

Council Conference Room  
Municipal Building  
June 9, 2008

The McAlester City Council met in Special session on Monday, June 9, 2008, at 6:00 P.M. after proper notice and agenda was posted June 5, 2008, at 4:00 P.M.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Lewis called the meeting to order. Council Roll Call was as follows:

Present: Weldon Smith, Buddy Garvin, Sam Mason, Donnie Condit, Haven  
Wilkinson & Mayor Lewis  
Absent: Travis Read  
Presiding: Don Lewis, Mayor

Staff Present: Mark Roath, City Manager; David Burke, City Treasurer; George  
Marcangeli, City Engineer/Public Works Director; Jim Lyles, Police  
Chief; David Medley, Utilities Director; Harold Stewart, Fire Chief; Mel  
Priddy, Community Services Director and Cora Middleton, City Clerk

**SCHEDULED BUSINESS**

**1. FY 2008-2009 Budget Workshop**

Mayor Lewis called the FY 2008-2009 Budget Workshop to order and commented on the amount of work that Mr. Roath and Mr. Burke had been done to prepare the preliminary budget. He added that there had been a considerable amount of input from the staff, Council and citizens.

Mark Roath reviewed the workshop schedule and the budget message. He commented that the new Charter changed the Reserve Fund to the Emergency Fund and that a modest amount had been set aside for the Pride in McAlester program. He stated that this budget was a reality check. He added that the staff had been adapting to the new organizational chart that the Council had adopted. He then reviewed the organizational chart and the department's goals and objectives.

David Burke reviewed the revenues for the General Fund and MPWA. He emphasized that the sales tax had been very conservatively estimated and that the price of fuel would have a considerable effect on the budget. He added that they would have to watch the economy.

Councilman Smith asked about the back log on fine collections, the oil and gas leases and about the transfer from the MPWA. He also asked if these totals were year to date calculations.

Mr. Burke stated that transfers between funds were not unusual in government entities. He also answered that the calculations were as of May 30, 2008.

Mark Roath began the discussion of the General Fund expenses. He commented that the Council's budget included operating expenses. He stated that this would help to reflect the actual costs. He then reviewed the Managers budget, Personnel's budget and the Safety Division's budget. He also reviewed the Legal Division's budget and mentioned the advertisement for the City Attorney's position.

The City Clerk reviewed her budget for the Council stating that most of the amounts were very similar to the previous budget with increases for advertisement and a modest amount to paint her office.

Mel Priddy reviewed the budgets for the divisions of the Community Services Department. He explained the changes and creations of the different divisions, namely nutrition.

There was discussion regarding the Nutrition Program, the change in the amount of the grant for the Nutrition Program, why the grant for the Airport was not in the Budget and what the three phase electrical improvement at the Expo was.

Mr. Roath stated that they only budget a grant if it has been awarded and then only the matching amount if needed.

There was discussion among the Council concerning the Hotel/Motel tax, the partnering amount and the City's Information Technology System.

David Burke reviewed the budgets of the Court, Information Technology and the Utility Office.

There was discussion of the benefits of the City converting to automated water meters and electronic billing.

David Burke then reviewed the General Fund and MPWA Interdepartmental accounts.

There was discussion regarding workers compensation and its related costs.

At 7:49 P.M. Mayor Lewis called for a five minute recess.

Councilman Condit left at this time to attend a required School Board meeting.

The workshop reconvened at 7:54 P.M.

Harold Stewart reviewed the Fire Departments budget.

Mayor Lewis asked about the increase in health insurance.

Mr. Roath commented that they had budgeted for a thirty percent increase. He stated that the City had some unusual health care problems. He explained that the insurance had

paid out 1.65 more in claims than they had received in premiums. He stated that the City currently pays one hundred percent of the employee's premium and the employees paid for their spouses and dependents. He added that not many of the employees could afford dependent coverage. He stated that the information regarding the options that the insurance company was offering would be reviewed and the recommendations would be brought to Council as soon as they were received.

Chief Stewart continued the review of the Fire Department's budget and commented that the department had reviewed the safety procedures for handling equipment.

Mark Roath reviewed the budget for the Planning and Community Development Department. During this review he commented on annexation and code enforcement.

Jim Lyles reviewed the budget for the Police Department and its divisions. There was a brief discussion regarding the Animal Control Division and the County animal shelter.

George Marcangeli reviewed the budgets for the Public Works Department and its divisions. During the review there was discussion regarding the controls for the use of the fuel cards and the reports that could be used to verify all purchases. There was also discussion concerning the possibility of a lease purchase for the equipment that was needed at the landfill. During this discussion, Mr. Roath commented that before a lease purchase was pursued the Solid Waste program would need to be reviewed.

Councilman Mason commented that over a year ago there had been a discussion about dedicating a percentage of the Subtitle D fee for future landfill cells.

There was discussion regarding the life of the present landfill and requirements to close and or open a landfill.

David Medley reviewed the Utilities Department's budget in detail.

Mark Roath stated that the Budgets for the Special Funds and the Capital program were all that was left to review. He recommended that the Council finish the discussion at the regular meeting that was scheduled for the next day.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council, Councilman Garvin moved for the Special Meeting to be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wilkinson and the vote was taken as follows:

AYE: Councilman Smith, Wilkinson, Garvin, Mason & Mayor Lewis

NAY: None

Mayor Lewis declared the motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:18 P.M.

ATTEST:

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Don R. Lewis, Mayor

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Cora Middleton, City Clerk