

Council Chambers
Municipal Building
January 20, 2011

The McAlester City Council met in Special session on Thursday, January 20, 2011 at 5:30 P.M. after proper notice and agenda was posted, January 19, 2011 at 2:29 P.M.

Call to Order

Mayor Priddle called the meeting to order.

Councilman Garvin gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Council Roll Call was as follows:

Present: Steve Harrison, John Browne, Robert Karr, Buddy Garvin, Sam Mason & Mayor Priddle

Absent: None

Presiding: Kevin E. Priddle, Mayor

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

Workshop

1. Discussion of Economic Development District Downtown Corridor.

A motion was made by Councilman Harrison and seconded by Vice-Mayor Browne to open the floor for a discussion on an Economic Development District Downtown Corridor.

Before the vote, Vice-Mayor Browne reviewed a sample mission statement for the proposed McAlester Entertainment and Arts District (MEAD). He commented that this was a proposal to get and keep business in the Downtown area. He added that his proposal was to adopt a sales tax rebate program as an incentive for businesses in the area. He mentioned that there were some very large buildings in the downtown area that needed to be renovated for use.

There was a brief discussion among the Council regarding a definition of an arts district, designing the area, grants that were available for this type of program, if there were any state statutes concerning this matter, the downtown and North town areas contributing to the solution and developing a particular direction for the downtown area.

Cecilia McMahan stated that the accomplishments that had happened in the downtown area had occurred through the working relationship between the City and the merchants in the area. She

commented that she would like to have a work shop with the City to lay out potential plans for the downtown area.

Manager Stasiak commented that every community that he had been involved with struggled with the downtown area. He added that a lot that drives Main Streets was the Main Street Organization. He stated that they work toward enhancing the downtown areas to make it more appealing to businesses and citizens. He mentioned that many areas had developed living areas upstairs from the businesses. He commented that if someone did not move some idea forward the downtown area could become more empty and dilapidated.

Vice-Mayor Browne suggested that the City create a design committee made up with individuals from Main Street, someone from the City and a member of the Council.

Mayor Priddle stated that the City would allow the Main Street Organization get their group together and then get a committee group that includes the Main Street, Vice-Mayor Browne, some of the downtown merchants and either the City Manager or someone from his staff and work on developing some direction for the downtown area.

Manager Stasiak stated that he would get with Karl Scifres of the Main Street Organization and get the Main Street Organization's State report.

Gaylord Brooks voiced his concerns for the City's downtown area and the other matters that need to be addressed.

Councilman Harrison moved to recess the Special Meeting for an Executive Session to discuss negotiations concerning employees and representatives of employees groups: IAFF, in accordance with Title 25, Section 307.B.2. The motion was seconded by Councilman Mason. There was no discussion, and the vote was taken as follows:

AYE: Councilman Harrison, Browne, Karr, Garvin, Mason & Mayor Priddle

NAY: None

Mayor Priddle declared the motion carried and the Special Meeting was recessed at 6:09 P.M.

Executive Session

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

Reconvene into Open Session

The Special Meeting was reconvened at 7:10 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 employees groups: IAFF, in accordance with Title 25, Section 307.B.2. Only that matter was discussed, no action was taken, and the Council returned to open session at 7:10 P.M., and this constituted the Minutes of the Executive Session.

- 1. Consideration, and possible action, to authorize the City Manager, pursuant to Title 11 Section 51-108(B), to submit a request that a special election be held to allow the citizens of the City of McAlester to select either the City's Last Best Offer or the International Association of Firefighter Local 2284's Last Best Offer as the Collective Bargaining Agreement for Fiscal Year 2010-2011 between the City and the Local.**

Councilman Harrison moved to authorize the City Manager, pursuant to Title 11 Section 51-108(B), to submit a request that a special election be held to allow the citizens of the City of McAlester to select either the City's Last Best Offer or the International Association of Firefighter Local 2284's Last Best Offer as the Collective Bargaining Agreement for Fiscal Year 2010-2011 between the City and the Local. The motion was seconded by Councilman Mason.

Before the vote, Mayor Priddle clarified that a yes vote was allowing and authorizing the City Manager, pursuant to Title 11 Section 51-108(B), to submit a request that a special election. There was no other discussion, and the vote was taken as follows:

AYE: Councilman Karr, Garvin, Mason, Harrison & Mayor Priddle

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: (counted as no) Vice-Mayor Browne

Mayor Priddle declared the motion carried.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the Council, Vice-Mayor Browne moved for adjournment. The motion was seconded by Councilman Harrison. There was no discussion, and the vote was taken as follows:

AYE: Councilman Karr, Garvin, Mason, Harrison, Browne & Mayor Priddle

NAY: None

Mayor Priddle declared the motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 7:12 P.M.

Kevin E. Priddle, Mayor

ATTEST:

Cora Middleton, City Clerk