

MINUTES
LAWTON CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 26, 2016 – 6:00 P.M.
NEW CITY HALL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS/AUDITORIUM

Fred L. Fitch, Mayor
Presiding

Also Present:
Jerry Ihler, City Manager
Frank V. Jensen, City Attorney
Traci Hushbeck, City Clerk

Mayor Fitch called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. Notice of meeting and agenda were posted on the City Hall notice board as required by law. Invocation was given by Pastor Dave Mengee, Western Hills Christian Church, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

Bob Morford, Ward One
Keith Jackson, Ward Two
Jay Burk, Ward Four
Dwight Tanner, Jr., Ward Five
Cherry Phillips, Ward Six
V. Gay McGahee, Ward Seven
Doug Wells, Ward Eight

ABSENT:

Rosemary Bellino-Hall, Ward Three

PRESENTATION OF OUTSTANDING CITIZEN OF COMANCHE COUNTY TO DEBBIE LANGFORD

Mayor Fitch presented a Certificate of Commendation from the Mayor's Office to Debbie Langford

UPDATE ON CHAMBER EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES – JACOB RUSSELL, DIRECTOR OF CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU

Mr. Russell reported on convention sales, sports and agriculture.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

MOVED by Wells SECOND by Jackson to approve the consent agenda. AYE: Morford, Jackson, Burk, Tanner, Phillips, McGahee, Wells. NAY: None. MOTION CARRIED.

1. Consider adopting a resolution approving the compromise settlement and making payment in the workers' compensation claim of Corey Stewart. Exhibits: **Resolution No. 16-05.**
2. Consider entering into a professional services agreement with Tom Aplin for consultation and training services regarding the Housing and Community Development division operations, and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the Agreement. Exhibits: Proposed Agreement is on file in the City Clerk's Office.
3. Consider accepting State Aid for Libraries Grant of \$46,859.00 from the Oklahoma Department of Libraries for FY2015-2016. Exhibits: Agreement for 2016 State Aid Recipients; Oklahoma Department of Libraries Rules and Regulations for State and Grants to Public Libraries is on file in the City Clerk's office.
4. Consider authorizing implementation of a residential, biannual, bulk pickup service to replace the citywide spring and fall cleanup events. Exhibits: Solid Waste Collection Division Set Out Guide.
5. Consider entering into Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI) for the use of and access to the OSBI Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS). Exhibits: Copy of Memorandum of Understanding submitted to the Lawton Police Department by Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation.
6. Consider approving a sponsorship agreement between Academy Sports + Outdoors ("Academy") and the City of Lawton for the benefit of the City of Lawton youth sports programs. Exhibits: Academy sponsorship agreement.
7. Consider approving a Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. Wildlife Service (USFWS) the managing authority for the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge (Service land) and the City of Lawton that manages the property along Lake Lawtonka to coordinate prescribed burns on the Service lands and the City property. Exhibits: Memorandum of Understanding for U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
8. Consider approving an agreement between Fidelity Communications and the City of Lawton for the purpose of providing public internet service for the City of Lawton Parks and Recreation Department. Exhibits: Internet Service Provider Agreement for Fidelity Communications.
9. Consider adopting a resolution authorizing the installation and/or removal of traffic control measures on Westbound SW A Avenue between SW 6th Street and SW 7th Street. Exhibits: **Resolution 16-06**, Traffic Commission Minutes and Traffic Issue Requests.
10. Consider acknowledging receipt of permits for the construction of a waterline and sewer line and appurtenances from the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality to serve the SE 45th Street Water and Sewer Line Relocation Project #2105-08, City of

Lawton, Comanche County, Oklahoma. Exhibits: Permit to Construct dated October 9, 2015 is on file in the City Clerk's Office.

11. Consider awarding contract (CL16-008) Self Contained Breathing Apparatus, to Northern Safety & Industrial of Oklahoma City, OK. Exhibits: Department Recommendation, Abstract of Bids, Price Sheet.
12. Consider awarding contract (CL16-011) Half Ton 2WD, Regular Cab, Pickup Truck to Statewide Contract SW035. Exhibits: Department Recommendation, Abstract of Bids, Price Sheet.
13. Consider awarding contract (CL16-007) Electro Fusion Polyethylene Pipe Fittings, items 1, 2, 3 and 4 to HD Supply Waterworks of Owasso, OK and items 5, 6, 7 and 8 to ISCO Industries, Inc. of Louisville, KY. Exhibits: Department Recommendation, Abstract of Bids, Price Sheet.
14. Consider extending contract (CL14-018) Lease of Hydraulic Excavator with C.L. Boyd Co., Inc., of Oklahoma City, OK. Exhibits: Department Recommendation, Contract Extension Form, Price Sheet.
15. Consider awarding contract (CL16-010) Police Pursuit SUV, to Billingsley Ford of Lawton, OK. Exhibits: Department Recommendation, Abstract of Bids, Price Sheet.
16. Consider extending for an additional year contract (CL15-026) Large Diameter PS46 Closed Profile PVC Pipe, (item #1 – 36' Closed Profile, PS46 PVC Pipe and item #2 – 42' Closed Profile, PS46 PVC Pipe) with HD Supply Waterworks, LTD of Owasso, OK and (item #3 – 48' Closed Profile, PS46 PVC Pipe and item #4 – 54' Closed Profile, PS46 PVC Pipe) with Oklahoma City Winwater of Oklahoma City, OK. Exhibits: Department Recommendation, Contract Extension Form, Price Sheet.
17. Consider awarding Support and Maintenance Agreement (Integrated Public Sector Municipality Information System) to Harris Enterprise Resource Planning, Chesterfield, MO. Exhibits: Department Recommendation.
18. Consider approving appointments to boards and commissions. Exhibits: None.

Airport Authority

Jennifer Krebs Ellis

PO Box 43

Lawton, Oklahoma 73501

12/31/18

19. Consider approval of payroll for the period of January 4 - 17, 2016.

NEW BUSINESS ITEMS:

Mayor Fitch stated item #20 will be stricken from the agenda.

20. Consider an ordinance pertaining to Personnel Policies and Procedures amending Section 17-2-9-202 and Section 17-2-9-208, Division 17-2-9, Article 17-2, Chapter 17, Lawton City Code, by redefining the general employee groups the Employee Advisory Committee (EAC) members represent, adding an additional representative for EAC groups with more than sixty employees, removing the reference to the specific years of the initial term of office for original members , providing for severability and establishing an effective date. Exhibits: Ordinance 16-___. **STRICKEN**
21. Consider an ordinance pertaining to Personnel Policies and Procedures amending Section 17-1-6-161, Division 17-1-6, Article 17-1, Chapter 17, Lawton City Code, by adjusting employee vacation accrual rates for employees with more than twenty-one years of service and allowing employees to be able to use vacation leave after completing six months of service with the City, providing for severability and establishing an effective date. Exhibits: Ordinance 16-___.

MOVED by Wells SECOND by Burk to adopt **Ordinance 16-03**, waive the reading of the ordinance, read the title only and establishing an effective date of thirty days from today. AYE: Morford, Jackson, Burk, Tanner, Phillips, McGahee, Wells. NAY: None. MOTION CARRIED.

(Title read by City Attorney)

Ordinance 16-03

An ordinance pertaining to personnel policies and procedures amending Section 17-1-6-161, Division 17-1-6, Article 17-1, Chapter 17, Lawton City Code, 2015, by adjusting employee vacation accrual rates for employees with more than twenty-one years of service and allowing employees to be able to use vacation leave after completing six months of service with the city, providing for severability and establishing an effective date.

22. Consider providing a one-time voluntary Retirement Incentive Program for employees that are eligible for normal or early retirement as defined in Chapter 17. Exhibits: City Lawton Retirement Incentive Program.

Chase Massie, Human Resources Director, stated this is a onetime incentive to benefit the employee and the City at the same time for anyone that is eligible for retirement or early retirement, the City will pay one years' worth of health premiums for the employee only. There may be an employee who is on the fence about retiring and by doing this it gives the employee the chance to feel comfortable about making that decision to retire. The City stands to gain because that person may be stepped out and they could bring someone in as the next employee at a lower step.

Wells stated this is a wonderful idea and he wishes we could offer more. The people who were eligible can take advantage of something like this and we could lower the cost of salaries because they would go from the highest to the lowest.

Tanner questioned if this was going to apply to all the employee groups.

Massie stated it applies to general, fire and police.

Phillips stated it is not the family premium, just the employee premium.

Massie stated that is correct. It is a onetime incentive, this is not something they will look at offering in the future. It is offered regardless if they are Medicare age or pre 65.

MOVED by Wells SECOND by McGahee to approve a one-time voluntary Retirement Incentive Program for employees that are eligible for normal or early retirement as defined in Chapter 17. AYE: Morford, Jackson, Burk, Tanner, Phillips, McGahee, Wells. NAY: None. MOTION CARRIED.

REPORTS: MAYOR/CITY COUNCIL/CITY MANAGER

Ihler presented revenue and expenditure highlights for period ending December 31, 2015. (On file in the City Clerk's office).

Tanner stated we are down 16% in water sales. He questioned if we are predicting a turn around in that.

Ihler stated through December they actually project 53% of the overall water revenue and at the end of November they were 19% below budget and December was better at 16%. He would guest because of conservation measures and as wet as it has been that hopefully they will get a little better.

Wells stated his granddaughter, Adrienne Wells, graduated from Cameron a year ago with a chemistry degree and biology degree. He stated she has been offered a position in dental school.

McGahee stated she attended an induction ceremony for the Lawton-Fort Sill chapter of the Oklahoma Women Veteran's organization.

Phillips stated she bagged food at the food bank and it was good to see what a great organization the food bank is and how clean the facility is. She stated they have had the first recycling committee meeting to get the subscription recycle program started and she wants the public to know that it will be at least six months before we can expect the trucks to pick up at the residence.

Tanner stated he also attended the RSVP event at the local food bank. He recognized Allen Hampton and his wife, who is the ward five representative on the LETA board. He reported that there were 29,511 active water accounts in 2009 and in January 2016, we have 27,861 accounts. That is 1,650 water accounts that are no longer producing water revenue for the general fund. The average bill is \$63. They need to look at the reasons why people are leaving Lawton and moving to the surrounding communities.

Burk stated he has chaired the recycle committee for years and he is proud that they have a starting plan. It is not exactly what everyone wanted but recycling is a challenge in today's economy. He has traveled this country looking at recycling facilities and everyone worked very hard to find a solution for Lawton. They do have to have 5,000 people sign up and it will cost \$7 a month to be a part of it, but the ultimate goal is to sign up 20,000 people and we lower that number and figure out a way to help with the refuse amount and hopefully go to once a week trash pickup and once a week recycling. He reported the 10th Annual Eye Candy Awards banquet will be held February 19th and they will be giving a founders award to Rex Givens. He stated one of the biggest complaints he received are panhandlers and the trash they leave. We need to be able to help these people but we also need our citizens to feel safe. A whole lot of this is a scam and we need to fix it and get to our state legislators and ask for help to strengthen the laws. The council is working to find a legal solution to clean up Lawton.

Jackson stated he attended a Live to Lead symposium at Cameron. He stated one of his pet projects since he came back on council has been to improve participation levels of youth sports in Lawton. He is pleased with what staff has been able to do in the youth sports program. He formed a committee and went to work with LPS and the new Parks and Recreation Director has focused on youth sports participation. He requested staff report some numbers.

Jack Hanna, Parks and Recreation Director, stated in football they increased team participation by 12 teams with 600 athletes participating. In basketball they are up 13 teams with a total of 84 teams in our basketball league. Volleyball numbers have doubled in team size. With their marketing efforts and visiting the schools, youth participation levels are very encouraging. The next campaign will focus on softball and baseball and getting those numbers up. He stated they started an equipment closet from donations for teams that may need help with equipment issues.

Jackson stated crime is still a problem and by starting at the grassroots level and getting kids involved in something other than being on the streets after school he believes we can reduce crime in the long run and he is very excited about what is going on at Parks and Recreation. The council has been a believer in youth sports and he appreciates everyone's help.

Morford stated he has had questions about if we are going to sell the recycled goods and make money. He stated they do not understand that the \$7 is what it costs us and it is just a pass through and we are not making any money.

Burk stated the only way we can get that number down is for a huge number of people to sign up. Right now people who are collecting recyclables are losing money because no one is buying. We know this is the right thing to do but it is very expensive. The company we have teamed up with is a great company and we are trying to get this whole area to use the same company and make Lawton a hub of where they pick this up and bring it back here. If it gets to a point where they could build a recycling center they would like to have it here. There is no money being made by the City of Lawton.

Morford stated we are approaching this the right way.

Wells stated this is a pass through and we don't keep one penny, it all goes to Progressive. Even Progressive is not able to sell all they are collecting right now. Recyclables are not selling right now and they are holding it until the prices go up. If the prices don't go up there will be no recycling anywhere.

Tanner stated the gentleman from Progressive said they were going to be able to make it work at \$7 up to 5,000 guarantees, but he said if we got up to 8,500 or better they would build a facility here in Lawton.

Ihler announced that he has hired a new finance director, J. I. Johnson, who is currently the finance director in Yukon. He is a CPA and has experience as a comptroller and finance director for a couple of universities and he has a lot of experience as an audit and internal control manager. He will start work at the end of February.

Tanner stated he is excited about item #4 that was just passed because the citizens now have the opportunity to get two bulk trash pickups a year and they get to choose when those pickups occur.

There being no further business to consider, the meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m. upon motion, second and roll call vote.

FRED L. FITCH, MAYOR

ATTEST:

TRACI HUSHBECK, CITY CLERK