

MINUTES
LAWTON CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
MAY 28, 2019 – 6:00 P.M.
LAWTON CITY HALL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS/AUDITORIUM

Stan Booker, Mayor

Also Present:
Michael Cleghorn, City Manager
Tim Wilson, Acting City Attorney
Traci Hushbeck, City Clerk
COL Don A. King, Fort Sill Liaison

Mayor Booker stated there is not a quorum for the city council meeting for all matters except the budget. Because the Mayor votes on the budget, we have a quorum for that. He stated they will convene the meeting, read the proclamations and other items and then they will hold the public hearing on the budget and that is all they will be able to do tonight.

Mayor Booker called the meeting to order at 6:22 p.m. Notice of meeting and agenda were posted on the City Hall notice board as required by law. Invocation was given by Pastor Doug Passmore, First Baptist East, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mary Ann Hankins, Ward One
Keith Jackson, Ward Two
Sean Fortenbaugh, Ward Six
Randy Warren, Ward Eight

ABSENT: Caleb Davis, Ward Three
Jay Burk, Ward Four
Dwight Tanner, Jr., Ward Five
Onreka Johnson, Ward Seven

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT PRESENTATION TO ELY VARGAS-FRED, JORDAN GUDGER AND JUAN TREVINO – WATER DISTRIBUTION DIVISION (This presentation will be made at the June 11th council meeting)

PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT

Mayor Booker recognized the upcoming anniversary of the 19th amendment. He presented the proclamation to members of Women That Vote and the League of Women Voters.

PROCLAMATION FOR NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK

Mayor Booker proclaimed the week of May 19-25, 2019 as National Public Works Week. He presented the proclamation to Larry Wolcott, Public Works Director.

REPORTS: MAYOR/CITY COUNCIL

Fortenbaugh encouraged everyone to look at the national flood insurance programs whether you live in a flood zone or not. He also encouraged everyone to look into a backflow preventer for the sewer system.

Hankins encouraged everyone to do what they can to help with the growing grass and to call to have debris picked up.

Cleghorn stated citizens just need to call the solid waste division because they have two free pickups during the year.

NEW BUSINESS ITEMS:

10. Hold a public hearing to receive input from the citizens of Lawton regarding the City of Lawton's proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2019-2020, and, after due consideration of the City Manager's proposals and citizens' input thereon, provide direction to finalize the budget or take action to approve the budget (with any revisions) by Resolution as deemed appropriate. Exhibits: FY 2019-2020 Preliminary Budget on file in the City Clerk's office and previously distributed to Council. Budget Resolution No. 19-__.

Mayor Booker questioned if the City Manager had any comments before they open the public hearing.

Cleghorn stated they have discussed the budget a number of times and they have made the revisions requested by the council and he feels the budget is ready for discussion for the public and then eventual passage by the city council.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED.

Mike Cornish questioned why they are raising it by \$10 million, from \$89 million to \$99 million. He stated they jumped the budget 10% or 12% and he would like to know where all the money is going.

Cleghorn stated the proposed budget was outlined in the City Manager's budget letter that was submitted with the proposed budget. This letter outlines all of the cost increases. He stated there were a lot of one time funds that were found and some of those funds were due to increased revenue due from increases to the utility rates which were 2.1% which were outlined by city code as part of city ordinance.

Mr. Cornish questioned how they were going to pay for this money twelve months from now. he questioned if all these expenditures were one time expenditures or are they hiring employees. He read that they were hiring 19 employees and spending \$250,000 to retain those so that means that next years' budget has to go up at least that amount if it goes back to the \$89 million.

Cleghorn stated there is an increase to the budget and part of that is due to the public safety facility that requires 13 additional employees. Most of this is one time monies and the budget will have to decrease next fiscal year.

Mr. Cornish questioned if they could guarantee this will not affect their water bill.

Cleghorn stated he cannot promise it will not affect the water bill because that is part of the budgetary process. Every budget year stands on its own.

Mayor Booker stated that everyone on the council is aware that this is one time and they have had discussions during their workshops about the employees that have to be added in the public safety facility and they are aware that is an issue and what it will cost in the next year. Some of this is rolling stock fund so they will not be spending that money the next year. They are spending this money on things that need to be done for the city.

Mr. Cornish questioned why it has to go in the budget, can't they still spend the money without raising the annual budget by \$10 million.

Mayor Booker stated our income was up and the new employees did not come from found money, it came from an increase in income.

Tom Leon, 2307 NW Redwood Lane, stated there are five people to vote on the budget, but someone should have pulled this out of the consent agenda. No one approved the consent agenda.

Wilson stated the Mayor can vote on the budget but there are certain items that he cannot vote on. They are taking one item tonight which is the public hearing for the budget and then they will continue the public hearing and the rest of council meeting to a date certain where we will resume. The budget item is not on consent, it is on new business.

Mr. Leon stated someone should have pulled it out of the consent agenda and then you would vote on it.

Wilson stated there is nothing to pull out of consent. They have skipped over the items the Mayor can't vote on and they are on the only item he can vote on.

MOVED by Hankins SECOND by Fortenbaugh to continue the public hearing on item #10 as well as item #10 to May 30, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. AYE: Jackson, Fortenbaugh, Warren, Hankins, Booker. NAY: None. MOTION CARRIED.

MOVED by Warren SECOND by Fortenbaugh to continue the city council meeting to May 30, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. AYE: Fortenbaugh, Warren, Hankins, Booker, Jackson. NAY: None. MOTION CARRIED.

(Meeting ended at 6:47)