

The McAlester City Council met in an Emergency session on Monday, September 30, 2019, at 5:00 P.M. after proper notice and agenda was posted, September 30, 2019 at 3:53 P.M.

Call to Order

Mayor Browne called the meeting to order. He then asked Attorney Ervin to verify that the Council was conducting a legal meeting.

Attorney Ervin stated that Manager Stasiak had contacted him explaining the situation. He commented that there were three (3) factual requirements that must exist and Manager Stasiak had met all of those. He stated that it was proper for the Council to hold an Emergency Meeting. He added that this was not a Special Meeting but an Emergency Meeting and he reviewed the process that needed to be followed.

Roll Call

Council Roll Call was as follows:

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

Staff Present: Peter Stasiak, City Manager; Toni Ervin, Assistant City Manager; Stephanie Giacomo, Grant Writer/Public Information Officer; Gary Wansick, Police Chief; William J. Ervin, City Attorney and Cora Middleton, City Clerk

Scheduled Business

1. Discussion of the current water shortage and possible action to allocate resources in order to restore full services and declaring an emergency. (*Cully Stevens, Ward Two Councilman, Travis Read, Ward Three Councilman, James Brown, Ward Four Councilman, Zach Prichard, Ward Six Councilman*)

Executive Summary

Authorization for the City Manager to expend up to \$50,000 for contract labor, rental equipment, materials, and supplies to restore services.

Manager Stasiak addressed the Council explaining that he had received a text at 2:47 P.M. from Councilman Prichard stating that he, Councilmen Read, Smith and Brown were calling an Emergency Meeting today at 5:00 P.M. and the only agenda item is the "Discussion of the current water shortage and possible action to allocate resources in order to restore full services." He stated that he appreciated the text and he wanted the press to understand that this was properly notified, the agenda had been produced and posted in a timely manner and all steps were followed.

Manager Stasiak explained that he was notified yesterday of water pressure issues with in the City and he contacted the Utility Maintenance Division, who immediately began patrolling the interior City limits to see if anything was running abnormally. He stated that later yesterday afternoon he contacted the Streets Division and they began searching the rural water district areas that the City services. He stated that it was estimated that the Plant was producing 175,000 to 200,000 gallons an hour and very little of that was getting to the City. He added that the towers were losing ground rapidly. He explained that in an area near Highway 31 there was a creek with a swampy area and it was noticed that water was running and realized that was the 12" line that serviced the Steven Taylor Industrial Park. He stated that once they isolated and shut down that line, notifying all of those customers, the water supply started increasing in the towers. He added that all of the towers were very low at that time. He explained that at 3:30 P.M. this afternoon they were able to confirm that the line under the creek was broken and feeding the swamp. He stated that the water levels in the towers were building until the lunch

hour when the system started being highly used. He added that at that time the Buffalo and Carl Albert Towers finally went dry and the City had to notify the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality and issued a voluntary, precautionary boil order for the City of McAlester and all of the Rural Water Districts it serves. Manager Stasiak stated that until the line was repaired and water sample tests came back clean, the City and Water Districts would remain under the voluntary, precautionary boil order and that could be around Wednesday.

Mayor Browne clarified that it was not a mandatory boil order.

Manager Stasiak stated that it was not at this time.

Councilman Smith commented that the break had been found and asked when it would be fixed.

Manager Stasiak stated that a contractor was on site, pipe was on its way and what the City was asking for was “authorization to expend up to \$50,000.00 for contract labor, rental equipment, materials, and supplies to restore services.”

There was discussion concerning the material of the current pipe, what type of pipe would replace it, how that pipe would be welded and fused, and it would be moved on top of the ground.

Manager Stasiak stated that he would like to install a new valve that would help isolate that Seminole line and decrease the number of customers affected if that line were to break again in the future.

There was discussion concerning the amount of funding needed to repair the line, and if the money would go back into the fund if the repairs were less than the \$50,000.00 that was being requested.

Councilman Prichard moved to authorize the City Manager to expend up to \$50,000 for contract labor, rental equipment, materials, and supplies to restore services. The motion was seconded by Councilman Smith. There was no further discussion, and the vote was taken as follows:

AYE: Councilman Prichard, Smith, Read, Brown, Harrison & Mayor Browne

NAY: None

Mayor Browne declared the motion carried.

Councilman Read moved to declare this an Emergency. The motion was seconded by Councilman Smith.

Before the vote, Manager Stasiak informed the Council that it was anticipated that the line would be repaired sometime in the early morning. He stated that Berry Plastics, one of the biggest users at the Industrial Park, had successfully shut down before the plant had ran out of water and would probably not come back online until the second shift tomorrow afternoon.

There was a brief discussion concerning this being a permanent or temporary fix, if the County would be involved in the funding and repair, if there was a fire danger due to the low water pressure and water levels in the towers, how the City employees that were involved in the location and initial repair were being compensated, and which Rural Water Districts were affected.

Manager Stasiak stated that when the employees were sent home, they were on overtime for any hours over their regular work hours.

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

AYE: Councilman Read, Smith, Brown, Harrison, Prichard & Mayor Browne

NAY: None

Mayor Browne declared the motion carried.

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

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

Mayor Browne declared the motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 5:17 P.M.

ATTEST:

John Browne, Mayor

Cora Middleton, City Clerk