

The McAlester City Council met in Special session on Thursday, June 2, 2014 at 5:30 P.M. after proper notice and agenda was posted, May 29, 2014 at 2:25 P.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, Buddy Garvin, Jason Barnett & Steve Harrison

Absent: None

Presiding: Steve Harrison, Mayor

Staff Present: Peter J. Stasiak, City Manager; Leroy Alsup, Community & Economic Development Director; Kathy Wall, Tourism Manager and Cora Middleton, City Clerk

Scheduled Business

1. Discussion of Hotel/Motel tax and uses.

Mayor Harrison explained that at a prior meeting this item had been discussed and it was determined that if the Council wanted to put something before the voters in the August election they would need to vote on it at the June 10th meeting and a workshop would be necessary to gain input from the citizens and direction from the Council. He then opened the meeting for discussion.

Robert Basolo addressed the Council asking that if the voters did approve an increase in the Hotel/Motel tax that a percentage be earmarked for a new Library.

Dale and Mark Friestad both addressed the Council expressing concerns over raising the Hotel/Motel tax, how much it would be raised, how an increase would affect the hotels in the City and how the revenue would be used.

Mayor Harrison informed the Council that he had furnished additional information for the Council to review and see a broader use of the Hotel/Motel tax.

Vice-Mayor Read stated that the Council needed to decide if they wanted to increase the tax, if majority did not then it wouldn't matter what was done with the money. He commented that he recommended a 4% increase because Krebs charged 8% and he felt that the City was leaving on

the table everyday. He commented that he would like to see a ¼ cent go to the Chamber of Commerce, he had not thought of the Library and he would like to see three (3) cents go to a major project and the ballot could be worded to have more flexibility on how the money was used. He then stated that first the Council needed to decide if they wanted to increase the tax, second how much of an increase and third what to do with the funds.

There was discussion among the Council including Manager Stasiak concerning the overall average of Hotel/Motel tax charged in the surveyed cities, what the money was used for in the various cities, how much the current tax was bringing into the City of McAlester, keeping the language on the ballot broad enough to not restrict the City, getting input from Motel guests on how the revenue should be spent, the Council's comfort level with proposing an increase of two (2) percent for a total of six (6) percent and possibly directing some of the funds, if the increase was approved toward air conditioning the large area of the Expo.

Mayor Harrison commented that the Council had given the City Manager enough information to put together a draft resolution, which could be modified, for the next Council meeting.

Adjournment

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

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

NAY: None

Mayor Harrison declared the motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 6:04 P.M.

ATTEST:

Steve Harrison, Mayor

Cora Middleton, City Clerk