

NOTICE AND AGENDA
LAWTON CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
MAY 14, 2020 – 9:30 A.M.
VIDEOCONFERENCE

This virtual meeting may be viewed by the public at:
<https://www.facebook.com/CityofLawton/>.

List of attendees and methods:

Mayor Stan Booker – Remote Videoconference
Mary Ann Hankins, Ward One– Remote Videoconference
Keith Jackson, Ward Two – Remote Videoconference
Linda Chapman, Ward Three- Remote Videoconference
Jay Burk, Ward Four– Remote Videoconference
Allan Hampton, Ward Five - Remote Videoconference
Sean Fortenbaugh, Ward Six – Remote Videoconference
Onreka Johnson, Ward Seven- Remote Videoconference
Randy Warren, Ward Eight– Remote Videoconference

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER WITH INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

BUSINESS ITEMS:

1. Discussion of preliminary budget and take appropriate action if necessary. Exhibits: None.
2. Consider directing staff to create a program that would allow individuals, businesses and other entities, willing to do so, to contribute to a dedicated fund that would be used exclusively to pay outstanding late fees incurred by Lawton utility customers who are in arrears because of their inability to pay their City of Lawton Utility bill during the period of time the city was under the Mayoral Civil Emergency Proclamation put in place because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Exhibits: None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEM:

3. Pursuant to Section 307B.2, Title 25, Oklahoma Statutes, consider convening in executive session to discuss negotiations for a Collective Bargaining Agreement for FY 2020-2021 between the International Union of Police Associations (IUPA), Local 24, and the City of Lawton, and, if necessary, take appropriate action in open session.

ADJOURNMENT

"The City of Lawton encourages participation from all of its citizens. If participation at any public meeting is not possible due to a disability, notification to the City Clerk at (580) 581-3305 at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting is encouraged to make the necessary accommodations. The City may waive the 48 hour rule if interpreters for the deaf (signing) is not the necessary accommodation."

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM COMMENTARY**

ITEM TITLE: Consider directing staff to create a program that would allow individuals, businesses and other entities, willing to do so, to contribute to a dedicated fund that would be used exclusively to pay outstanding late fees incurred by Lawton utility customers who are in arrears because of their inability to pay their City of Lawton Utility bill during the period of time the city was under the Mayoral Civil Emergency Proclamation put in place because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

INITIATOR: Councilmember Warren

STAFF INFORMATION SOURCE: City Manager, Finance Director and City Attorney

BACKGROUND: During the current Mayoral Civil Emergency Proclamation the City of Lawton has not been disconnecting utility accounts for non-payment. Many/most of those, approximately 4,200 accounts, remain delinquent. This equates to tens of thousands of dollars in late fees and those 4,200 accounts now total over \$700,000 in unpaid utility bills. This is not a sustainable situation for those residents, nor for City of Lawton from either a financial or legal standpoint. Under the longstanding lease and operations agreement between the Lawton Water Authority and the City of Lawton and the contractual conditions of financing secured by utilities pledged by the city, the city cannot allow outstanding balances on Lawton utility accounts to remain unpaid.

For these reasons, establishing a program to allow donations to be used to assist residents with delinquent late fees, who continue to experience financial difficulty, would be beneficial to those residents, as well as to the City. Some areas for consideration by Council to direct staff to include in such a program are:

1. A method by which individuals, businesses and entities would have the ability to contribute to a dedicated fund that would be used to pay the outstanding late fees incurred by Lawton utility customers who are in arrears for accounts unpaid during the period of time the city was under the Mayoral Civil Emergency Proclamation.
2. A method to equitably apply to these utility accounts the donated funds for said late fees.
3. A method allowing this utility account repayment program to afford those affected account holders the ability to apply for and if qualified be allowed to enter into a repayment agreement that will be used to repay the outstanding account balance incurred during the Mayoral Civil Emergency proclamation and establish a maximum timeline for repayment of those utility account balances.
4. A method allowing citizens the ability to pay off their debt associated with this civil emergency, while at the same time keeping current with their ongoing utility bills that are incurred after the Emergency Order has been lifted.

EXHIBITS:

KEY ISSUES:

FUNDING SOURCE: Contributed Funding Only

RECOMMENDED COUNCIL ACTION: Provide direction to staff to prepare a Lawton Utility Account Assistance program to bring back to council at the next available regular Council meeting.

ITEM NO. 3

MTG. DATE May 14, 2020

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
STAFF AGENDA ITEM COMMENTARY

ITEM TITLE: Pursuant to Section 307B.2, Title 25, Oklahoma Statutes, consider convening in executive session to discuss negotiations for a Collective Bargaining Agreement for FY 2020-2021 between the International Union of Police Associations (IUPA), Local 24, and the City of Lawton, and, if necessary, take appropriate action in open session.

INITIATOR: Timothy Wilson, Acting City Attorney

STAFF INFORMATION SOURCE: Timothy Wilson, Acting City Attorney
Bart Hadley, Deputy City Manager

BACKGROUND: The City Attorney desires to discuss with the Mayor and Council the status of negotiations between the City and the IUPA Local 24.

The City Attorney advises the City Council that the Council should determine that disclosure of confidential communications between the Council and the City Attorney regarding the above referenced item will seriously impair the ability of the City to defend the City's interest, and from that determination, the Council should convene in executive session to discuss this matter.

EXHIBITS: N/A

KEY ISSUES: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

STAFF RECOMMENDED COUNCIL ACTION: Convene in executive session to discuss negotiations for a Collective Bargaining Agreement for FY 2020-2021 between the IUPA Local 24, and the City of Lawton, and, if necessary, take appropriate action in open session.