

Council Chambers
Municipal Building
July 11, 2017

The McAlester City Council met in a Regular session on Tuesday, July 11, 2017, at 6:00 P.M. after proper notice and agenda was posted, July 10, 2017 at 4:45 P.M.

Call to Order

Mayor Browne called the meeting to order.

Vice-Mayor Karr gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Council Roll Call was as follows:

Present: Weldon Smith, Cully Stevens, Travis Read, Robert Karr, Jason Barnett & John Browne

Absent: Buddy Garvin

Presiding: John Browne, Mayor

Staff Present: Peter J. Stasiak, City Manager; David Horinek, Public Works Director; Jayme Clifton, Community Development Director; Toni Ervin, CFO; Gary Wansick, Police Chief; Brett Brewer, Fire Chief; Kirk Ridenour, Economic Development Director; William J. Ervin, City Attorney and Cora Middleton, City Clerk

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.

Gabriel Santiago, 1 Colonial Circle addressed the Council asking them to fix his road. He distributed photos of the road in front of his home.

Zach Prichard, 520 S. 2nd, addressed the Council commenting that the City seemed to have problems effectively communicating with the community to get input and disperse information.

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 June 13, 2017, Regular Meeting of the McAlester City Council. (Cora Middleton, City Clerk)

- B. Approval of Claims for June 21, 2017 through July 5, 2017. (*Toni Ervin, Chief Financial Officer*) General Fund - \$188,026.53; Nutrition - \$2,334.65; Landfill Res./Sub-Title D - \$5,460.00; Tourism Fund - \$12,794.13; SE Expo Center - \$27,602.39; E-911 - \$1,922.97; Economic Development - \$4,130.85; Grants & Contributions - \$3,554.75; Fleet Maintenance - \$8,229.34; Worker's Compensation - \$1,883.36; CIP Fund - \$38,940.45; Technology Fund - \$2,474.56 and Stormwater Fund - \$26,722.41.
- C. Consider and act upon, signing a lease with Miller Office Supply for lease of a copier for the Expo Office. (*Toni Ervin, Chief Financial Officer*)
- D. Consider and act upon, approval of a request from McAlester Public Schools to partner with them for the rental fee for the use of the Southeast Expo Center Room 103 for their "Back to School Kickoff" set for August 4, 2017 in the amount of \$315.00. (*Toni Ervin, Chief Financial Officer*)
- E. Consider and act upon, approval of a request from McAlester Public Schools to partner with them for the rental fee for the use of the Southeast Expo Center Expo Hall for their Technology Expo set for November 16 & 17, 2017 in the amount of \$1,500.00. (*Toni Ervin, Chief Financial Officer*)
- F. Concur with the Mayor's appointment of Helen Wheeler, 749 Tennessee Ave., to the Ethics Board for a term to expire February, 2020. (*John Browne, Mayor*)

A motion was made by Councilman Read and seconded by Councilman Smith to approve the Consent Agenda. There was no discussion, and the vote was taken as follows:

AYE: Councilman Read, Smith, Stevens, Karr, Barnett & Mayor Browne
 NAY: None

Mayor Browne declared the motion carried.

Scheduled Business

- 1. Discussion of the ODOT Highway 270 (Carl Albert Parkway) Traffic Signal Project. (*John Browne, Mayor*)

Executive Summary

Discussion of the Signal Project being performed by ODOT along Carl Albert Parkway beginning at A Street and ending at Tandy Town.

Mayor Browne commented that there were strong feelings about this issue on both sides. He stated that this had not been done to create a hardship on anyone. He then turned the floor over to Anthony Echelle, ODOT Division 2 Engineer.

Mr. Echelle addressed the Council reviewing the steps that had been taken by ODOT and the City of McAlester to get to this point in the project. He explained that this was a mutual partnership, it would modernize the remaining signal lights and ODOT's recommendations to remove several of the traffic signals had been based on a National Standards Analysis. He added

that when complete the changes would make Carl Albert Parkway/270 Highway safer for pedestrians and drivers.

There was discussion among the Council and Mr. Echelle concerning the “A” Street intersection, if there was a problem with the Contractor, “U” turns at the hooded left turns, if the speed limit would be decreased, what would be done if speed became an issue, how this change could affect emergency response time, the cost of changing the pedestrian crosswalk around 3rd street to a full signal, the other cities that had this type of traffic control, the height of the barriers in the hooded left turns, and the type of traffic control that would be used at the pedestrian crossings.

The following citizens expressed their concerns with the change to the traffic signals on Carl Albert Parkway/270 Highway:

Mike Pruitt, 213 E. Madison

Lucinda Heikkinen, 312 W. Monroe

Sayer Brenner, 600 Nelson Lane

John Titsworth, 1010 Douglas addressed the Council expressing his support of the project and commented that Carl Albert Parkway was not a city street, but was a federal highway that was there to aid in the transfer of travelers going east and west. He also added that the two (2) highways that had been previously used as examples were bypasses around those communities and not highways through the communities.

The discussion ended with citizens and some Council inquiring if changes to the project could still be made and Mr. Echelle informing them that no changes could be made to the project.

There was no vote on this item.

2. Consider and act upon, approval and authorization for the Mayor to sign a Contract for Services with the McAlester Defense Support Association (MDSA) and McAlester Defense Support Services, Inc. (MDSS) for the support of a full time office and Executive Director position for MDSS. This contract includes shared funding with the MDSA for FY 2017-2018. (*Kevin Priddle, MDSA/MDSS*)

Executive Summary

Motion to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the Contract for Services with MDSA and MDSS.

Manager Stasiak introduced Kevin Priddle as the new President of MDSS.

Mr. Priddle addressed the Council providing them with a written update and reviewed what MDSA and MDSS did for the City and the McAlester Army Ammunition Plant. He added that the plan was to bring in more communities in the future to inform and help support this program.

Mayor Browne commented that it was important that the public know why the City of McAlester had this agreement. He explained that it was illegal for cities to lobby but MDSA could lobby on behalf of the city.

A motion to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the contract for Services with MDSA and MDSS was made by Vice-Mayor Karr and seconded by Councilman Stevens. There was no discussion, and the vote was taken as follows:

AYE: Councilman Karr, Stevens, Read, Barnett, Smith & Mayor Browne

NAY: None

Mayor Browne declared the motion carried.

3. **TABLED FROM THE JUNE 27, 2017 MEETING:** Consider and act upon, to approve the selection of Guernsey as the most suitable firm for the update of the City of McAlester Comprehensive Plan and to authorize staff to begin negotiations with Guernsey for the efforts of negotiating a contract for review, consideration, and approval by the Council. (*Jayme Clifton, Community & Economic Development*)

Executive Summary

Motion to approve the selection of Guernsey as the most suitable firm for the update of the City of McAlester Comprehensive Plan and to authorize staff to begin negotiations with Guernsey, for the efforts of negotiating a contract for review, consideration, and approval by the Council.

Director Clifton addressed the Council informing them that at the Town Hall Meeting on July 6th many of the questions had been answered.

Councilman Stevens inquired about Phase 6 in Guernsey's proposal and Director Clifton stated that modifications could be made to the process.

A motion was made by Councilman Read to approve the selection of Guernsey as the most suitable firm for the update of the City of McAlester Comprehensive Plan and to authorize staff to begin negotiations with Guernsey for the efforts of negotiating a contract for review, consideration, and approval by the Council. The motion was seconded by Councilman Smith. There was no discussion, and the vote was taken as follows:

AYE: Councilman Read, Smith, Karr, Barnett, Stevens & Mayor Browne

NAY: None

Mayor Browne declared the motion carried.

4. Consider and act upon, acceptance and authorization for the Mayor to sign the Change Order No. 2 for the Automatic Meter Reading System by Utility Technology Services, Inc. (*Toni Ervin, Chief Financial Officer, Sherri Swift, Accountant*)

Executive Summary

Staff recommends that the Council approve Change Order No. 2.

Sherri Swift, Accountant addressed the Council updating them on the AMI project and explaining why the Change Order was needed.

Councilman Smith asked if the system was working on the new installed meters, if they were communicating with the citizens and how much the usage had gone up.

Ms. Swift stated that the new meters were working but there was still training to do with staff. She commented that usage had shown to go up but she did not have the figures. She added that she would get that information for him. She stated that this would allow the City to be proactive with the customers.

Councilman Read commented that the leak detection was not working and he was concerned with a contractor that could not perform according to the contract.

Manager Stasiak commented that there had been 150 leaks detected and the Utility office was attempting to get the information out. He added that some of the problems were the pipes that had been previously used and if the issue was a maintenance problem then the City would handle. But if it was the size of the meter then it would be added to the second phase of the project.

There was no further discussion, and a motion was made by Councilman Stevens to accept and authorize the Mayor to sign Change Order No. 2 for the Automatic Meter Reading System by Utility Technology Services, Inc. The motion was seconded by Councilman Smith, and the vote was taken as follows:

AYE: Councilman Stevens, Smith, Karr, Barnett, Read & Mayor Browne

NAY: None

Mayor Browne declared the motion carried.

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 updated the Council on the Residuals Handling Project at the Water Treatment Plant. He informed them that the MCC Controls for the Water Treatment Plant had been ordered, they were being constructed and should be delivered no later than August 25, 2017. He updated the Council on a recent occurrence with Severn Trent, a United Kingdom based company, selling their operations to a U.S. management team and private investors. He added that they would be maintaining the Severn Trent name in the United States but would be moving away from the United Kingdom.

Manager Stasiak stated that he had received news on the construction on the Highway 69 project. He commented that on July 20th from 10:00 P.M. to 6:00 A.M. on July 21st the Comanche intersection and the east side of the frontage road would be shut down so the contractor could install the east side of the frontage road the goes down to Wade Watts. He added that phase one's (1) projected completion date was the end of July first of August.

Manager Stasiak furnished the Council with a list of storm shelters that were available to the public. Which were the McAlester Public Schools Administration Building, the McAlester Police Department and the Emergency Response Center. He added that possible future locations could be the Pittsburg County Sheriff's Complex, the old National Guard Armory and the old Army Reserve Building.

Vice-Mayor Karr inquired about any liability that the City would have with public storm shelters.

Manager Stasiak commented that many communities were recommending that citizens' shelter where you are at and the communities were moving away from public shelters.

Attorney Ervin commented that by law the City was not responsible for the early warning system or providing storm shelters. So nothing by law attaches to the City's liability.

Remarks and Inquiries by City Council

Councilman Stevens inquired about the ordinance that regulated how citizens apply for water service and asked for a copy.

Councilman Read thanked Manager Stasiak for the information on the storm shelters and asked that it be posted on the City's website and Facebook page.

Vice-Mayor Karr suggested that when that information was put out to the community that they be encouraged to go to the shelter early.

Mayor's Comments and Committee Appointments

Mayor Browne asked that a heavy rotation of information regarding the road closure be put out to the community. He then informed the Council that Saturday on Choctaw Avenue there would be quite a few water slides for the citizens to enjoy. He thanked Gabriel Santiago for addressing the Council concerning his road and he thanked everyone that came and expressed their opinion and encouraged the citizens to continue to inform the Council of what they wanted.

Recess Council Meeting

Mayor Browne asked for a motion to recess the Regular Meeting to convene the Authorities. Councilman Stevens moved to recess the Regular Meeting and convene the Authorities. The motion was seconded by Councilman Smith.

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

AYE: Councilman Stevens, Smith, Karr, Barnett, Read & Mayor Browne

NAY: None

Mayor Browne declared the motion carried and the meeting was recessed at 8:25 P.M.

Reconvene Council Meeting

The Regular Meeting was reconvened at 8:26 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 Stevens. There was no discussion, and the vote was taken as follows:

AYE: Councilman Smith, Stevens, Barnett, Read, Karr & Mayor Browne

NAY: None

Mayor Browne declared the motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:26 P.M.

ATTEST:

John Browne, Mayor

Cora Middleton, City Clerk