MINUTES
LAWTON CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
JUNE 18, 2020 – 2:00 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

Mayor Booker called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Notice of meeting and agenda were posted on the City Hall notice board as required by law. Invocation was given by Council Member Hampton, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

Mary Ann Hankins, Ward One
Keith Jackson, Ward Two
Linda Chapman, Ward Three
Jay Burk, Ward Four
Allan Hampton, Ward Five
Sean Fortenbaugh, Ward Six
Onreka Johnson, Ward Seven (arrived @ 2:07 p.m.)
Randy Warren, Ward Eight

ABSENT: None

NEW BUSINESS ITEM:

1. Continue discussion on the City of Lawton's proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021, and provide direction to finalize the budget or take action to approve the budget (with any revisions) by Resolution as deemed appropriate. Exhibits: FY 2020-2021 Preliminary Budget on file in the City Clerk's office and previously distributed to Council. Budget Resolution No. 20-__.

Cleghorn stated they looked at proposals to assist with furloughs for general employees. As they were in conversations with our unions about the equivalent savings from them, we were not as successful as we hoped we would be. He and the Deputy City Manager looked at the possibility of doing away with the furloughs. They had a program to incentivize retirement and we had 17 employees who accepted that proposal. That coupled with the two furlough days which equated to $200,000 which allowed us to start formulating a plan to eliminate those furlough days to the near to midterm. He cannot guarantee that they may have to put some furlough days and layoff proposition back into the budget. He reviewed Budget Revision #6 (which is on file in the City Clerk's Office). He stated there are 15 less police officers authorized in the budget. We have been at 175 for some time since we implemented the hiring freeze. If you add the two firefighter positions to previous years' cuts, that is about 6.5% to 7%, then you have about 38 positions in the general employee group that were also eliminated as part of this budget. The bottom line is from 889 employees last year, we are down to 840. He stated sales tax from March and April fell about 8.5%, however use tax has increased during that time period and has made up for some of the shortfalls in sales tax. He stated when they get May's sales tax they expect it to be similar to what it is now. He stated we trimmed back in the 200 and 300 accounts because typically every year we have some left over in those accounts. He stated there is some contingency in this place holder budget. He stated he is presenting a place holder budget that is a balanced budget that will get us to the beginning of the fiscal year and we will monitor our sales tax and use tax every month.

Burk questioned the amount of the increase with the CPI.

Cleghorn stated 1.7% or approximately $600,000.

Burk questioned the increase on an average bill.

Cleghorn stated for the senior/disabled discount it would be 25 cents on average per month per year if you average it over five years. If you use over 5,000 gallons it would be a little over $1 a month on average for the five years.

Burk questioned if there was any way they could come up with that $600,000 and he questioned the carryover for this budget.

Cleghorn stated it would be zero. If council were inclined to put it back in, we would have to find roughly $360,000 to $400,000.

Burk stated staff has done an amazing job of finding places to cut and to add back in. He stated he is concerned about a zero carryover. With this being a place holder budget they will probably be coming back in a few months and discuss this again. He does not know how they can cut any deeper unless it come back to cutting staff.

Cleghorn stated cutting staff would be the only solution. They can get more aggressive with numbers which he would not recommend because speculating on revenue is dangerous territory. They have already cut staff by 50 personnel which will affect service levels. They need to go back and level out some of those service areas so the staff will adjust through the years as they look at what service levels need. Until they get the Novak report back he is reluctant to recommend any more personnel cuts.

Burk clarified that this budget includes once a week trash pickup.

Cleghorn stated this includes once a week trash pickup after October 1st because we don't want to go and do any equipment purchases until the budget is approved and it will take some time to get the program in place and then we want to do a good education campaign. He is looking at somewhere between November and January 1st to implement once a week trash collection. There will be once a week trash collection along with once a month bulk collection. Citizens will actually get more cubic yards of material removed from their homes than with the twice a week trash collection. This is an attempt to beautify the city by providing regular bulk collection through all the wards of the city.

Burk stated this will save on manpower, fuel and equipment use. He stated the committee agreed that we had to give this a try to see how it would work. A citizen can still get an extra can for $5 a month. The goal is to do away with Trash Off and save those funds. If they can do this curb side it will be much easier on the citizens. Staff has a great plan and the committee will look at more ideas. He stated he was totally against the CPI, but at this point unless we cut more employees, he does not see how we do it without the CPI. They may be able to look at this in a few months and make some adjustments.

Cleghorn stated he would ask that they look at the compounding effect of the CPI, which is actually paying for the cost of services and goods from last year. We operate for half year or more off of that without an increase in the CPI.

Burk stated the way things are looking across the nation we may have a 0% CPI next year.

Cleghorn stated it is more difficult if you forego a few years. It is easier on folks if you do it cumulative.

Warren thanked the committee and staff for all their hard work on this. We are one of very few cities that have twice a week pickup and he feels this is a great compromise.

Mayor Booker stated the bulk trash component is going to make a difference in our city. We are one of the few cities that are still doing it. He stated when we talk about the CPI we are really talking about the City getting a little push with the purchases we have to make. As we move forward trying to clean up the city it is important that new strategies take place and he feels this is a really good strategy to try to make sure that everything is picked up once a month. Staff has really worked out a schedule to make it easy for the citizens. He commended staff and the committee for all their work.

Cleghorn stated that as far as cost increases, our cost for chemicals at the water plant last year increased 30%.

Johnson stated the committee and staff worked hard on coming up with different solutions. She questioned if they were going to waive the fee for the first month.

Cleghorn stated they would never implement a program where we immediately started penalizing our citizenry. There would be a moratorium where people get use to this new process. Usually it is 30 or 60 days for people to get used to the program before you start doing any fees or fines.

Hampton stated when they readjust the budget they will know more about staffing and all of the things they had to consider with this budget.

Cleghorn stated he can work within this budget, but the minute it starts to move outside the parameters he would have to bring it back to council. They anticipate that they will have to bring this back to council. As they get more information on revenues they can come back with recommendations.

Wilson questioned if the resolution attached to the agenda item was correct or will it need to be amended.

Cleghorn stated they will have to amend it with the changes that were addressed on the floor.

Wilson recommended that the motion authorize staff to make the amendments necessary to comply with today's presentation.

MOVED by Burk SECOND by Hankins to adopt **Resolution 20-34** approving the budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 and authorize staff to make the necessary amendments. AYE: Hankins, Jackson, Chapman, Burk, Hampton, Fortenbaugh, Johnson, Warren, Booker. NAY: None. MOTION CARRIED.

There being no further business to consider, the meeting adjourned at 2:33 p.m. upon motion, Second and roll call vote.

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STAN BOOKER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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TRACI HUSHBECK, CITY CLERK