

MINUTES
LAWTON CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 5, 2014 – 4:30 P.M.
NEW CITY HALL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS/AUDITORIUM

Fred L. Fitch, Mayor
Presiding

Also Present:
Bryan Long, City Manager
Tim Wilson, Deputy City Attorney
Traci Hushbeck, City Clerk

Mayor Fitch called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. Notice of meeting and agenda were posted on the City Hall notice board as required by law. Invocation was given by Kim Shahan, 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
Dwight Tanner, Jr., Ward Five
Richard Zarle, Ward Six
Stanley Haywood, Ward Seven
Doug Wells, Ward Eight

ABSENT:

None.

The Mayor and Council convened in executive session at 4:31 p.m. and reconvened in regular, open session at 5:18 p.m. Roll call reflected all members present.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS:

1. Pursuant to Section 307B.2, Title 25, Oklahoma Statutes, consider convening in executive session to discuss the status of negotiations, to include the interest arbitration 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.

Wilson read the title of item #1. No action was taken.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

2. Pursuant to 11 O.S. §51-108(C), consider approving a resolution calling a special election on June 24, 2014 for the purpose of submitting to the municipal voters the question of whether the City or the Police Union's last best offer should be the parties' collective bargaining agreement for Fiscal Year 2013-2014. Exhibits: Resolution No. 14-__ and Election Proclamation.

MOVED by Wells SECOND by Burk that because of an agreement reached between the Police Chief and the union president, which will be provided to the media, move that the resolution be disapproved.

Haywood stated that he does not agree with this, but since the chief of police is trying to make things work in his department, that is the only reason he will support this motion. He stated if this is not worked out he will make a motion to come back. He feels if you make a stand you should stick with that stand. He stated he will vote to support the chief.

Jackson stated there has been a lot of discussion about this issue and he personally sees this as beneficial to the public and the department if they vote to rescind this effort to go to a vote of the people. He feels the chief has a good plan and he has a policy committee and he is going to be working with the IUPA. He feels only good things can come out of sitting down at the table and working out an agreement rather than forcing an issue down the throat of the department and/or the citizens of Lawton.

Haywood stated he does not think we are forcing anything down the throats of the people. He stated the people want their streets to be safe. For police officers, their first priority is the police department, it is not a second job.

Burk stated he has supported the chief and his administrative staff. He believes over the next few months many changes will happen within the Lawton Police Department. He believes in the chief and the officer and that they want to be in a safe environment and they want to protect the citizens and we want to have the maximum number of police officers on the street every single day, but that comes with a price. Both sides have to give and take and he hopes that this is a true effort on the union's part and the city's part and that we are here at the table to make some hard decisions that are going to come.

Mayor Fitch stated this election does not have anything to do with the many problems that have to be addressed. This is about a ten or eight hour shift. This election should be about public safety which is putting feet on the street and patrolmen in cars and securing this city for the citizens. This will be a starting point and they have all agreed to sit down and talk and address some important issues. They are going to have a report from Fidelis and they will be addressing that at the last meeting in February. There will be changes that the council will recommend to management to implement within the police department and it is all in a way to improve our police department and the safety of the citizens of this city.

Haywood stated he is not against the police department. This is all about public safety and he wants to do what is right for the city of Lawton.

VOTE ON MOTION: AYE: Morford, Jackson, Bellino-Hall, Burk, Tanner, Haywood, Wells.
NAY: Zarle. MOTION CARRIED.

There being no further business to consider, the meeting adjourned at 5:26 p.m. upon motion, second and roll call vote.

FRED L. FITCH, MAYOR

ATTEST:

TRACI HUSHBECK, CITY CLERK