

Council Chambers
Municipal Building
March 31, 2011

The McAlester City Council met in Special session on Thursday, March 31, 2011 at 5:45 P.M. after proper notice and agenda was posted, March 30, 2011 at 10:00 A.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Priddle called the meeting to order.

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

ROLL CALL

Council Roll Call was as follows:

Present: Weldon Smith, Steve Harrison, John Browne, Sam Mason & Mayor Priddle
Absent: Robert Karr and Buddy Garvin
Presiding: Kevin E. Priddle, Mayor

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

Workshop

1. Discussion of progress made since last Work Shop.

Mr. Modzelewski corrected the roll-off financial information that had been distributed to the Council. He stated that this meeting was a follow up to the October 20, 2010 meeting. He commented that had the City continued at the rate of disposal that was occurring at that time the permitted capacity would have been reached around February 2, 2011. He then reviewed the activities at the landfill since October 2010 and the steps that were being taken at the landfill to maintain compliance with DEQ. Mr. Modzelewski commented that at the most recent inspection on March 17, 2011, DEQ indicated that there had been a dramatic improvement. He stated that over the last three (3) months disposal at the landfill was averaging around seven (7) tons a day which was drastically helping extend the life of the landfill.

There was a lengthy discussion among the Council, Mr. Modzelewski and Manager Stasiak concerning the life of the landfill, which could be estimated as the end of December 2011 at the current rate of disposal, if that included the Pride in McAlester collections, the waste from the prison, using the soil from the Industrial Park for cover, why the life expectancy changed so dramatically, and the ordinance that regulated the landfill.

Councilman Mason requested to see all of the information that had been received from DEQ.

There was a brief discussion regarding reviewing several of the City ordinances that needed updating, that the information was furnished to the Council and nothing was done without Council approval if not formal at least passive.

2. Consider, and act upon, the business of collecting and disposing of City-owned and privately-owned roll-off containers.

Mr. Modzelewski addressed the Council regarding the activities of the roll-off division. He commented that the roll-offs were not making any money at this time. He added that the roll-off truck was down and the City was currently using Triad Transport, Inc. to service the roll-offs

There was discussion among the Council, including Manager Stasiak, Ms. Duke and Mr. Modzelewski concerning the available information, sending the roll-offs to the Alderson landfill and the costs associated with that, the repairs needed for the roll-off truck and what options were available for the roll-off division. The options suggested were 1. use the current contract, 2. develop a new contract, and 3. franchise the service at a flat rate or percentage. The Council also discussed the possibility of increasing the fees for the roll-off service, construction of a new cell, how often roll-offs were picked up, what was included in the cost information, updating the ordinance and fee schedule and how a franchise would affect the City's services.

John Titsworth addressed the Council expressing his opposition to a franchise for the roll-off service. He commented that he thought it would come under the commerce clause. There was a brief discussion among the Council and Mr. Titsworth regarding the roll-off service and what his company was capable of doing for the City if the roll-off service were bid out.

Mayor Priddle moved to leave the roll-off container business as it was right now. The motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Browne. There was no further discussion, and the vote was taken as follows:

AYE: Councilman Smith, Harrison, Browne, Mason & Mayor Priddle

NAY: None

Mayor Priddle declared the motion carried.

3. Discussion of existing and proposed landfill tipping fees.

Mr. Modzelewski addressed the Council reviewing the proposed rates for the landfill. He stated that the last time the rates had been adjusted was sixteen (16) years ago and the rates were \$20.00 a ton with a \$5.00 minimum and the county rates were the same. He then reviewed the proposed rate changes with the Council. He commented a survey had been made of surrounding communities and this proposal was somewhere in the middle. He added that he felt this was fair and equitable.

There was discussion among the Council including Mr. Modzelewski and Manager Stasiak concerning how the proposed rates were calculated, possibly raising the rate per ton but leaving the minimum the same, the ratio of county residents to city residents, keeping in line with the

Alderson landfill charges, not attracting trash to the landfill because the rates were too low comparatively and obtaining all of the pertinent information from the Alderson landfill for accurate comparison. The Council recommended having another workshop in three (3) weeks. There was no vote on this item.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the Council, Vice-Mayor Browne moved adjournment. The motion was seconded by Councilman Harrison.

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

AYE: Councilman Harrison, Browne, Mason, Smith & Mayor Priddle

NAY: None

Mayor Priddle declared the motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

Kevin E. Priddle, Mayor

ATTEST:

Cora Middleton, City Clerk