

THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL MET IN REGULAR SESSION OCTOBER 23, 2023, IN THE MIAMI CIVIC CENTER COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT 6:00 PM WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bless Parker, Mayor
Brian Estep, Councilmember Ward 1
Kevin Dunkel, Councilmember Ward 2
Dwain Sundberg, Councilmember Ward 3
Brad Williams, Councilmember Ward 4

Bo Reese, City Manager
Ben Loring, City Attorney
Melissa Moore, City Clerk (Absent)
Melinda Stotts, Communication Manager

The agenda for the meeting was displayed in the main lobby of the Miami Civic Center and by posting on www.miamiokla.net starting at 2:25PM on October 20, 2023, pursuant to 25 O.S §311(9) (a) and (b).

THE COUNCIL MAY TAKE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS: DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND VOTE FOR APPROVAL, ACCEPTANCE, REJECTION, AMENDMENT AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF ANY ITEM LISTED IN THIS AGENDA:

1. Call to Order

Mayor Parker called the meeting to order at 6:02PM.

Mayor Parker led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Presentation and Discussion on the Electric, Water, Wastewater and Solid Waste Comprehensive Preliminary Rate Study and Financial Forecast

Dan Jackson presented the results from the 2023 electric, water, wastewater, and solid waste rate study. This presentation is the preliminary results and could change Jackson explained that the lower rates indicate no capital improvement projects, and the ideal rates are not necessarily the lowest. The City's utilities are struggling financially and are not adequately covering the costs. The annual inflation rate for the cost of providing service is three (3) to four (4) percent. Additional challenges facing the City's utilities are the fluctuation in the PCA charge due to the cost of natural gas, the increase in tipping fees, and the thirty-seven (37) million dollars of capital improvement needs. These factors lead to a new rate plan for all utilities.

The electric utility recommendations are to implement a two (2) year rate plan which would include adjustment to the PPA charge to ensure that it represents to GRDA PCA charge, decrease the energy charge by twelve-point five (12.5) percent, and increase the customer charge and demand charge for all customer classes. It is also recommended that the rate plan be evaluated after GRDA completes its comprehensive rate study.

The water and wastewater recommendation is to implement a five (5) year rate plan with adjustments in October each year from 2023-2027. Two scenarios were presented. Scenario one (1) is to fully fund capital improvement projects for thirty-five million one hundred seventy-four thousand five hundred forty-three dollars (\$35,174,543). Scenario two (2) is to fund half of the capital improvement projects for seventeen million five hundred eighty-seven thousand two hundred seventy-two (\$17,587,272).

The solid waste recommendation is to implement a five (5) year rate plan with adjustments in October each year from 2023-2027. Two scenarios were presented. Scenario one (1) is to fully fund capital improvement projects for fifteen million eight hundred sixty-nine thousand eight hundred thirteen dollars (\$15,869,813). Scenario two (2) is to fund half of the capital improvement projects for seven million nine hundred thirty-four thousand nine hundred six dollars (\$7,934,906).

The rate adjustments are required to fund operating cost increases and capital projects to maintain the City's system. The rate plan provided in the presentation is designed to minimize the impact on ratepayers while keeping up with infrastructure needs.

No action taken.

3. Discussion on Proposal for Solid Waste Transfer Station VS. Landfill

Tyler Cline explained that staff would like to hire a company to conduct a study on the options of a transfer station versus a landfill. Having a landfill could assist with Theme Park needs, could provide economic benefits, and would be better for the environment if materials that could be incinerated or sold were pulled out. Cline explained that the nearest landfill is seventy (70) miles away. The study is expected to cost less than forty thousand dollars (\$40,000.00). Having a landfill is a big commitment.

No action taken.

4. Discussion on Quarterly Financial Statement and Sales/Use Tax Report

Jill Fitzgibbon and Bo Reese presented the sales tax/use tax report and the quarterly financial statement for the first quarter of the fiscal year to the Council. The financial statement included expenses and revenue for twenty-eight (28) funds. The MCVB fund shows low revenue because the expenses for the Heritage Fest occurs at the beginning of the fiscal year and revenues for each Heritage Fest is received in the spring. The MDRA fund shows low revenue and expenses because their busy season is coming up. The stadium bonds will be paid off in 2046. Sales/use tax revenue has increased, most of the revenue goes into capital improvement projects.

No action taken.

5. Discussion on the Effects of House Bill 2259 on the Miami Municipal Court

Ben Loring explained that this bill goes into effect on November 01, 2023, and will be a problem for the City of Miami. Right now, there is seven hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$750,000.00) in outstanding debt for court fines and costs with an additional two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00) in outstanding arrest warrants. After November 01, 2023, warrants will be cite and release. Every six (6) months cases will be reviewed. This bill creates a significant workload with decreased revenue. Loring explained to Council some of the possible remedies.

No action taken.

6. *Discussion and Action Item* on Approving the Letter of Intent to Submit an Opioid Abatement Grant to the Oklahoma Opioid Abatement Board

Ben Loring and Thomas Anderson explained that the deadline to submit a letter of intent is a few days away. If the letter of intent is not submitted, then the City will not be eligible to apply for funding later.

Mayor Parker moved to approve the letter of intent to submit an opioid abatement grant to the Oklahoma Opioid Abatement Board. Councilmember Sundberg made the second. The Council was polled with the following results:

Parker, Aye Sundberg, Aye Williams, Aye Dunkel, Aye Estep, Aye

Mayor Parker declared the motion carried.

7. *Potential Action Item* Other New Business, if any, Which has Arisen Since the Posting of the Agenda and Could not Have Been Anticipated Prior to the Time of Posting (25 O.S. § 311(9))

None.

8. The Meeting Will be Continued From Council Chambers and Reconvened in the Staff Room for Purposes of the Executive Session

Council remained in the Council Chambers.

9. Executive Session in the Staff Room Pursuant to 25 Okla. Stat. § 307(B)(4) for Consideration of Pending Class Action Litigation Against 3M Company and E.I. Dupont De Nemours and Company and Other Defendants Involving Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Contamination in In Re: Aqueous Film-Forming Foams Products Liability Litigation, MDL No. 2:18-mn-2873, United States District Court, District of South Carolina, and Possible Retention of McAfee & Taft and Fulmer Sill to Represent the Interests of the City in Such Litigation and/or Other Litigation Related to PFAS Contamination

Council did not go into executive session and remained in the Council Chambers for this agenda item. This is a very large class action lawsuit. PFAS contamination causes health issues. This contamination is not known to be in our City drinking water, however the City has been notified that it will be required to test regularly for PFAS contamination. Ben Loring recommends that the City hire McAfee & Taft to represent the interests of the city as a class II claimant to cover the cost of testing.

No action taken.

10. The Meeting Will be Reconvened in the Staff Room After the Executive Session

Council remained in the Council Chambers.

11. *Possible Action Item* on Matters Addressed in Executive Session Agenda Item Number 9

Mayor Parker moved to approve hiring McAfee & Taft to represent the interests of the City in such litigation and/or other litigation related to PFAS contamination on a contingency basis. Councilmember Dunkel made the second. The Council was polled with the following results:

Parker, Aye Sundberg, Aye Williams, Aye Dunkel, Aye Estep, Aye

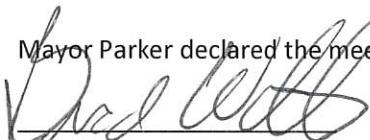
Mayor Parker declared the motion carried.

12. *Action Item* Adjournment

Mayor Parker moved to adjourn. Councilmember Dunkel made the second. The Council was polled with the following results:

Parker, Aye Sundberg, Aye Williams, Aye Dunkel, Aye Estep, Aye

Mayor Parker declared the meeting adjourned at 7:50PM.



Councilmember Williams

Absent


Councilmember Sundberg



Councilmember Dunkel



Councilmember Estep



Mayor Bless Parker

ATTEST: 

Melissa Moore, City Clerk

