

MINUTES
LAWTON CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 11, 2023 – 2:00 P.M.
LAWTON CITY HALL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS/AUDITORIUM

Stan Booker, Mayor

Also Present:
John Ratliff, Acting City Manager
Greg Gibson, Assistant City Attorney
Donalynn Blazek-Scherler, 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 Pastor Allan Hampton, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mary Ann Hankins, Ward One
Kelly Harris, Ward Two*
Linda Chapman, Ward Three
George Gill, Ward Four
Allan Hampton, Ward Five
Bob Weger, Ward Six
Randy Warren, Ward Eight**

ABSENT: Onreka Johnson, Ward Seven

*Arrived at 2:38PM

** Arrived at 2:30PM

BUSINESS ITEMS:

1. Receive training from the City's Disclosure Counsel on the City's disclosure responsibilities related to the City's issuance of bonds, etc., under the federal securities laws including Securities & Exchange Commission guidance for council members, overview of disclosure procedures, disclosure standards and the distinction between liability of the City and liability of individual council members.

Gibson stated this is a required training under Council Policy 4-3, and it is also given to some City staff that are involved in bond disclosure activities. Gibson stated we have Brian Garzione with Hawkins, Delafield, and Wood LLP, the City of Lawton's bond disclosure counsel based in Washington, D.C.

Garzione presented via video conference regarding disclosure responsibilities under the Federal Securities Laws. This presentation is available in the City Clerk's Office.

No Action was taken.

2. Consider a request from the Lawton Economic Development Authority (LEDA) for financial support in filling the LEDA Executive Director position, with any funds expended by the City of Lawton to LEDA to be paid back by income from various tax increment districts as funds become available, and take action as deemed necessary.

LEDA Chairman Fred Fitch stated that Richard Rogalski previously filled this role from a leadership standpoint because of his knowledge in bond financing and various TIF programs. Fitch went on to explain how a tax increment financing district works, using TIF 2 and Westwin as examples, and stated the TIFs are a lot to keep up with. There is a long process, and the funds go through several entities before arriving to the City, so someone has to keep track of all of this. There is a lot of growth with LEDA and the TIFs that are being done.

Fitch stated there are also retail packages that take time and knowledge to be able to put together to be presented to project managers. Right now, this is being done by the City Finance Department, and it is putting a strain on staff and the product isn't great.

Fitch stated Jeannie Bowden, the Economic Development Director at LEDC, left about 3 months ago to work elsewhere, so that position has to be filled as well. It was decided that the two entities should work together and share the cost of approximately \$140,000.00 to hire an executive director. Fitch stated LEDC would contribute \$63,000.00 and LEDA would contribute \$77,000.00 towards the salary. LEDA would have 55% control of that position. At this time, LEDA and LEDC have both drafted separate contracts that differ on the scope of responsibilities.

Fitch stated there is no particular candidate in mind, and we have contact information on a headhunter experienced in economic development.

Fitch stated he is coming to Council today to request the \$77,000.00 for the salary in a loan from the hotel/motel economic development tax fund. This money would be paid back when the tax increments start coming in.

Motion by Gill, Second by Chapman, to approve a request from the Lawton Economic Development Authority (LEDA) for financial support in filling the LEDA Executive Director position, with any funds expended by the City of Lawton to LEDA to be paid back by income from various tax increment districts as funds become available. AYE: Hankins, Chapman, Gill, Hampton, Weger. NAY: None. ***Motion passed.***

EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS:

3. Pursuant to section 307B.1, Title 25, Oklahoma Statutes, consider convening in executive session to discuss particular candidates who have submitted applications for the position of city manager, and, if necessary, take appropriate action in open session.

Motion by Gill, Second by Warren, to adjourn into executive session. AYE: Hankins, Harris,

Chapman, Gill, Hampton, Weger, Warren. NAY: None. ***Motion Passed.***

City Council remained in executive session from 3:13PM to 4:53PM.

Motion by Hampton, Second by Warren, to return from executive session. AYE: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Gill, Hampton, Weger, Warren. NAY: None. ***Motion Passed.***

Gibson read the title. No action was necessary.

There being no further business to consider, the meeting adjourned at 4:54 p.m. upon motion, Second and roll call vote.

STAN BOOKER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

DONALYNN BLAZEK-SCHERLER, CITY CLERK