

MINUTES
LAWTON WATER AUTHORITY SPECIAL MEETING
JUNE 14, 2022 - 2:00 P.M.
LAWTON CITY HALL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS/AUDITORIUM

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Chairman Stan Booker. Notice of meeting and agenda were posted on the City Hall notice board as required by law.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mary Ann Hankins, Kelly Harris, Linda Chapman, Jay Burk (Arrived @ 2:11 p.m.)
Allan Hampton, Sean Fortenbaugh, Onreka Johnson, Randy Warren.

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Michael Cleghorn, City Manager; John Ratliff, City Attorney; Traci Hushbeck, City Clerk.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

1. Consider approval of the minutes of the Lawton Water Authority special meeting of May 24, 2022.

MOVED by Warren, SECOND by Hampton, to approve the minutes of the Lawton Water Authority special meeting of May 24, 2022. AYE: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Hampton, Fortenbaugh, Johnson, Warren. NAY: None. MOTION CARRIED.

2. Consider adopting a resolution authorizing increases in water, sewer, refuse, and landfill rates as set forth in Exhibit "A" of the Resolution and establishing an effective dated.

Joe Don Dunham, Finance Director, stated these rates were presented throughout the budget session and it is the rates used to build the budget that was approved on May 24th.

Mayor Booker stated a citizen has requested to speak on this item.

Albert Rivas, 25 NW 53rd Street, stated many people have reached out to him to express how difficult it is to make ends meet. He stated every penny counts and many people cannot pay the utility bill as it is. The poverty rate in Lawton is 18.4% and the per capita median income is a little over \$27,000. He is asking that council vote no on the increase and figure out a different way.

Chapman questioned if there were still stipulations for the utility fees for senior citizens and those with disabilities.

Dunham stated those stipulations are still in the rate structure. He stated there is a financial threshold.

Hampton stated a lot of his constituents are on fixed incomes and it is going to be difficult for him to support this increase.

Johnson stated a lot of her constituents are struggling as well and she does understand that costs are increasing, and they will probably increase next year. She would like to start looking at different ways to help offset some of those increases.

Warren stated if they don't raise rates, the option would be to decide what services to cut. He stated until the state comes up with a way to attach a portion of the ad valorem in order to finance operations of municipalities, we will continue to be in this situation. This is a federal government problem, and it will get worse before it gets better.

MOVED by Warren, SECOND by Harris, to approve **Resolution 22-07**. AYE: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Fortenbaugh, Warren. NAY: Burk, Hampton, Johnson. MOTION CARRIED.

There being no further business to consider, the meeting adjourned at 2:13 p.m. upon motion, second and roll call vote.

STAN BOOKER, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

TRACI HUSHBECK, SECRETARY