

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Mark B. Roath
City Manager

SUBJECT: City Manager's Report

DATE: February 4, 2009

Effective with this memorandum, I will be furnishing you with a City Manager's Report to coincide with the Regular City Council Meeting Agendas. In addition, this Report will be put on the City's website for citizen perusal.

General:

1. PSO Rate Increase: I have been contacted by the Oklahoma Municipal League, Inc., about the recent PSO rate increase. OML stated that the Oklahoma Corporation Commission granted PSO a total rate increase of \$81.4 million on January 14, 2009. They stated that Commission's order granted PSO a base rate increase as well, which is part of the customer's bill and amounted to \$59.2 million. They stated that the base rate increase does not include the price of the fuel used to generate electricity, which is handled separately and passed directly to the customer. They stated that recently the Oklahoma Industrial Energy Consumers have filed a Motion to Reconsider the decision of the Oklahoma Corporation Commission. A hearing on the Motion and PSO's own Motion to Reconsider will be heard on February 9, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. in the Main Courtroom, 3rd Floor, Jim Thorpe Building. If any member of City Council has an opinion on the PSO rate increase, then you should contact the Oklahoma Corporation Commission.
2. Rewards for Tips in Identifying and Arresting Graffiti Vandals: Sometime ago, Komar Park was vandalized. At the Regular Meeting of City Council following the vandalism, Councilmember Sam Mason suggested that the City might want to develop a reward for tips leading to the identification and arrest of graffiti vandals. Several alternatives are available to the City Council; first, the City Council could offer a set amount (\$____) for anyone giving the McAlester Police Department information that leads to the conviction of a vandal. In the alternative, the City Council could create a more elaborate set of criteria for tips leading to identification and arrest of graffiti vandals such as: \$____ for information that leads to the identification of a vandal by moniker; \$____ for information that leads to an arrest of the vandal; \$____ for the information that

leads to the conviction of the vandal. Note: The total award possible, when a citizen provides information that leads to the identification, arrest and conviction would total the amount of the partial awards listed above. Each approach has its pros and cons—for example, the first approach might be simpler to administer by the Police Department, while the second approach might lead to more citizen information. Depending on whether the City Council wishes to create pay rewards to citizens who are able to identify, lead police to an arrest of a graffiti vandal and/or for the conviction of a graffiti vandal, and depending on the approach selected, a program could be established by Resolution only.

3. New Planning and Community Development Director: On January 23, 2009, I announced the appointment of Mr. Peter J. Stasiak of Safford, Arizona, as the new Planning and Community Development Director for the City effective February 23, 2009. Mr. Stasiak is currently the Community and Economic Development Director for the City of Safford.
4. Chief Financial Officer Vacancy: The Chief Financial Officer position for the City of McAlester has been vacant for over six months. During that period, the Administration advertised the position regionally, interviewed candidates for the position (a total of eight applications were received for the position), and unsuccessfully offered the position to two of the candidates that applied. One candidate decided to stay in his current position and the other candidate turned the offer down after learning of an illness in the immediate family. Where do we go from here? Because the City's candidate search did not net enough qualified candidates, I am in the process of contacting area executive search firms to obtain proposals to conduct a search. Further, I plan to submit said proposals to the City Council at its regular meeting of February 24th for consideration and possible action.
5. New Non-Uniform Pension Plan Committee: Last Friday, the new Committee met with Mr. John Baumert, Senior Portfolio Manager with Smith Barney, Oklahoma City, to review the Plan's assets. Mr. Baumert reviewed the current economy and its fiscal impact on the Plan. He noted that the Plan's assets were at \$7,353,036 on December 31, 2008, which was down from \$9,224,284 on December 31, 2007. The new Committee membership consists of Mel Priddy, Community Services Director; Sherry Alessi, Assistant Chief Financial Officer; Cliff Pitner, Engineering Inspector and Chairman of the Non-Uniform Employee Council; Dennis Lalli, Building Official; Kevin E. Priddle, Mayor; Sam Mason, Councilmember; and John Browne, Councilmember.
6. Identify Theft Program: Recently, the City Council approved a motion to require the City Administration to develop an Identity Theft Program by no later than May, 2009. I have charged Sherry Alessi, Assistant Chief Financial Officer; Jim

Lyles, Police Chief, and Harold Stewart, Fire Chief to prepare an initial draft Program for my review prior to submitting it to the City Council for consideration and possible adoption.

7. Unused City Property: I have charged George Marcangeli, City Engineer/Public Works Director; David Medley, Utilities Director; and Mel Priddy, Community Services Director to develop a potential list of City land that might be considered by the City Council for sale—that is, to put non-used City property back on the tax roll for private sector development.
8. Surplus City Equipment and Vehicles: Over the past month, the City Departments have reviewed their current equipment and vehicles to determine said items that could be declared surplus and sold. The City Administration plans to present this information to the City Council at its regular meeting of February 10, 2009 for consideration and possible action. If approved, the City Administration plans to schedule a date for an auction, engage an auctioneer and hold the sale.
9. Stroke Prevention Plus: Recently, I was contacted by Doug White of Stroke Prevention Plus about the City's potential interest in screening employees for stroke, abdominal aortic aneurysm and peripheral vascular disease. During our conversation, he offered to conduct fifteen screenings for City employees, at no cost, to measure the City's interest. On a "first come, first serve" basis, fifteen employees were screened by them today. The cost for the three screenings is normally \$100. (It should be mentioned that both McAlester Public Schools and Pittsburg County have used this Company to screen their employees).

Departments:

10. City Auditor(s): Sherry Alessi, Assistant Chief Financial Officer, reports that the City Auditor(s) are doing field work for the FY 2007-2008 Independent Audit Report, which they will be at City Hall for the first several weeks of this month.
11. Mid-Year Budget Review: The Finance Department, in conjunction with all City Departments, is finalizing the Mid-Year Budget Review. Frank Crawford of Crawford and Associates has been assisting the Department with this review as well. The proposed Ordinance, with recommended amendments, should be completed and forwarded to City Council by the end of this week.
12. OKEMSIS Website: The McAlester Fire Department began utilizing the new OKEMSIS website provided the State Health Department. The new website is for submitting EMS information to the State Health Department, and required Department personnel to go through training sessions to learn the new process.

13. EMT-B Refresher Course: The McAlester Fire Department reports that all personnel went through the EMT-B refresher course during the past three weeks.
14. Employee Recognitions: Harold Stewart, Fire Chief, recently appointed **Eric Giles** to EMS Instructor and promoted **Alfred Blansett** to Driver/Operator. Jim Lyles, McAlester Police Chief, recently promoted **Windell Henry** to Lieutenant and promoted **Greg Read** to Sergeant.
15. "Wise Eyes" Program: The McAlester Police Department reports that a meeting with Mr. Aaron Cooper of Devon has been scheduled for February 11th to discuss the viability of implementing the program in our area. The "Wise Eyes" Program is a way for emergency agencies to utilize private industry to be extra "eyes and ears" when a specific threat or need is realized. How would it work? According to the information given the Department, they would contact the various businesses that have employees on the road or out in the community and have their employees look for the desired subject or object. An individual employee would then be able to relay the information back to the agency that requested it.
16. Traffic Safety Grant: Jim Lyles, Police Chief, reports that the Department has been involved with a grant through the Oklahoma Highway Safety Office for the purpose of enforcement of traffic laws. The enforcement is aimed at moving traffic violations. He reports that officers have been working overtime at the rate of 60 to 68 hours per month that is funded from this grant.
17. Airport Ramp Improvement and Runway Renumbering Project: George Marcangeli, City Engineer/Public Works Director, reports that recently the final inspection occurred on this project. The total project cost was \$264,395.
18. Stormwater Utility Program Ordinance: The Public Works Department reports that the stormwater utility program ordinance has been completed and is currently under review by the City Attorney's Office. Upon completion of the review, the proposed ordinance will be submitted to the City Council for consideration at a future regular meeting, possibly as early as February 24th.
19. Garbage Truck(s) Lease: The Public Works Department as well as the Finance Department report that the lowest and best lease payment term for the two new garbage trucks was from First National Bank at 4.3% for 5 years for a total finance cost of \$257, 448.
20. City Hall Remodel: The Public Works Department, utilizing their two-person Facilities Maintenance crew and a three-member inmate crew, began the final City Hall office area to be remodel. As the City Council is aware, this remodel

project has been limited to offices on the first and second floors of City Hall and consists mainly of moving walls, painting and new carpet only.

21. Water Treatment Plant Enhanced Coagulation Project: David Medley, Utilities Director, reports that this Project is scheduled to be completed on February 13, 2009, which is ten days ahead of the contract completion date of February 23, 2009. He further reports that the contractor is completing painting and placing concrete coating on the No. #3 Clarifier, completing the installation of the overhead doors on the Chemical Building and installing new chemical storage tanks.

Upcoming Regular City Council Meetings and/or Town Hall Meeting:

- **Regular Meeting**, February 10, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.
- **Ward 5 Town Hall Meeting**, February 17, 2009 at 6:00 p.m., in the Whistle Stop Bistro located in the Old Town Antique Mall, 2700 N. Main.
- **Regular Meeting**, February 24, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.