

The McAlester City Council met in a Regular session on Tuesday, November 26, 2019, at 6:00 P.M. after proper notice and agenda was posted, November 22, 2019 at 11:00 A.M.

Call to Order

Mayor Browne called the meeting to order.

Rev. Aaron Williams, Pastor Mount Nebo Baptist Church gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Council Roll Call was as follows:

Present: Weldon Smith, Cully Stevens, Travis Read, James Brown, Maureen Harrison, Zach Prichard & John Browne

Absent: None

Presiding: John Browne, Mayor

Staff Present: Pete Stasiak, City Manager; Toni Ervin, Assistant City Manager; Stephanie Giacomo, Grant Writer/Public Information Officer; Kirk Ridenour, Economic Development Director; Bennie Brooks, Assistant Fire Chief; Sherri Swift, CFO; 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.

Austin Kenieutubbe, 421 W. Osage addressed the Council expressing his thoughts, pride and the importance of Native American Heritage.

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 October 22, 2019, Regular Meeting of the McAlester City Council. *(Cora Middleton, City Clerk)*

- B. Approval of the Minutes from the November 12, 2019, Special Meeting of the McAlester City Council. *(Cora Middleton, City Clerk)* In the following amounts: General Fund - \$99,729.80; Parking Authority - \$120.76; Nutrition - \$1,177.41; Landfill Res./Sub-Title D - \$3,570.00; Employee Retirement - \$11,235.00; Education Fund - \$39,522.22;

Tourism Fund - \$16,378.24; SE Expo Center - \$3,756.39; E-911 - \$4,876.24; Economic Development - \$3,299.53; Grants & Contributions - \$4,457.00; CDBG Grants Fund - \$21,269.75; Fleet Maintenance - \$6,255.07; CIP Fund - \$17,767.50; Stormwater Fund - \$35,960.05; Infrastructure Fund - \$48,707.15 and MRHC-Cancer Center Fund - \$39,522.22.

- C. Approval of Claims for November 6, 2019 through November 19, 2019. (*Sherri Swift, Chief Financial Officer*)
- D. Consider and act upon, approval of the Schedule of Council and Authorities 2020 Regular meeting dates. (*Cora Middleton, City Clerk*)

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

AYE: Councilmembers Smith, Read, Stevens, Brown, Harrison, Prichard & Mayor Browne
NAY: None

Mayor Browne declared the motion carried.

Scheduled Business

- 1. Discussion and possible action, on approval of certain costs related to the Fire Department. Funds to be used from the City of McAlester's Fire Department's portion of the county quarter cent excise tax for fire services. (*Brett Brewer, Fire Chief*)

Executive Summary

Motion to approve the purchase of 4 new SCBA Mask. The cost of the masks not to exceed \$3,180.00. Purchase to be made with funds from the City of McAlester's Fire Department's portion of the county quarter cent excise tax for fire services.

Assistant Fire Chief Brooks addressed the Council requesting to purchase four (4) new SCBA Mask with the City of McAlester's Fire Department's portion of the County quarter cent excise tax for fire services. He explained that the Department was wanting to replace mask that had become damaged and posed a safety hazard for the firefighters.

Councilwoman Harrison inquired about the monthly allocation to the Fire Department.

Assistant Chief Brooks explained that it varied but looked to be around \$6,200.00.

A motion to approve the purchase of four (4) new SCBA mask, not to exceed \$3,180.00, with the City of McAlester's Fire Department's portion of the county quarter cent excise tax was made by Councilman Read. The motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Stevens. There was no further discussion, and the vote was taken as follows:

AYE: Councilmembers Read, Stevens, Brown, Harrison, Prichard, Smith & Mayor Browne
NAY: None

Mayor Browne declared the motion carried.

2. Consider and act upon, rescinding Resolution No. 19-22, that originally set the 2020 Council election dates. (*Cora Middleton, City Clerk*)

Executive Summary

Motion to rescind Resolution No. 19-22, that originally set the 2020 Council election dates.

City Clerk Middleton explained that she had been contacted by the Pittsburg County Election Board Secretary informing her that the original election dates furnished to the City of McAlester were incorrect. She explained that the Election Board Secretary had contacted the State Election Board Assistant Secretary and was given corrected dates. She added that the original Resolution needed to be rescinded so the County Election Board could remove it from there system.

Mayor Browne clarified that the City's election could not be held on the original dates because they were incorrect.

A motion to rescind Resolution No. 19-22, that had originally set the 2020 Council election dates was made by Councilman Brown. The motion was seconded by Councilman Read, and the vote was taken as follows:

AYE: Councilmembers Brown, Read, Harrison, Prichard, Smith, Stevens & Mayor Browne

NAY: None

Mayor Browne declared the motion carried.

3. Consider and act upon, approving a new resolution setting the corrected election dates for Wards 1, 3, 5 and Mayor. (*Cora Middleton, City Clerk*)

Executive Summary

Motion to approve a new resolution setting the corrected election dates for Wards 1, 3, 5 and Mayor.

Mayor Browne commented that this was self-explanatory.

Councilwoman Harrison asked if there still was no filing fee and Mayor Browne stated that there was no fee to file.

A motion to approves RESOLUTION NO. 19-24, setting the corrected 2020 election dates for Wards 1, 3, 5 and Mayor was made by Councilman Smith and seconded by Councilman Brown. There was no further discussion, and the vote was taken as follows:

AYE: Councilmembers Smith, Brown, Harrison, Prichard, Stevens, Read & Mayor Browne

NAY: None

Mayor Browne declared the motion carried.

4. Discussion and update on financials. (*Sherri Swift, Chief Financial Officer*)
Executive Summary
Discussion.

Assistant Manager Ervin addressed the Council introducing Sherri Swift as the City of McAlester's new CFO. She informed the Council that Ms. Swift had previously worked for the City as Chief Accountant.

CFO Swift addressed the Council reviewing the General Fund revenues and expenditures stating that this was as of October 31st and for about thirty-three percent (33%) of the year. She explained that the revenues were slightly under budget and the expenditures were slightly over budget. She then reviewed the Public Works Fund explaining that the revenues were under budget as well, but the expenditures were under budget also. CFO Swift reviewed the Financial Update that compared the previous two (2) fiscal years and the current fiscal year sales tax revenue. She continued with a review of the General Funds Use Tax revenue, stating that even with it being slightly under budget it was still higher than what had been collected last fiscal year at this time. She added that it was expected to increase over the next month due to the Holidays. CFO Swift reviewed the Public Works water revenue for residential, commercial, wholesale and the water districts. She explained that all water revenue was under budget and the City was aware of one (1) of the water districts that was changing out a meter. CFO Swift finished her financial update with a review of the City's Treasury Report which furnished the City's cash on hand.

There was discussion concerning the difference between the City's water and commercial sales and the wholesale and water districts, the location of the various water districts, why the Use Tax had been so aggressively budgeted and how the City would adjust the budget if needed.

There was no action taken 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 reported that during the 20" water line at the Water Treatment Plant installation and connection some sediment had gotten in the lines resulting in tea colored water. He added that while the City was flushing lines to clear the water a chemical feed line at the water plant had ruptured causing the plant to shut down. He stated that the City then experienced two (2) water line breaks on "F" Street and Delaware Avenue. He added that the lines have been repaired or are being repaired. He commented that the City should be in good shape for water by in the morning. Manager Stasiak updated the Council on the Fifth and Miami sewer line project.

Councilwoman Harrison asked about the status of the water at the Library.

Manager Stasiak stated that their water should be back by the morning also.

Remarks and Inquiries by City Council

Vice-Mayor Stevens inquired about status of the electronic water meters and asked how much was being generated by the sales tax for infrastructure.

Manager Stasiak stated that the initial project had been completed and when the City replaced any meters they were replaced with electronic meters. He commented that the City would be coming back to Council for the second part at the end of the five (5) year period. Manager Stasiak stated that about \$2.2 million was what was being generated.

Councilman Read wished the Council and the City employees and citizens a safe and Happy Thanksgiving.

Councilman Brown wished all a Happy Thanksgiving and congratulated the McAlester Buffaloes for trip to playoffs.

Councilwoman Harrison wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. She then thanked Rev. Williams for giving the invocation and pledge and she thanked Austin Kenieutubbe for his presentation. She thanked everyone that had expressed condolences for the passing of her brother. She thanked the Council and City Clerk for the proclamations that were given last month. She announced that the “Old Town” businesses were participating in vintage program and she encouraged everyone to shop local.

Councilman Prichard asked about the opinion that had been furnished by the City of Attorney.

Attorney Ervin commented that this dealt with “Restraint of Trade”. He added that he had been meeting with the Hospital and this discussion had been going on for months.

Councilman Smith commented that the Hospital’s attorney was going back through the subject and there had been a breakdown in communication and he commented on the lights on Carl Albert Parkway.

Mayor’s Comments and Committee Appointments

Mayor Browne stated that Vice-Mayor Stevens had contacted him about curbside recycling. He commented that Pride In McAlester and the Choctaw Nation had worked on that in the past. He explained that he would like to appoint Vice-Mayor Stevens as the City’s liaison to that committee so he could report back to the Council. He commented that the developer had closed on the land at 14th Street and he wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Recess Council Meeting

Councilman Smith moved to recess the Regular Meeting and convene the Authorities. The motion was seconded by Councilman Read.

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

AYE: Councilmembers Smith, Read, Brown, Harrison, Prichard, Stevens & Mayor Browne

NAY: None

Mayor Browne declared the motion carried and the meeting was recessed at 6:36 P.M.

Reconvene Council Meeting

The Regular Meeting was reconvened at 7:44 P.M.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, Councilman Prichard 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: Councilmembers Prichard, Smith, Harrison, Stevens, Read, Brown & Mayor Browne

NAY: None

Mayor Browne declared the motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 P.M.

ATTEST:

John Browne, Mayor

Cora Middleton, City Clerk