

MINUTES  
LAWTON CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
MAY 28, 2013 – 6:00 P.M.  
NEW CITY HALL  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS/AUDITORIUM

Mayor Fred L. Fitch  
Presiding

Also Present:  
Bryan Long, City Manager  
Frank V. Jensen, City Attorney  
Traci Hushbeck, City Clerk

Mayor Fitch called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. Notice of meeting and agenda were posted on the City Hall notice board as required by law. Invocation was given by Pastor Ray Garcia, Word Alive Church, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

Bob Morford, Ward One  
Keith Jackson, Ward Two  
Rosemary Bellino-Hall, Ward Three  
Jay Burk, Ward Four  
George Moses, Ward Five  
Richard Zarle, Ward Six  
Stanley Haywood, Ward Seven  
Doug Wells, Ward Eight

ABSENT:

None

PRESENTATION OF OUTSTANDING CITIZEN RECOGNITION TO DONNA CAMPOS-BARAHONA

The presentation will be rescheduled for the June 11th meeting.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT PRESENTATION

Mayor Fitch and Jerry Ihler, Public Works Director, recognized Cecile Chandler and Mike Spencer, Water Distribution, for their work with a main break at University and Gore.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: None.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAWTON CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 14, 2013.

MOVED by Wells SECOND by Jackson to approve the minutes of Lawton City Council regular meeting of May 14, 2013. AYE: Morford, Jackson, Bellino-Hall, Burk, Moses, Zarle, Haywood, Wells. NAY: None. MOTION CARRIED.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Wells requested item #9 and Morford requested item #18 be considered separately.

Jackson stated he would like to discuss items #4 and #7.

MOVED by Burk SECOND by Moses to approve the consent agenda with the exception of items #4, #7, #9 and #18. AYE: Morford, Jackson, Bellino-Hall, Burk, Moses, Zarle, Haywood, Wells. NAY: None. MOTION CARRIED.

1. Consider the following damage claim recommended for approval: L.B. and Marie Wiley in the amount of \$2,302.52. Exhibits: Legal Opinion/Recommendation and **Resolution No. 13-31**.
2. Consider the following damage claims recommended for denial: Teddy and Debra Caldwell, dba T. Caldwell, LLC. in the amount of \$3,000.00, and George and Sharlene Garrett in the amount of \$1,069.90. Exhibits: Legal Opinions/Recommendations.
3. Consider approval of the Retainer Agreement for Legal Services between the City of Lawton and James Priest and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the Agreement. Exhibits: Retainer Agreement for Professional & Legal Services on file in City Clerk's Office.
4. Consider renewing an Agreement between the State of Oklahoma Office of Juvenile Affairs and the City of Lawton for the continued operation and management of a Community Intervention Center in Lawton, and authorize execution of the Affidavit of Assignment authorizing payment directly from the State to Marie Detty as the CIC subcontractor. Exhibits: Affidavit of Assignment is on file in City Clerk's Office.

Jackson stated this is a budgeted item for the City and questioned if this is something they need to look at reducing 10%, 15% or 20%.

Jensen stated this is the annual renewal of the Community Intervention Center contract where they bring juveniles that they can't bring to jail to be held for 24 hours. Our current contract has matching requirements of both money and in kind services. If we were to change our matching fund amount we may or may not continue to get funding from the state. It would have an impact on the amount of funds they provide to us, which is \$270,000.

Jackson stated he knows this is an important area, but they are trying to look at all departments and budgetary requirements and he felt this is something he should ask about.

Mayor Fitch suggested they not approve or disapprove this item and wrap it up tomorrow when they continue the discussion on the budget.

Jackson stated he also feels item #7 is in the same situation.

Jensen stated staff could not make the 48 hour deadline to post a special meeting tomorrow so they will be continuing the discussion on the budget until tomorrow at 1:30 p.m. They will not be taking any action on items at the meeting tomorrow because the budget item today is a non action item. For the CIC contract there is no deadline for approving the assignment to Marie Detty to approve the agreement. We have already met their deadline to submit Marie Detty's budget. They could bring this item back at the next regular council meeting. He stated on item #7 there are some contracts there that don't have matching requirements and those will be easier to deal with from a legal standpoint if the council wants to do something. Item #4 is going to be more complicated because we are dealing with a state agency.

Jackson stated he does not want something to slip through the cracks and not evaluate a budgetary item.

MOVED by Jackson to table this item to the next meeting.  
(Motion died due to lack of second)

Wells suggested the Police Chief comment on these items.

Haywood stated they have students that cause problems at school and instead of taking them to jail they are taken to the CIC and the City hands this over to Marie Detty. He stated they do not want to lose that \$271,000. He stated this is very important to Lawton.

Jackson stated he agrees and was there when they started this thing. It just seems that every time an issue is brought up to take a look at the budget, everything seems to be a sacred item.

Deputy Chief James Apple, Lawton Police Department, stated the CIC and JDC are both part of the police department budget. Those budgetary items were looked at very closely and Roadback was reduced. The others did not ask for an increase this year and staff is requesting that they be approved at the same amount as last year.

MOVED by Haywood SECOND by Zarle to renew an agreement between the State of Oklahoma Office of Juvenile Affairs and the City of Lawton for the continued operation and management of a Community Intervention Center in Lawton, and authorize execution of the Affidavit of Assignment authorizing payment directly from the State to Marie Detty as the CIC subcontractor AYE: Morford, Jackson, Bellino-Hall, Burk, Moses, Zarle, Haywood, Wells. NAY: None. MOTION CARRIED.

5. Consider awarding a contract for the Group Health and Dental Plan Administration Services and Reinsurance Stop Loss to Blue Cross and Blue Shield. Exhibits: Spreadsheet of quotes. Contract is on file in the City Clerk's office.
6. Consider extending the City of Lawton Property Insurance contract with North American Insurance Agency of Lawton, underwritten by the Chubb Insurance Group. Exhibits: Contract Extension Form, Price Sheet.

7. Consider approving annual contract renewals between the City of Lawton and the following: County Commissioners (Juvenile Detention Center); J. Roy Dunning (Children’s Shelter); and Roadback (Detoxification Center); Lawton Crimestoppers, Inc. (Funds from sale of property in police custody). Exhibits: Copies of contracts are located in the City Clerk’s Office for review.

MOVED by Jackson SECOND by Moses to approve the annual contract renewals between the City of Lawton and the following: County Commissioners (Juvenile Detention Center), J. Roy Dunning, Roadback, and Lawton Crimestoppers, Inc. AYE: Morford, Jackson, Bellino-Hall, Burk, Moses, Zarle, Haywood, Wells. NAY: None. MOTION CARRIED.

8. Consider approving the agreement with the Oklahoma Department of Libraries for the purposes of partnering with the Oklahoma Department of Libraries and receiving materials and guidance for the 2013 Summer Reading Program. Exhibits: Oklahoma Department of Libraries agreement.
9. Consider accepting an engagement letter for technical accounting and consulting services with the firm of Crawford & Associates, P.C., and provide guidance to staff as appropriate. Exhibits: Engagement Letter with Crawford & Associates, P.C.

Wells stated he has spoken with the City Manager and understands that we have gotten some valuable advice from Crawford & Associates, but we have paid them approximately \$91,000 in the past two years. He stated the things we are getting advice on it seems are the things we are paying over \$100,000 to the finance director and a couple hundred thousand more to accounting staff to tell us. He does not feel this should be renewed.

MOVED by Wells to deny item #9.  
(Motion died due to lack of second)

Moses questioned what kind of advice we were receiving from this firm.

Rick Endicott, Finance Director, stated it is much more than advice. For approximately ten years they have had a relationship with Crawford and Associates. He stated they handle almost every municipality in Oklahoma. Their firm is filled with staff that have come from municipalities.

Moses questioned if there are tasks that they perform in assisting our city’s accounting or are there issues that they resolve by finding cases to help us sort out how we do the accounting within the city.

Endicott stated right now they have been asked to help us with the evaluation of new GASBY rules and laws as they affect the city. If we had the staff to do all this research it would cost much more than \$50,000 per year.

Wells stated we pay a finance director and accounting staff to do these things.

Moses stated this is a lot of money and he suggested they table this issue until they have dealt with bigger pieces of the budget.

Mayor Fitch stated the value of what Crawford brings to the table costs us \$50,000 per year. If we employed staff to do the research and fact find cases dealing with the taxes that are very instrumental within this community, he has a feeling there would be a cost increase of \$250,000 to \$300,000. He feels this is a valuable tool that is utilized across the state by many communities and also by a lot of smaller communities that don't have the funds in which to fully staff a financial services office. Things are becoming more and more complicated.

Endicott stated they not only provide an excellent service to the financial side, they are also legal experts when we get into negotiations and arbitrations. He stated if the council chooses not to contract with a firm to help with these very technical areas, the city will lose much more money than \$50,000.

Burk stated accounting laws are getting tougher and tougher and he cannot imagine hiring more people.

MOVED by Burk SECOND by Bellino-Hall to accept an engagement letter for technical accounting and consulting services with the firm of Crawford & Associates, P.C. AYE: Morford, Jackson, Bellino-Hall, Burk, Moses, Zarle, Haywood. NAY: Wells. MOTION CARRIED.

10. Consider acknowledging receipt of a Tier I permit from the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality for the construction of 3,953 linear feet of 8-inch PVC, 982 linear feet of 10-inch PVC, 1928 linear feet of 12-inch PVC, 910 linear feet of 16-inch PVC water line, and all appurtenances to serve the Lawton Town Center project located between NW 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and Railroad Avenue, Gore Boulevard and Ferris Avenue in the SE/4 of Section 30, T2N, R11W, I.M., Comanche County, Oklahoma. Exhibits: Permit to Construct on file in the City Clerk's Office.
11. Consider adopting Street Light Resolution No. 482 to authorize the installation/removal of street lights at the location listed in the Resolution. Exhibits: Street Light Resolution No. 482.
12. Consider authorizing the Mayor to execute a Letter Agreement with Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc. to close-out the professional engineering services for the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Phase II and III - COL Project #2010-7, and directing staff to process the final invoice of \$4,032.00 and to complete the project in-house. Exhibits: Phase II and III Route Map.
13. Consider extending contract (CL11-026) Alternate Daily Cover with LSC Environmental Products of Apalachin, NY. Exhibits: Department Recommendation, Contract Extension Form, Price Sheet.

14. Consider extending contract (CL11-031) Rock Hauling with A.E. Construction of Lawton, OK. Exhibits: Department Recommendation, Contract Extension Form, Price Sheet.
15. Consider extending contract (CL11-037) Mowing & Litter Contract Area NE Flowermound Rd. Right of Ways from Rogers Lane to Bishop Rd. with Hardage Landscaping of Lawton, OK. Exhibits: Department Recommendation, Contract Extension Form, Price Sheet.
16. Consider extending contract (CL11-037) Mowing & Litter Contract Area Lee Blvd Medians & Right of Ways from ¼ West of I-44 to Channel 7 TV Tower & one (1) block East of Sheridan Rd. to NW 67<sup>th</sup> St. with UCI Services Group Inc. of Lawton, OK. Exhibits: Department Recommendation, Contract Extension Form, Price Sheet.
17. Consider extending contract (CL11-037) Mowing & Litter Contract Area Gore Blvd Medians from Railroad St. to 17<sup>th</sup> St. and from NW 34<sup>th</sup> St. to NW 52<sup>nd</sup> St. Gore Blvd Medians and Right of Ways from Railroad St. to NE 45<sup>th</sup> St. with Teen Challenge of Oklahoma of Cache, OK. Exhibits: Department Recommendation, Contract Extension Form, Price Sheet.
18. Consider amending contract (RFPC12-010) Emergency Notification System with Everbridge of Glendale, CA. Exhibits: Amendment to Everbridge Service Agreement, Exhibit A1 & B1.

Morford stated he would like more clarification. He questioned if this replaces Code Red and what people need to do to get signed up.

Long stated Everbridge is a completely distinct system from Code Red.

Derrell Morgan, 911 Division Supervisor, stated Everbridge has made some significant improvements and before we can move forward they wanted us to amend the contract to recognize some of the changes. There is no dollar value associated with this contract, it is just recognizing some of the legal language in the contract. If this is approved, IT will put this on the City of Lawton and Comanche County website for citizens to sign up for emergency and weather notifications.

Morford questioned if citizens are already signed up with Code Red, do they have to sign up again with Everbridge.

Morgan stated yes, they are encouraging every citizen to sign up at no fee.

Mayor Fitch questioned if there was anyplace within the city that you can register your storm shelter.

Morgan stated if a citizen has a storm shelter they would like to register they can contact Comanche County Emergency Management Director Clint Wagstaff. He stated he can have the number posted on the website tomorrow.

MOVED by Morford SECOND by Haywood to amend contract (RFPCL12-010) Emergency Notification System with Everbridge of Glendale, CA. AYE: Morford, Jackson, Bellino-Hall, Burk, Moses, Zarle, Haywood, Wells. NAY: None. MOTION CARRIED.

19. Consider approving appointments to boards and commissions. Exhibits: None.

**Lawton Housing Authority**

James Drew  
1401 A Wisconsin  
Lawton Oklahoma 73501  
UT 08/24/15

20. Consider approval of payroll for the periods of May 13-26, 2013.

**NEW BUSINESS ITEMS:**

Mayor Fitch stated before they get into the public hearing for the budget he would like to have representatives from the Lawton Fort Sill Chamber of Commerce and the Lawton Economic Development Corporation come forward and present their semi-annual report to the council.

Toney Stricklin, Chairman of Lawton Fort Sill Chamber of Commerce, stated the federal and state agenda this year really drove their focus. The number one item on the federal agenda was to help maintain the Army's force structure at Fort Sill. Six weeks ago the community had the opportunity to go to Fort Sill for a "listening session" and give their thoughts on what it would mean to this community to take our share of what the Army told them that cuts may be, which is 4,700 soldiers. BRAC 2005 gave the air defense school 2,300 soldiers. We are talking about a cut that is twice the size of what we gained in the 2005 BRAC. He feels they gave a very compelling case to General McDonald as well as the Army staff observer who was here. They sent the Army staff member back with a document that says that this is a bad idea and it would be devastating to our economy. He stated on the legislative affairs side they hosted the Lt. Governor's Small Business Summit. They also had a Lawton Fort-Sill Day at the capital. The Washington DC fly in came just after it was announced that some of our defense firms were taking some difficult cuts. They had discussions with elected leaders about the impact of why these companies should not take these cuts and what it is doing to our community. Some of those funds were reinstated for the balance of the fiscal year. They had the Governor, Lt. Governor and Speaker of the House address the delegation at the Oklahoma legislative reception. These types of things helps us build credibility. He thanked the council for the opportunity to manage their portion of hotel/motel tax. He requested that the council continue to look at the hotel/motel dollars that they give them to manage as being a viable part of the Chamber of Commerce and know that they are putting those to good work.

Debra Burch, President of Lawton Fort Sill Chamber of Commerce, stated they have made significant adjustments to the program during a year of declining revenues. Many of their chamber members stepped forward with funding for events, marketing and advertising. They invited businesses together to focus group sessions to identify issues that impacted businesses

and that is how they adopted their state and federal agendas. In Washington, D.C. small teams had meetings with legislative staff and government officials to find out how they could get what we needed in Lawton. It was very important for them to showcase the economic impact of Lawton to our state legislators. The Chamber successfully engaged its members with legislative agenda items sending out calls to action telling them when there were crucial votes at the state and federal levels. Despite a down turn in revenues, they did have measurable success in developing their tourism program. They provided financial support to fifteen events organized by other entities. Currently Cameron University is conducting a study to determine the economic impact of a visitor in Lawton. They often measure those results in number of hotel room nights. For the twenty-one events that were produced, supported or recruited, they are able to confirm 2,448 hotel room nights. That revenue would equal \$220,320 which would generate over \$11,000 in hotel/motel tax and over \$9,000 in sales tax revenue. That does not include what they might spend on gas and food. They hope to work more in beautification, particularly around the areas of the new bridges that will have artwork on them to create inviting entrances to our city.

Barry Albrecht, President and CEO of Lawton Economic Development Corporation, stated there is new energy in the community with trying to bring in new jobs. He stated they have created new tools and new strategies and initiatives that will bring wealth to this community. (He presented a power point presentation).

21. Hold a public hearing to receive input from citizens regarding the City of Lawton budget for Fiscal Year 2013-2014. Exhibits: None.

Mayor Fitch stated that the council is very limited as to budgeting or having the revenue flow into this city. We are the only state that does not get ad valorem tax for their cities and that is a tremendous impact on communities. He requested that citizens not get too redundant and keep comments to 2-3 minutes.

#### PUBLIC HEARING OPENED

Cindy Ehlers, Engineering Division and Co-Chair of the Employee Advisory Committee, stated she is here to speak on behalf of the general employees who could not attend tonight. She has worked for the City of Lawton since August 2005 and although she has moved up in positions and has received step increases, she has only received one cost of living increase. For many years she was told that if they do not spend the money they are given in their budget, they will lose it and they will not get as much in the next years' budget. Since she found out that is where her raise comes from and how much money the City is in debt, she has done everything she can to cut pennies in her division. All she has managed to do is cut \$600 off of next year's budget. She stated the fees we charge for water and recreation is below the national average, and why, because the council promised their constituents they wouldn't raise fees. The 900 plus city employees are constituents and they vote. She does not understand why the council would not want to cut funding for the museum but they would cut 50-75 employees. She understands that council believes that beautification is important and community improvement is important, but she cannot think of a better improvement program than to improve the lives of the community of employees who work hard for this city every single day, despite not having a cost of living

increase in years. She stated almost every city in the nation charges a landfill fee and questioned why we could not have that. It only affects those who use it. Why can't they charge more for a boat fee or day use at the lake if it helps a single mom keep her job. She stated the only way we will solve this debt problem is if they cut spending and bring more money in. The general employees are tired of being forced to reduce what they need so that the council can pay police and fire contracts and CIP projects that the council feels are more important. They feel that in the council's eyes, the general employees are disposal. She does not see where the funding for the museum is more important than someone that has to provide for their family. All they are asking for is to consider their needs.

Mike Dudley, 1006 B Avenue, stated he is a City of Lawton retiree. He stated there are several fees that the City of Lawton pays every year that are membership fees into associations for some of the professional employees. He stated if those employees want to be members of those organizations they should pay for their own membership fees. He suggested that the City of Lawton withdraw from the Oklahoma Municipal League. The annual fee for that organization is \$55,000. That fee would save two jobs.

Lino Rodan, stated he produces and hosts a local radio show. He requested feedback from his listeners regarding this issue. He received suggestions such as reducing salaries of top executives, have every division cut 10% from their budget, eliminate vacant positions, close landfill one day a week, charge fee at landfill for non-residents, once week trash pick up, cut training and travel expenses for council and use in house engineers to plan bicycle path. He stated citizens do not want a surcharge or an increase in water rates. It is getting too expensive to live in Lawton.

Mary Virginia Osher, stated her main interest is in the Center for Creative Living. She stated this was formed over thirty years ago by a group who were concerned about the activities and programs for people 55 and older. The center offers exercise classes, domino groups, quilting and painting session, a well stocked library and bus trips to other cities and events. Each day 93-125 people are in attendance of one or more of the 140 programs. The monthly average is 1,957 which amounts to over 23,000 persons annually. She stated the \$18,000 subsidy is appreciated, needed and well spent and she requested the council continue the funding.

John Kinslow, 202 Fort Sill Boulevard, stated during the great depression Southwestern Bell did not lay off one employee. He stated they cut back the hours of every employee so that each employee could continue to have a good job. He encouraged the council to consider cutting back hours of the general employees enough to accomplish the same amount of reduction in costs so that employees will not lose their jobs during this recession.

Jeremy Ryhmes, 408 G Avenue, stated both scenarios presented by Mr. Long at the budget meeting were heavy on the cuts and light on the additional revenue. He stated immediately the council started picking out things in the budget that they weren't willing to give up and then moved to talking about a surcharge. He stated they started talking about the \$4.50 which was not realistic to pay for the \$8 million debt. The number that was more realistic was \$22 a month. The budget has grown each year, but it gets harder to pay for everything. They need to think about how private sector jobs operate given the economic situation. Public sector jobs typically

pay more especially when you count benefits. He stated since January the trend was downward in revenue and the council did not seem aware of this even though the Finance Director does release monthly reports. He stated he and his wife did some research and they found out that there are municipalities that are successfully privatizing and saving their constituents money with almost anything but police, fire and dispatch. He stated Sandy Springs, Georgia is one example. He hopes the council would consider looking at an alternative business model because the citizens do not want to see the council avoid tightening their belts and increasing water fees. Fees usually stick and the budget ends up expanding permanently. He stated he did look at recycling and there are private recyclers who will do it and make money without our contracting them.

Haywood questioned if Mr. Ryhmes supported laying off employees.

Mr. Ryhmes stated privatization would force people to enter the private sector. Government jobs are not so sacred and they should be considering government's existence for the sake of job creation versus government's existence for the sake of upholding good law.

Bellino-Hall questioned what Mr. Ryhmes did for a living.

Mr. Ryhmes stated he runs the Little Caesar's Pizza on 67<sup>th</sup> Street.

Bellino-Hall stated outsourcing is not a bad idea. She has had some input on this subject from consultants.

Peggy Myers, resident of Ward 8, stated it is simple, just stop spending and make cuts. She stated there shouldn't be anything off the table. They need to cut services and personnel, whether it be hours or positions. She can live with an increase when she has some control over it. When gas goes up she drives less and she makes her trips count. When food goes up she makes different choices. When her insurance goes up, she can raise her deductible. She thinks cutting the trash collection is an excellent idea. Those that have Monday-Thursday have once a week service several times a year anyway because of holidays. She stated citizens will make better use of their trash and she feels more people will recycle. She feels you should give people a choice. She has never seen anything added to the bill that has ever been taken off. The surcharge is just another word for tax. There are currently ten items on the water bill. The first one is the water that comes in and everything else is a fee or a charge. She stated life is about choices and with those choices there are responsibilities and there are consequences. She hopes the council will seriously consider how they make this budget work.

Dennis Hopkins stated he has lived in Lawton since 1985 and he has watched the city of Lawton grow and change. He is retired military and he has lived through three downsizings in his military career. He feels there is a failure to understand the difference between mandatory spending and discretionary spending. He stated every police officer has a vehicle and they are paying for the gasoline for that vehicle. He questioned how many vehicles the city maintains. There are companies in town that do this. There are no jobs that are required by government to hire. They are to be value added, they are to be justified. His wife is a federal employee and she has not had a cost of living raise in five years. He gets a cost of living raise about once every

two years. Life has tough choices and the council should make them, which is why they were elected.

Kern Kamaunu, 702 NW Dearborn, stated he has watched Lawton grow very slow. He stated he looked at the 2012-2013 budget and the revenues versus expenses. He stated under revenues sales tax was at 35%, water was at 27%, refuse at 12%, sewer at 16%, franchise at 4%, fines at 4% and general government fund is 2%. When you look at expenses public works is 35%, police is 22%, fire is 13%, parks is 7%, community services is 4% and general government is 19%. When you total this all up, revenues versus expenses, in general government expenses are 19%. If you are bringing in 10%, where did they come up with the extra 9%?

Moses questioned what Mr. Kamaunu was looking at.

Mr. Kamaunu stated he is looking at the analysis in the Performer. He stated even though they have the fines, franchise and the government, that is 10% of the fund, but they are spending 19%. The citizens are actually paying more than they need to and it just shows that they are overspending on the general fund. If they really study the budget they will see that they have tons of computers that the city is buying and he is questioning if they really need them. There is 10% floating out there somewhere since they have only spent 90% of the revenue. He does not believe people should be losing jobs.

Mike Cornish, 6209 West Gore, stated we don't have good leadership, planning or accountability. He stated the council does not care about the older established businesses, it is all about what is to come. He stated the City Manager needs to do his job. They have wasted a lot of money on beautification, but do they need \$100,000 worth of buffalos stamped on concrete. Do they need \$100,000 worth of dead trees taken down? They need to make the right decisions and they need some good accountability for the money. They raise water rates and revenues decline. There is only so much money to go around.

Sammy Powell stated he has been in Lawton most of his life. He is hearing everyone wants to cut, but what he is not hearing is the plan to grow. He stated the employees would probably be willing to take a pay cut to help the budget, but the council has to show leadership in terms of what they are willing to give up and help to lower the deficit. He stated maybe employees should be paying for their licenses out of their own pocket. He suggested they look at a better recycling contract. He suggested they get all the employee groups together with a couple of councilors and Mr. Long to sit down and talk about where they all can cut from the budget. Think about ways to grow the tax base and bring in different technologies. He is hearing a lot of reaction, not thinking long term.

**PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED.**

Mayor Fitch stated the council will reconvene on the budget issue on Wednesday, May 29th at 1:30 p.m.

REPORTS: MAYOR/CITY COUNCIL/CITY MANAGER

There were no reports given.

The Mayor and Council convened in executive session at 7:58 p.m. and reconvened in regular, open session at 8:37 p.m. Roll call reflected all members present.

BUSINESS ITEMS: EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS

22. Pursuant to Section 307B.2, Title 25, Oklahoma Statutes, consider convening in executive session to discuss negotiations for a Collective Bargaining Agreement for FY 2013-2014 between the Fire Union, IAFF, Local 1882, and the City of Lawton, and, if necessary, take appropriate action in open session. Exhibits: None.

Jensen read the title of item #22.

MOVED by Jackson SECOND by Morford to not fund current FY 2013-2014 agreement with the IAFF, Local 1882 and authorize staff to begin formal negotiations with Local 1882 for a new FY 2013-2014 agreement. AYE: Morford, Jackson, Bellino-Hall, Burk, Moses, Zarle, Haywood, Wells. NAY: None. MOTION CARRIED.

23. Pursuant to Section 307B.2, Title 25, Oklahoma Statutes, consider convening in executive session to discuss negotiations for a Collective Bargaining Agreement for FY 2013-2014 between the Police Union, IUPA Local 24, and the City of Lawton, and, if necessary, take appropriate action in open session. Exhibits: None.

Jensen read the title of item #23. No action was taken.

MOVED by Wells SECOND by Haywood to continue the meeting to Wednesday, May 29, 2013 at 1:30 p.m. at City Hall Auditorium. AYE: Morford, Jackson, Bellino-Hall, Burk, Moses, Zarle, Haywood, Wells. NAY: None. MOTION CARRIED.

There being no further business to consider, the meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m. upon motion, second and roll call vote.

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FRED L. FITCH, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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TRACI HUSHBECK, CITY CLERK