

MINUTES
LAWTON CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 7, 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 Pastor Bob Weger, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

Mary Ann Hankins, Ward One (Arrived @ 1:16 p.m.)

Kelly Harris, Ward Two (Arrived @ 1:27 p.m.)

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

1. Discuss and consider the City Clerk Job Description and recruiting process to replace the retiring City Clerk and take action as deemed necessary.

Craig Akard, Human Resources Director, distributed copies of the proposed job description. He requested direction from the City Council as to how to proceed with posting the job.

Ratliff stated they need direction on how long to list the job, the salary range, and if they would like to post the job internally and externally.

Hampton stated he feels that in house experience will be very important.

Warren suggested they open it internally and externally. But the external candidates should be familiar with what the council does.

Ratliff suggested the council list the position with a salary range from \$85,000 to \$95,000 and post the position today and keep it open until September 25th and discuss candidates at the September 26th council meeting.

MOVED by Warren SECOND by Chapman to direct the City Manager to post the City Clerk position for a period of 18 days so that the preparation for transition can begin immediately. I move further to direct the City Manager to post this position at the \$85,000 to \$95,000 salary range and to announce the vacancy both internally and externally. Finally, move to direct the City Manager to evaluate the applicants for the position and make a recommendation to council on the best applicant for the position no later than September 26, 2023. AYE: Hankins, Chapman, Gill, Hampton, Weger, Warren. NAY: None. MOTION CARRIED.

The Mayor and Council convened in executive session at 1:20 p.m. and reconvened in regular, open session at 2:49 p.m. Roll call reflected all members present.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

2. 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.

Wilson read the title of item #2. No action was taken.

3. Pursuant to Section 307B.4, Title 25, Oklahoma Statutes, consider convening in executive session to discuss the pending action in the District Court of Comanche County titled Julie Magness v. City of Lawton, CJ-2023-410 and, if necessary, take appropriate action in open session.

Wilson read the title of item #3.

MOVED by Warren SECOND by Gill to retain the law firm Pierce, Couch, Hendrickson, Baysinger and Green to represent the City in the lawsuit Julie Magness vs. City of Lawton, Case No. CJ-2023-410 at the rate of \$200/hour for partners and \$175/hours for associates, and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the retainer agreement. AYE: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Gill, Hampton, Weger, Warren. NAY: None. MOTION CARRIED.

There being no further business to consider, the meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m. upon motion, Second and roll call vote.

STAN BOOKER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

TRACI HUSHBECK, CITY CLERK