

The McAlester City Council met in a Special session on Tuesday, November 14, 2017, at 6:00 P.M. after proper notice and agenda was posted, November 13, 2017 at 10:52 A.M.

### **Call to Order**

Mayor Browne called the meeting to order.

### **Roll Call**

Council Roll Call was as follows:

Present: Weldon Smith, Cully Stevens, Robert Karr, Buddy Garvin, Jason Barnett & John Browne  
Absent: Travis Read  
Presiding: John Browne, Mayor

Staff Present: Peter J. Stasiak, City Manager; David Horinek, Public Works Director; Kirk Ridenour, Economic Development Director; Toni Ervin, CFO 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.*

No comments.

### **Scheduled Business**

1. Discussion of the expiring Economic Development and School Bonds and future bonding and sales tax initiatives. *(Peter Stasiak, City Manager)*

Executive Summary  
Discussion.

Manager Stasiak addressed the Council reminding them that the City had two (2) quarter cent (1/4 cent) sales that would expire in 2018. He explained that one (1) quarter cent (1/4 cent) was dedicated for Education and one (1) quarter cent (1/4 cent) was dedicated for Economic Development. He reviewed the current breakdown of the 9.5% sales tax rate, how the City's 3.5% portion was divided in the General Fund and then he reviewed the estimated or projected funding opportunities that could be available to the City. He reviewed the MPWA revenue and expenses. He commented on the cost and number of water line breaks that had occurred in the past week and half. He stated that this year had been the toughest so far to budget for the City. He explained that Capital had been cut for the 2017/2018 fiscal year. Manager Stasiak

commented that the City's sales tax remains flat and that progress needed to be made with Economic Development that included all types of jobs.

Mayor Browne stated that should look at this matter as an opportunity and the City needed to get more public input. He added that he could call a Town Hall meeting for next week.

McAlester Public Schools Superintendent, Randy Hughes addressed the Council explaining the needs of the School District and its challenges with funding.

There was a brief discussion concerning the cost of an Early Childhood Center and if the School District could take on Bond debt if a quarter cent (1/4 cent) sales tax passed, the other school districts that receive money from the City, realignment of the school districts, growing McAlester by growing the schools, the needs of the City needing to be met in order for the Community to grow, the School District surplus using unused buildings and the School District not being able to incur debt or borrow funds.

Attorney Ervin suggested writing a tax proposal broad enough to address both capital needs for public infrastructure and capital improvements.

There was another brief discussion concerning the use of some of the City's "Emergency Fund", ideas of how it could be used, what issues would fit the criteria to use the "Emergency Fund" and the Council's ability to redesign the "Emergency Fund" if they thought it necessary.

The discussion returned to the sales tax matter, including how long the City had to prepare a proposal to submit to the citizens.

Mayor Browne read from a letter prepared by the McAlester Regional Health Center CEO David Keith, which informed the Council that proposed an expansion of the Cancer Treatment Center. He then commented that all options should be placed on a ballot and let the citizens decide what they wanted to support.

There was no vote on this item.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Browne declared the Special meeting Work session adjourned at 5:58 P.M.

ATTEST:

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John Browne, Mayor

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Cora Middleton, City Clerk