

Council Conference Room  
Municipal Building  
December 1, 2009

The McAlester City Council met in Special session on Tuesday, December 1, 2009, at 6:00 P.M. after proper notice and agenda was posted, November 24, 2009, at 10:05 A.M.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Priddle called the meeting to order.

**ROLL CALL**

Council Roll Call was as follows:

Present: Chris Fiedler, Donnie Condit, John Browne, Haven Wilkinson, Buddy Garvin, Sam Mason & Mayor Priddle

Absent: None

Presiding: Kevin E. Priddle, Mayor

Staff Present: Pete Stasiak, Acting City Manager; Gayla Duke, Chief Financial Officer; John Modzelewski, Public Works Director/City Engineer and Cora Middleton, City Clerk

Mayor Priddle gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman Browne moved to recess the Special Meeting for an Executive Session to discuss negotiations concerning employees and representatives of employee groups, in accordance with Title 25, Sec. 307.B.2. The motion was seconded by Councilman Condit.

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

AYE: Councilman Fiedler, Condit, Browne, Wilkinson, Garvin, Mason & Mayor Priddle

NAY: None

Mayor Priddle declared the motion carried and the meeting was recessed at 5:32 P.M.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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*Recess into Executive Session in compliance with Section Title 25 Section 307 (B), et.seq. Oklahoma Statutes, to wit:*

- **Section 307 (B) (2) – Discuss negotiations concerning employees and representatives of employee groups.**

**RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION**

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*Take any action as a result from Executive Session.*

The Special Meeting was reconvened at 7:27 P.M. Mayor Priddle reported that the Council had recessed the Special Meeting for an Executive Session to discuss negotiations concerning employees and representatives of employee groups, in accordance with Title 25, Sec. 307.B.2. Only that matter was discussed, no action was taken, and the Council returned to open session at 7:27 P.M., and this constituted the Minutes of the Executive Session.

Mayor Priddle reported that the Council had just been briefed by Mr. Stasiak of the Budget shortfalls. He thanked Mr. Stasiak, Ms. Duke and the Administrative staff for all of the work that had been done. Mayor Priddle then moved to implement a hiring freeze and allow the Acting City Manager to make determinations on essential positions and fill those positions as he feels necessary. The motion was seconded by Councilman Browne.

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

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

Mayor Priddle declared the motion carried.

Mayor Priddle stated that the City of McAlester Department Heads have submitted an itemized list of budget savings in the amount of approximately \$353,000.00 they believe could be instituted. He commented that he felt it was important that as the City progresses with reductions in the budget, that the budget be reduced by those amounts. Mayor Priddle moved to modify the budget relative to the departmental savings indicated by the Acting City Manager, the Chief Financial Officer and the Department Heads in the amount of \$353,000.00 effective with the next regularly scheduled Council meeting when the budget amendment could be prepared. The motion was seconded by Councilman Mason.

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

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

Mayor Priddle declared the motion carried.

Mayor Priddle commented that one of the items that had been suggested, that was unfortunately necessary, to achieve what is believed to be a one (1) million dollar shortfall will be a furlough of the employees. He added that it would be for seven (7) days, one (1) day a month for the next seven (7) months pending a monthly review. He then moved to institute one (1) furlough day a month City wide to include all positions from the City Manager down effective in the month of December, 2009 through the month of June, 2010, at the present time unless modified later by Council. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wilkinson.

Before the vote, Councilman Browne asked if this action was requested of the bargaining unit employees and not mandated. Mr. Stasiak commented that was correct and he would be meeting with the Unions immediately.

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

AYE: Councilman Wilkinson, Garvin, Mason, Condit, Browne & Mayor Priddle

NAY: Councilman Fiedler

Mayor Priddle declared the motion carried.

Mayor Priddle reported that the Acting City Manager had a plan that would be presented to the City employees tomorrow in meetings that would begin at 8:00 A.M. He explained that the plan, that he would consider as a voluntary resignation program, would offer an incentive based on years of service to employees who might be contemplating making a change and would like a financial incentive to do that. He then moved to authorize the Acting City Manager to offer an incentive plan based on years of service for a voluntary resignations program. The motion was seconded by Councilman Condit.

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

AYE: Councilman Garvin, Mason, Fiedler, Condit Browne, Wilkinson & Mayor Priddle

NAY: None

Mayor Priddle declared the motion carried.

Mayor Priddle moved for Council support of the Acting City Manager in the event of necessary layoffs that he may deem necessary to keep the City within the constraints of what the current economic situation were. The motion was seconded by Councilman Mason.

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

AYE: Councilman Mason, Fiedler, Condit, Wilkinson, Garvin & Mayor Priddle

NAY: Councilman Browne

Mayor Priddle declared the motion carried.

Mayor Priddle commented that he appreciated everyone's time this evening. He stated that everyone hoped and what was believed was that these actions were consistent, reasonable, fair and would help get the City to the right number. He continued that these actions would at the present time, should help to the tune of \$1,038,000.00. He added that was not the projected shortfall. It was probably close to two (2) million dollars but that was a moving target depending on what happened every month. Mayor Priddle stated that this would be looked at each month. He then thanked Mr. Stasiak and his staff for all of their hard work.

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion among the Council, Councilman Browne moved for adjournment. The motion was seconded by Councilman Mason. 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