

Council Chambers
Municipal Building
July 25, 2017

The McAlester City Council met in a Regular session on Tuesday, July 25, 2017, at 6:00 P.M. after proper notice and agenda was posted, July 20, 2017 at 12:31 P.M.

Call to Order

Mayor Browne called the meeting to order.

Councilman Buddy Garvin 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, Buddy Garvin & John Browne
Absent: Jason Barnett
Presiding: John Browne, Mayor

Staff Present: Peter J. Stasiak, City Manager; David Horinek, Public Works Director; Toni Ervin, CFO; William J. Ervin, City Attorney and Cora Middleton, City Clerk

Recognition and Awards

Mayor Browne read a proclamation supporting federal nutrition safety net programs and advocating for programs and public policies that reduce hunger.

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.

There were no Citizen comments.

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 15, 2017, Special Meeting of the McAlester City Council. (Cora Middleton, City Clerk)
- B. Approval of the Minutes from the June 27, 2017, Regular Meeting of the McAlester City Council. (Cora Middleton, City Clerk)

- C. Approval of Claims for July 6, 2017 through July 18, 2017. *(Toni Ervin, Chief Financial Officer)* In the following amounts: General Fund - \$199,603.58; Parking Authority - \$190.70; Nutrition - \$2,648.67; Police Grant Fund - \$665.60; Tourism fund - \$743.77; SE Expo Center - \$11,304.63; E-911 - \$14,071.29; Economic Development - \$8,620.51; Fleet Maintenance - \$4,518.38; Worker’s Compensation - \$57,226.00; CIP Fund - \$9,194.00; Federal Forfeiture Fund - \$15,033.00; Technology Fund - \$3,960.90 and Stormwater Fund - \$1,446.50.
- D. Consider and act upon, a request from Savanna High School, to partner with them for the rental fee for the use of the Southeast Expo Center for ACT Testing for students set for October 3, 2017 in the amount of \$125.00. *(Toni Ervin, Chief Financial Officer)*
- E. Concur with the Mayor’s appointment of David Horinek to Director of the Association for Landfill Financial Assurance’s Board. *(John Browne, Mayor)*
- F. Consider and act upon, authorizing the Mayor to sign a Campus Police Agreement between the Board of Education for the McAlester School District and the City of McAlester. *(Darrell Miller, Deputy Chief of Police)*

Councilman Read requested that Item “F” be removed for individual consideration.

A motion was made by Councilman Read and seconded by Councilman Smith to approve the Consent Agenda items “A through E”.

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

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

NAY: None

Mayor Browne declared the motion carried.

Items Removed from consent Agenda

- F. Consider and act upon, authorizing the Mayor to sign a Campus Police Agreement between the Board of Education for the McAlester School District and the City of McAlester. *(Darrell Miller, Deputy Chief of Police)*

Councilman Read inquired about any responsibility that the City might have should the Campus Police arrest someone. He asked if the school had an agreement with the Sheriff’s department similar to the agreement that the City had.

Manager Stasiak stated that he would get that information for the Council.

Attorney Ervin commented that the Campus Police could ask for City or County charges. But he had not heard of any arrests that the Campus Police had made without either the City or County actually making the arrest.

Councilman Read stated that he didn't want the City to pick up the tab at the jail for a Campus Police arrest.

There was no further discussion, and a motion to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign a Campus Police Agreement between the Board of Education for the McAlester School District and the City of McAlester was made by Councilman Read. The motion was seconded by Councilman Smith, and the vote was taken as follows:

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

NAY: None

Mayor Browne declared the motion carried.

Scheduled Business

1. Discussion and update on Financials. *(Toni Ervin, Chief Financial Officer)*

Executive Summary

Discussion.

CFO Ervin addressed the Council providing them with an in depth review of the City's Bond debt and payments. She reviewed the City Manager's salaries for the past twenty (20) years and highlighted the difference between the salaries and actual pay. She then reviewed the Defined Benefit Pension Plan that had been declared unaffordable in 2012. She added that even though the Defined Benefit Plan had been frozen, the City would have to continue to make payments into that plan for the next thirty (30) years. CFO Ervin continued with a comparison of past practices and how internal controls have been put in place to help improve the City's financial position and its' reputation with the citizens.

There was a brief discussion concerning the CFO's risk assessment of the City, the continued payment of the bonds, the refinancing of the bonds not increasing the debt, why a former City Manager had went to prison, getting the citizens involved and improving communication with the citizens.

The Council thanked CFO Ervin and staff for the presentation and the information that had been provided with it.

There was no vote on this item.

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 informed the Council that the City had been tracking service calls and distributed a list of the calls that had been received in fiscal year 2016/2017. He then explained the information contained in the list. He informed the Council that the City's Code Enforcement office was no longer with the City but Director Clifton and her administrative assistant had been working together and had sent out abatement letters to half of the community. He mentioned the introduced the new Expo/Tourism Manager.

Manager Stasiak informed the Council that through June 28th the new Street Sweeper had removed 324 yards of material off of the streets. He commented that it was his intent to bring proposals for the Sertoma Fields to the Council the first meeting in August. He updated the Council on the AMI system that was replacing 3400 meters in the City. He stated that a meeting to discuss and set strategies needed to be scheduled and he suggested a half-day session on a Saturday. He also brought up the two (2) sales tax issues that would be ending in 2018 and the importance of addressing them by the end of this year.

Remarks and Inquiries by City Council

There were no comments from the Council.

Mayor's Comments and Committee Appointments

Mayor Browne commented on the two (2) local residents, Clyde and Claude Stokes that were to be named as "Chevaliers of the Legion of Honor" by the French Republic for their service during World War II. He added that this was similar to being knighted. He then informed the City Manager of a huge pothole on Springer Avenue close to the tennis courts.

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, Garvin, Read & Mayor Browne
NAY: None

Mayor Browne declared the motion carried and the meeting was recessed at 7:05 P.M.

Reconvene Council Meeting

The Regular Meeting was reconvened at 7:06 P.M.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, Councilman Stevens moved for the meeting to be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Councilman Smith. There was no discussion, and the vote was taken as follows:

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

NAY: None

Mayor Browne declared the motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:07 P.M.

ATTEST:

John Browne, Mayor

Cora Middleton, City Clerk