, CREATING SECTION 82-24, POSTING ADVERTISEMENTS, ETC., ON PROPERTY OF ANOTHER; REPEALING ALL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

A motion to approve **ORDINANCE NO. 2661** was made by Councilman Brown and seconded by Mayor Browne. There was no further discussion, and the vote was taken as follows:

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

Mayor Browne declared the motion carried.

Councilman Read moved to approve the EMERGENCY CLAUSE. The motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Stevens, and the vote was taken as follows:

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

Mayor Browne declared the motion carried.

12. Consider and act upon, approval and implementation of a Fire Safety Grant Program within the City of McAlester historical commercial districts and to be funded from the city's Hotel Tax Collections. (*Zach Prichard, Ward 6 Councilman*)

Executive Summary

Motion to approve implementation of a Fire Safety Grant Program within the City of McAlester historical commercial districts which is to be funded from the city's Hotel Tax Collections.

Councilman Prichard addressed the Council explaining that in 2015 the City adopted an Ordinance creating loft living overlay district in the Down Town and Old Town area. He stated that they all had received the outline of the program. He commented that there was a lot of reason to continue to invest in Down Town and Old Town. He commented that loft living would

provide a niche in community housing that didn't already exist and would help to create or increase vitality in those areas. He then reviewed the creation of a Fire Safety Grant Program and how it could help with the renovation of some of the buildings in the Down Town and Old Town areas.

There was discussion concerning particular areas, if CDBG Grants could be used to help with this, the amount allowed in this program would not cover half of the cost to install sprinklers in loft dwellings, this not being a fit for everyone and how this could be revisited as needed.

Mayor Browne commented that he would like the TIF Committee to review this program before the Council jumps in.

A motion to postpone this item was made by Councilman Smith and seconded by Councilman Read.

Before the vote, there was discussion regarding this program and the Down Town Area TIF program, supporting loft living in the Down Town area but not supporting public money being used to improve private property, what public funds could be used for, the difference between a rebate and a grant and needing more research.

Attorney Ervin stated that he would be happy to provide the Council with an opinion.

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

AYE: Councilmembers Smith, Read, Brown, Harrison & Mayor Browne

NAY: Councilmembers Prichard & Stevens

Mayor Browne declared the motion carried.

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.

There was no new business.

City Manager's Report

- Report on activities for the past two weeks.

Manager Stasiak updated the Council on the 30-inch water line at the City's dam project and the Coal Creek Pump Station. He stated that a bid for labor only for the 30-inch water line would be opened on July 18th. He then stated that the City was in the process of finalizing the electrical issues for the Coal Creek Pump Station.

He updated the Council on the activities of the Street Department, and he stated that the Grand Opening of the Police Department in the Federal Building would be held on July 25th from 4:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. He announced that Benny Brooks had been selected as Assistant Fire Chief

and would begin those duties on July 15, 2019. He then stated that the LEAD Committee recommendations would be brought to the Council at the next meeting.

Remarks and Inquiries by City Council

Vice-Mayor Stevens asked if the Utility Maintenance Superintendent and CFO positions had been advertised. He also asked about the manhole on Strong Boulevard that had continued to be an issue.

Manager Stasiak stated that the Utility Maintenance Superintendent position had been filled but the community where that individual had worked had convinced him to stay. He stated that interviews for the CFO's position had been conducted today and the City had interviewed four (4) good applicants.

Manager Stasiak stated that it was a vibration problem that the City was working on.

Councilman Brown inquired about the requirements for the Utility Maintenance Superintendent and CFO positions. He also commented on the program that was going on at the Grand Community Center and the need for a better facility.

Manager Stasiak stated that the Utility Maintenance Superintendent position did not require a degree but did require specific certifications or expertise and the CFO position required a bachelor's degree but the City preferred a master's degree.

Councilwoman Harrison stated that Saturday, July 20th there was going to be a Splash Bash.

Councilman Prichard asked about the status of the Streetscape project on Choctaw and the landscaping for that project. He asked about the status of Arvest Park and if there was a target date. He then asked what the City was doing to maintain the Buffalo Run Disc Golf Course.

Manager Stasiak stated that the first two (2) sections were the hardest but the contractor was moving on very well and the landscaping would be purchased through grants and the Parks Department. He added that trees would have to be planted at the proper time of the year. Manger Stasiak stated that it was coming along well but due to the rain there was no specific date. Manager Stasiak stated that it was part of the Parks system and the City mowed it.

Mayor's Comments and Committee Appointments

Mayor Browne stated that earlier this week he, Manager Stasiak, Councilman Brown and Director Priddy had met at Lake McAlester with private citizens that were interested in improving and secure that area. He commented on the Opioid Seminar at the Expo beginning July 10th and running for several days. he stated that on Friday there would be a Town Hall meeting that was being held by the organizers of the event. He stated that at the next meeting there would be an item for discussion concerning disorderly structures, where crime was occurring and addressing the issue through the owners.

Recess Council Meeting

Councilman Smith moved to recess the Regular Meeting and convene the Authorities. The motion was seconded by Councilman Read. There was no discussion, and the vote was taken as follows:

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

Mayor Browne declared the motion carried and the meeting was recessed at 8:00 P.M.

Reconvene Council Meeting

The Regular Meeting was reconvened at 8:01 P.M.

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 Vice-Mayor Stevens. There was no discussion, and the vote was taken as follows:

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

Mayor Browne declared the motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:01 P.M.

ATTEST:

John Browne, Mayor

Cora Middleton, City Clerk