

The McAlester City Council met in Special session on Thursday, May 22, 2014 at 5:30 P.M. after proper notice and agenda was posted, May 20, 2014 at 10:49 A.M.

Call to Order

Mayor Harrison called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

Council Roll Call was as follows:

Present: Weldon Smith, Travis Read, John Titsworth, Robert Karr, Jason Barnett & Steve Harrison

Absent: Buddy Garvin

Presiding: Steve Harrison, Mayor

Staff Present: Peter J. Stasiak, City Manager; John Modzelewski, City Engineer/Public Works Director; Gary Wansick, Police Chief; Mel Priddy, Community Services Director; Toni Ervin, Chief Financial Officer; Leroy Alsup, Community & Economic Development Director; Brett Brewer, Fire Chief and Cora Middleton, City Clerk

Scheduled Business

Workshop

1. Discussion of Fiscal Year 2014/2015 Budget.

Manager Stasiak addressed the Council informing them that he was presenting a balanced Budget as required by the Charter. He commented that once again staff was using a conservative approach. He reviewed the core areas that the City furnishes to the citizens; Police, Fire, Water, Sewer and Streets. He commented on the proposed Capital expenditures and reminded the Council that these were all subject to Council approval. Manager Stasiak highlighted the programs and projects that were planned to carry forward from the 2013-2014 fiscal budget and commented that with the recent evaluation training and the re-working of the City's evaluation forms that Step/Merit increases were proposed to be reincorporated into the City's procedures. He also added that this budget call for a 2% COLA for all employees, but would only be implemented when revenues showed consistent increase or stability.

There was a lengthy discussion among the Council, Manager Stasiak and CFO Ervin concerning the pay for the employees in the Communications Division, the amount of sales tax revenue that had been projected in the budget, the effect the completion of the Travel Plaza could have on sales tax revenue, the possible increase in hiring at the Army Ammunition Plant, the funding of the groups that the City normally supported, various expenses that had not been increased, how

the continued replacement of the Police vehicles would be addressed, the increase fees from Allied Waste and if it might be passed on to the citizens, possibly rejoining the Oklahoma Municipal League, various positions that had been left vacant or not budgeted, the citizens request to consider funding a consultant for a water park design, the fund balance levels that staff preferred to maintain, concerns that the budget process set out in the Charter was not being followed when preparing the budget, the tremendous improvements that have been accomplished over the past four (4) years, working on ways to improve efficiency, insuring that all equipment was being used to its potential, and developing mechanisms to maintain or replace infrastructure.

Manager Stasiak commented that the changes that had been pointed out during this discussion, the budget would be revised and brought back to the Council by the first meeting in June.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, Councilman Smith moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Titsworth and the vote was taken as follows:

AYE: Councilman Smith, Titsworth, Read, Karr, Barnett & Mayor Harrison

NAY: None

Mayor Harrison declared the motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 P.M.

ATTEST:

Steve Harrison, Mayor

Cora Middleton, City Clerk