

The McAlester City Council met in a Regular session on Tuesday, February 25, 2020, at 6:00 P.M. after proper notice and agenda was posted, February 21, 2020 at 10:40 A.M.

Call to Order

Mayor Browne called the meeting to order.

Councilwoman Maureen Harrison 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 & John Browne

Absent: Zach Prichard

Presiding: John Browne, Mayor

Staff Present: Pete Stasiak, City Manager; Toni Ervin, Assistant City Manager; Stephanie Giacomo, Grant Writer/Public Information Officer; Sherri Swift, CFO; Brett Brewer, Fire Chief; Jayme Clifton, Community Development Director; Billy Sumner, SE Expo/Tourism Manager; William J. Ervin, City Attorney and Cora Middleton, City Clerk

Councilman Prichard arrived at 6:01 P.M.

Mayor Browne presented Councilman Read with plaque of appreciation and a watch for his years of service to the City.

Councilman Read thanked the Manager Stasiak and all of the City employees for all of he support that was given to him and for the job that they do for the citizens. He stated that it had been a privilege for him to work with the Mayors and Councilmembers.

Swearing-In Ceremony

Judge Deborah Hackler administered the Oath of Office to Mayor-elect John Browne and to Third Ward Councilman-elect Steve Cox.

Recognition and Awards

Mayor Browne issued a proclamation recognizing March as “Black History Month”.

Coluah Watts-Stanfield addressed the Council expressing appreciation for the proclamation recognizing “Black History Month”, the street bearing her late father’s name and the memorial to Rev. Wade Watts at the end of the street.

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 January 28, 2020, Regular Meeting of the McAlester City Council. *(Cora Middleton, City Clerk)*

- B. Approval of Claims for February 5, 2020 through February 18, 2020. *(Sherri Swift, Chief Financial Officer)* In the following amounts: General Fund - \$116,880.73; Parking Authority - \$110.53; Nutrition - \$1,496.74; Educational Fund - \$41,908.15; Tourism Fund - \$7,214.31; Se Expo Center - \$14,098.70; E-911 - \$10,084.84; Economic Development - \$5,914.00; Grants & Contributions – \$735.00; Fleet Maintenance - \$2,374.18; Worker’s Compensation - \$1,750.00; CIP Fund - \$10,940.64; Technology Fund - \$314.81; Stormwater Fund - \$38,290.54; Infrastructure Fund - \$24,908.73 and MRHC-Cancer Center Fund - \$41,908.15.

- C. Consider and act upon, a request from Sheriff Chris Morris, on behalf of the Oklahoma Sheriff’s Association (OSA), to partner with them for the rental fee and use of the McAlester Expo Center, Room 103 for a free educational workshop and seminar, scheduled for March 16th, 17th & 18th, 2020 in the amount of \$2,100.00. *(Billy Sumner, EXPO Manager)*

A motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made by Councilman Smith and seconded by Councilman Brown.

There was no 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.

Scheduled Business

1. Presentation of the McAlester Regional Health Center Update. (*David Keith, McAlester Regional Health Center*)

Executive Summary
Presentation.

David Keith, CEO McAlester Regional Health Center addressed the Council reviewing updating and reviewing them on the hospital's strategic plan, long term objectives, short term objectives, community impact and its' critical success factors. He reviewed the improvements in customer service, quality control improvements, the critical care services and the opioid reduction program. Mr. Keith reviewed the movement to Telemedicine and the improvement in technology. He updated the Council on the expansion of the hospital facilities within the City and throughout Southeastern Oklahoma. He reviewed the physicians that had been recruited during the past year and he updated the Council on new services that were planned, the various medical partners and the economic impact the hospital had in the area.

There was discussion concerning the treatment of patients that presented opioid addiction, mental health issues, hiring practices improvements, the Cancer Center's services, the VA Clinic, where health care would be in the next ten (10) years, and how Telemedicine could aid with medical services in rural areas.

There was no action taken on this item.

2. Discussion and consideration of an ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of McAlester by creating Property Maintenance Standards. (*Jayme Clifton, Community Development Director*)

Executive Summary

Staff recommends that the City Council give a first reading of a draft ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of McAlester by creating Property Maintenance Standards.

Director Clifton addressed the Council explaining that this was the first reading of a draft ordinance that staff had worked to provide to the Council. She commented that this was to create minimum property standards.

There was discussion concerning the review of the ordinance, allowing the Council more time to review and discuss an ordinance, why couldn't the issues be addressed with the existing code, what City staff could do if it was determined that a resident did not have a water account, having all of the notifications in writing, the entities that the department had worked with, the penalties that were related to these violations, the number of structures that could be affected by this ordinance and how this would be a way to enforce issues with structures that have already received complaints on.

There was no action taken on this item.

3. Discussion and possible action on considering one 2012 Ford F-350 ambulance, from the McAlester Fire Department, as surplus. (*Brett Brewer, Fire Chief*)

Executive Summary

Motion to approve considering one 2012 Ford F-350 ambulance from the McAlester Fire Department as surplus. (vin # 1FDRF3HTXCEB24964)

Chief Brewer addressed the Council explaining that the Council had approved the purchase of a new cab and chassis for the purchase of remounting the 2012 F350 ambulance. He stated that the 2012 cab and chassis needed to be declared surplus and Emergency Service Supply had offered the City \$2,500.00 as trade toward the cost of the remount.

Mayor Browne asked if \$2,500.00 was a fair amount and Chief Brewer stated that it was.

A motion to approve the 2012 Ford F-350 ambulance as surplus 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.

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

Executive Summary

Discussion.

CFO Swift addressed the Council updating them on the City's financial status as of January 31, 2020. During her update CFO Swift reviewed the General Fund and the MPWA Fund at a glance commenting that revenue in both funds was under budget, the expenditures in the General Fund were over budget and the expenditures in the MPWA Fund were under budget. She stated that staff was taking steps to control the spending to get the finances in line. She then reviewed the sales and use tax revenue, the residential, commercial, water districts and wholesale water sales. She commented that staff was looking at issues that could be contributing to the decrease in water sales. CFO Swift finished the update with a review of the Treasury Report and informed the Council that the CD that had been used to purchase the vehicles had been added to the report.

There was a brief discussion concerning wholesale water sales in April and May of last year, what staff would do if sales didn't get to Budget, the decreasing balance on the Treasury Report, the replacement of some of the master meters in the Rural Districts, and if those meters were smart meters.

Manager Stasiak stated that he would be addressing these issues in his Manager's report and all new meters were smart meters.

There was no action 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.

There was no new business.

City Manager's Report

- Report on activities for the past two weeks.

Manager Stasiak reported that the new website was on schedule to launch on March 6, 2020. He invited everyone to the handoff of the Deed to the Okla Theatre on March 19, 2020. The preliminary draft of the Benefit Study had been received. He commented that the City has seen the slow down of the economy and the oil and gas activity was now gone. He reported that sales tax was down in November, flat for December and down again for January. He commented that it was reminiscent of 2009/2010 but we weren't there. He stated that the layoffs at Spirit had not been reflected in the numbers yet and he would be presenting a formal plan to address the situation in the near future. He commented that the Storm Water fee and the Infrastructure sales tax would help to keep things moving in those areas. He stated that Tourism/Expo funding was at 6% and has been expanded to help with the maintenance of some of the parks, the 911 fee would take care of 911 services and the bulk of sales tax revenue went to Police and Fire. He stated that the City was in a situation where it needed to pull back and look at everything carefully.

Councilwoman Harrison inquired about the Water Treatment Plant transformer. She also inquired about the water sampling equipment mentioned in the report from Inframark.

Manager Stasiak explained that the transformer that had went down, was approximately sixty (60) years old and parts could not be found. He stated that a used transformer had been located and the purchase of that transformer would be brought before the Council for approval and sending the existing transformer out for repairs. He added that cost would be about \$60,000.00. Manager Stasiak explained that was a list of needs from the Water Treatment Plant and at the next Council meeting the 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan would be presented to the Council. He added that all of the departments needs would be prioritized when presented.

Councilman Prichard inquired about the status of the 2nd Street repairs, the cost of that project and what fund would cover that expense.

Manager Stasiak explained that the City had been bumped by the manufacturer for a customer that needed multiple manholes. He stated that we should receive the replacement manhole this week and as soon as it was received a contractor would ready to begin work. He added that the cost should be less than \$10,000.00 and the funding would be a combination of Stormwater and Infrastructure.

Remarks and Inquiries by City Council

Councilman Smith welcomed new Councilmember Steve Cox.

Councilman Brown welcomed new Councilmember Cox and commented on the McAlester High School Buffalo basketball team.

Councilwoman Harrison welcomed new Councilmember Cox and congratulated Mayor Browne on his re-election. She thanked the City Clerk for her help with the proclamations. She then congratulated Councilman Brown for the award he had received this past Sunday from Mount Nebo Baptist Church in Hartshorne. She added that the other recipients were Rosalyn Jones, Emma Watts and Jamelle Holieway.

Councilmembers Stevens, Cox and Prichard did not have any comments for the evening.

Mayor's Comments and Committee Appointments

Mayor Browne welcomed new Councilmember Cox and updated the Council on the status of the Hotel/Motel tax matter. He stated that the LEAD Committee would be meeting again on March 10, 2020 at noon to re-address the Hotel/Motel tax issue. He added that there would be an action item on the agenda for the March 10, 2020 Council meeting and the results of the LEAD Committee's opinion would be available at that time but the Council could still not take any action on the Hotel/Motel tax issue at that time.

Recess Council Meeting

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

There was no 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 and the meeting was recessed at 7:31 P.M.

Reconvene Council Meeting

The Regular Meeting was reconvened at 7:33 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 Councilman Prichard.

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

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

NAY: None

Mayor Browne declared the motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:33 P.M.

ATTEST:

John Browne, Mayor

Cora Middleton, City Clerk