

The McAlester City Council met in an Emergency session on Tuesday, March 17, 2020, at 5:30 P.M. after proper notice and agenda was posted, March 17, 2020 at 11:15 A.M.

Call to Order

Mayor Browne called the meeting to order.

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; Kara Coy, Chief Accountant; William J. Ervin, City Attorney and Cora Middleton, City Clerk

Scheduled Business

1. Discussion and possible action on, the transfer of funds from the City's Emergency Fund to be used for emergency expenditures due to a nation-wide pandemic of the COVID-19 virus and anticipated revenue reductions as a result of this emergency. (*John Browne, Mayor*)

Executive Summary

Staff recommends the approval of the use of these funds as per the procedure stated in Sec. 2-351 of the McAlester City Code.

Councilwoman Harrison asked how this would affect the cemeteries.

Manager Stasiak stated that the Cemetery was running.

Mayor Browne commented that the City was getting this in place in case of an emergency. He then read the resolution that gave the City Manager authority to access the Emergency Fund up to \$500,000.00 as needed to cover shortfalls of the monthly revenues and expenses of the City during the Pandemic concerning the COVID-19 virus.

Mayor Browne moved to approve RESOLUTION NO. 20-07, temporarily authorizing the City Manager to access the City's emergency fund in the event of an emergency during the Pandemic concerning the CPVID-19 virus. The motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Stevens.

Before the vote, Councilwoman Harrison asked if there were enough funds in the Emergency Fund.

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

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

NAY: None

Mayor Browne declared the motion carried.

2. Discussion and possible action on, the increase of the expenditure amount authorized for the City Manager from \$25,000 to \$50,000 before requiring a vote of the Council due to a nation-wide pandemic of the COVID-19 virus and anticipated revenue reductions as a result of this emergency. (*John Browne, Mayor*)

Executive Summary

Staff recommends the approval of this increase previously authorized as per Sec. 2-382 of the McAlester City Code. This will provide immediate access to funds in cases that are deemed emergencies and where delays might endanger public health and welfare.

Mayor Browne read a resolution that temporarily increased the City Manager's authorized expenditures limit from \$25,000.00 to \$50,000.00 during the pandemic concerning the COVID-19 virus.

Mayor Browne moved to approve RESOLUTION NO. 20-08, temporarily increasing the City Manager's authorized expenditure limit from \$25,000.00 to \$50,000.00 during the Pandemic concerning the COVID-19 virus. The motion was seconded by Councilman Cox, and the vote was taken as follows:

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

NAY: None

Mayor Browne declared the motion carried.

3. Discussion and possible action on, the suspension of the 10-day past due cut off policy for utilities during a nation-wide pandemic of the COVID-19 virus. This has been declared a national emergency. (*John Browne, Mayor*)

Executive Summary

Staff recommends the approval of this action for as long as the national emergency is in force.

Mayor Browne read a resolution temporarily suspending the City of McAlester's ten (10) day past due cut off policy for utilities during the pandemic concerning the COVID-19 virus.

Mayor Browne moved to approve RESOLUTION NO. 20-09, temporarily suspending the City of McAlester's ten (10) day past due cut off policy for utilities during the pandemic concerning the COVID-19 virus. The motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Stevens, and the vote was taken as follows:

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

NAY: None

Mayor Browne declared the motion carried.

Mayor Browne read a proclamation declaring a State of Emergency within the city limits of the City of McAlester until 12:01 A.M. on April 5, 2020 or until terminated earlier or extended by further proclamation, signed this date. He explained that precautions that were being recommended at this time.

There was discussion concerning a bill in the State legislature that would allow for video conferencing during the Pandemic, the Council following the same guidelines as were being recommended to the public, that the Council would follow the law if and when it was passed, how a Fifth Ward nursing home was limiting visitation at its' facility and the restaurants in Fifth Ward already following the recommendations.

Mayor Browne urged all to stay away from other people as much as possible during this time.

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

NAY: None

Mayor Browne declared the motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 5:42 P.M.

ATTEST:

John Browne, Mayor

Cora Middleton, City Clerk