

MINUTES
LAWTON CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 17, 2023 – 1:00 P.M.
LAWTON CITY HALL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS/AUDITORIUM

Stan Booker, Mayor

Also Present:

John Ratliff, Acting City Manager
Tim Wilson, Acting City Attorney
Traci Hushbeck, City Clerk

Mayor Booker called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Notice of meeting and agenda were posted on the City Hall notice board as required by law. Invocation was given by Allan Hampton, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

Mary Ann Hankins, Ward One
Kelly Harris, Ward Two
Allan Hampton, Ward Five
Sean Fortenbaugh, Ward Six
Onreka Johnson, Ward Seven
Randy Warren, Ward Eight

ABSENT:

Linda Chapman, Ward Three
George Gill, Ward Four

Mayor Booker stated item #2 will be discussed first.

2. Discuss the creation of the Council Liaison position and direct the City Manager to take action as appropriate.

MOVED by Harris SECOND by Warren to direct the City Manager to create the position of the Council Liaison. AYE: Hankins, Harris, Hampton, Fortenbaugh, Johnson, Warren. NAY: None. MOTION CARRIED.

1. Discuss Ordinance 22-16 that created Section 7-1-1-100, Article 7-1-1, Division 7-1, Chapter 7, Lawton City Code. 2015, by creating the requirement for businesses to operate in the City of Lawton and to discuss the associated fees for obtaining business licenses, and to take action as the council deems necessary.

Charlotte Brown, Community Services Director, presented information on the ordinance. She presented staff recommendations.

Mayor Booker questioned what they are trying to fix with this ordinance.

Brown stated they needed some power to be able to enforce the businesses that are operating in town and we needed them to renew their license in a timely manner. And the second is a safety issue so they know what businesses are where.

Mayor Booker opened the discussion up for audience participation. The following citizens spoke against the ordinance:

Trent Dockstetter, 1805 Cache Road
Mike Cornish, Cornish Properties
Dwight Tanner, 1612 NW Bell

Mayor Booker stated he felt that the information initially given to council was not the way it turned out. He feels there are a lot of questions that are left to interpretation and the council is dependent on the staff to give them all the information. He suggested the council ask staff to bring back more information on what our peer cities are doing.

MOVED by Fortenbaugh SECOND by Warren repeal and strike all the language and provisions in Ordinance 22-16 that created Section 7-1-1-100, Article 7-1-1, Division 7-1, Chapter 7, Lawton City Code, 2015 that relate to the new general business license and refund any money collected for the general business license. AYE: Hankins, Harris, Hampton, Fortenbaugh, Johnson, Warren. NAY: None. MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor Booker stated the problem is that the council did not have complete accurate information. He suggested they develop a policy that information needs to be documented and they need accurate information to make decisions.

3. Discuss the increase in fees from the most recent fee schedule and take action as Council deems appropriate.

Mayor Booker stated some of these fees are more than 15%.

Joe Don Dunham, Finance Director, stated he would leave that explanation to the directors.

Mayor Booker stated the agenda commentary says 15% and does not define what is in the exhibit.

Cleghorn stated that mistakes have been made going back and forth on Microsoft teams.

Dunham stated these went through the Council Fee Committee. He stated in trying to get the agenda item ready he inadvertently left some of this out.

Mayor Booker stated he feels that the fees should cover the service. He is going to bring back a council policy that puts more definition on what they want on the agenda item commentary. He stated this item does not require any action.

There being no further business to consider, the meeting adjourned at 2:06 p.m. upon motion,

Second and roll call vote.

STAN BOOKER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

TRACI HUSHBECK, CITY CLERK