

THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL MET IN SPECIAL SESSION AUGUST 14, 2020, IN THE MIAMI CIVIC CENTER AT 4:30PM WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bless Parker, Mayor
David Davis, Councilmember Ward 1
Doug Weston, Councilmember Ward 2 (Via Phone Conference)
Ryan Orcutt, Councilmember Ward 3 (Absent)
Vicki Lewis, Councilmember Ward 4

Tyler Cline, Interim City Manager
Ben Loring, City Attorney
Melissa Moore, City Clerk

Notice of a special meeting of the Miami City Council, Miami, Oklahoma, called by Mayor Bless Parker, was displayed in the main lobby of the Miami Civic Center and by posting on www.miamiokla.net starting at 2:50PM on August 12, 2020, pursuant to 25 O.S. §311(9) (a) and (b) and the agenda was displayed and posted in the same manner on August 13, 2020, at 3:45PM.

THE COUNCIL MAY DISCUSS, CONSIDER, AND VOTE ON ANY ITEM LISTED IN THIS AGENDA:

Call to Order

Mayor Parker called the meeting to order at 4:33PM.

Public Input and Unscheduled Personal Appearances

Bruce Kain spoke about the high utility bills on behalf of the constituents including his mom. Jolene Wright, Peggy Siegrist, Larry Murphy, and Amy Jolley voiced concerns over the high utility bills. Darrell Taylor explained that he has made improvements to the house and the utility bill is now higher. Angie Purdy explained that the electric bill went from one hundred dollars (\$100) to five hundred dollars (\$500). The city staff explained that there was a scheduled rate change due in April but due to COVID-19 that was postponed until June. The cost is an average increase of three dollars (\$3) per household. Laura Johnson explained that she had several bills and did have a leak, but the leak was fixed, she is on a fixed income and concerned because she has been having high bills starting in March. Darrell Taylor questioned the credit card payment fee. Ben Loring explained that the city must charge a fee for paying with a credit card due to the state statute. The company's charges the fee and the city must pass that fee onto the customer. Debra Bagnell, Aja Beck, Bill Trask, Jerry Jolley, and Cynthia Conrad all voiced concerns over their utility bills. Phil Hildebrand explained how the meter works. Josh Fleming voiced his concerns over the utility bills.

No action taken.

Discussion on Utility Bills

Jill Fitzgibbon explained that sixteen (16) bills have been reviewed and two (2) of those were misread. Heather Bailey explained when meters are read. Tyler Cline explained that citizens can get their bill e-mailed to them. The bills will include a graph of usage soon. Phil Hildebrand explained how muddy a water meter can get dirty very quickly and the meter readers carry a tool which will let them clean the grime and read the meter. Cline explained that the staff are researching the options and cost for automatic meter reading. Staff encouraged citizens who have questions about their bill to contact the customer service department and to monitor their own meters. If they feel that the staff have been rude to them, please contact Jill and she will review the video. The software the city uses for billing will detect some discrepancies and the department will send a meter reader to conduct a re-reading at no charge to the customer. Customers can also request a re-read but if the reading is found to be accurate then they will be charged a fee. The City of Miami wants to make sure that all customers are billed correctly. The city staff reminded citizens of the average payment plan that is available to help with the fluctuations of bills in the summer and winter months and that seasonal water meters are available. Security Bank, Welch State Bank, and First National Bank will accept credit/debit card payments without charging a fee.

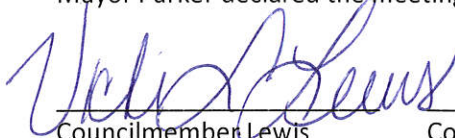
No action taken.

Adjournment

Councilmember Lewis moved to adjourn. Councilmember Davis made the second. The Council was polled with the following results:

Lewis, Aye Davis, Aye Weston, Aye Parker, Aye Orcutt, Absent

Mayor Parker declared the meeting adjourned at 6:30PM.



Councilmember Lewis

Absent

Councilmember Orcutt




Councilmember Davis

Absent

Councilmember Weston



Mayor Parker

ATTEST: 

Melissa Moore, City Clerk

