

Council Conference Room  
Municipal Building  
October 8, 2009

The McAlester City Council met in Special session on Thursday, October 8, 2009, at 6:00 P.M. after proper notice and agenda was posted, October 2, 2009, at 12:00 P.M.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Priddle called the meeting to order.

**ROLL CALL**

Council Roll Call was as follows:

Present: Chris Fiedler, John Browne, Haven Wilkinson, Buddy Garvin, Sam Mason & Mayor Priddle  
Absent: Donnie Condit  
Presiding: Kevin E. Priddle, Mayor

Staff Present: Pete Stasiak, Acting City Manager; Gayla Duke, Chief Financial Officer; Harold Stewart, Fire Chief; Jim Lyles, Police Chief; David Medley, Utilities Director; Mel Priddy, Community Services Director; John Modzelewski, Public Works Director/City Engineer and Cora Middleton, City Clerk

**SCHEDULED BUSINESS**

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- 1. Review, and discussion of City of McAlester's revenues, expenses, FY 2009-2010 Budget, economic conditions and possible adjustments and solutions.** *(Kevin E. Priddle, Mayor)*

Mayor Priddle opened the meeting explaining that this meeting was meant to be a workshop so there could be good interaction among the group. He stated that he had a quick power point. He commented that his thinking had been, if we waited for the mid-year budget review it would be about three (3) or four (4) months too late and since we had just finished the first quarter this would be a good time to review. Mayor Priddle then began his power point presentation reviewing the last three (3) months. He mentioned that unemployment was considered a "lagging indicator" of economic recovery. He commented that research indicated that people were saving instead of spending and this could have a negative effect on the job market. He added that people in the United States tend to have short memories concerning good or bad economic events and they would eventually begin to spend again. He then remarked about the decline in the revenues that were available to the City. He commented that at this time the City appeared to be back at the revenue level in 2007. He continued that if we have the same pattern as last year we could be down about \$880 thousand in the General Ledger, but that was only a guess. Mayor Priddle then stated that the City was behind budget on expenses.

Steve Harrison stated that he agreed with the Mayor's General Fund forecast.

Gayla Duke distributed information to the group and commented that the Directors were working as a team and were putting forth a great effort. She commented that she had been working with Deanna Crawford and they had started audit prep and would have a rough draft of the financials by the end of October. She stated that she felt comfortable that the only fund that might be short in estimated fund balance was the Airport.

Mr. Stasiak mentioned to the Council that before former City Manager, Mark Roath left he had put out a memo about decreasing expenditures. He stated that the department heads had already been watching expenses. He commented that the finance department had been reviewing the expenditures made on this fiscal years street repairs to verify those expenses had been recorded correctly. He reported that he and a group of department heads had met with a representative from Siemens about possible alternatives with the City's water meters.

There was a lengthy discussion among the Council, Mr. Stasiak and Ms. Duke concerning the water meters, utility fees collection, water rates, early retirement for employees, developing ways to control workers compensation costs, the use of a grant writer, personnel expenses, use of natural gas instead of gasoline, the correct vehicle for the department and fleet maintenance.

Mr. Stasiak stated that the RFP for privatization of the landfill was partway through and they were looking to verify what the best system for the City was.

Councilman Mason stressed the importance of the water quality and needing to take control of expenses.

Mayor Priddle stated that he felt that Mr. Stasiak and the staff had already started working on controlling expenditures.

There was a brief discussion concerning the water plant and consent orders on the plant, mid-year budget amendment, auto draft or online payment of utility bills and the water storage tanks.

Mr. Stasiak commented that there would be a plan in the near future to deal with problems and there was a list of short and long term goals. He added that they were taking the right path and reducing costs and reviewing revenues.

Mr. Modzelewski reported that the City was working with PSO in the model cities program; they had conducted an energy audit and hoped to see result of that soon. They were pursuing a storm water fee where any one that used the storm water system would be paying their share for maintaining and improving the system.

Mayor Priddle closed the meeting commenting that he was encouraged and he would rather see two (2) projects started and finished and continue to move forward.

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion among the Council, Councilman Browne moved for adjournment. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wilkinson. There was no discussion, and the vote was taken as follows:

AYE: Councilman Fiedler, Browne, Wilkinson, Garvin, Mason & Mayor Priddle  
NAY: None

Mayor Priddle declared the motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 P.M.

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Kevin E. Priddle, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Cora Middleton, City Clerk