

**VILLAGE OF LAWTON**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, May 12, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.**  
**Meeting was held remotely**  
**Lawton Village Hall – 125 S Main Street, Lawton MI 49065**  
**WWW.LAWTONMI.GOV 269.624.6407**

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** President Reeves called the May 12, 2020 Meeting of the Lawton Village Council to order at 7:00 p.m.
- Attorney Heckman advised the Council that the date was wrong on the agenda and had concerns about proceeding with the meeting. President Reeves noted the concern but felt a need to hold the meeting because one was not held in April. Reeves, supported by Knudstrup, made a motion to proceed with the agenda as presented. A roll call vote was taken with unanimous approval.
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** All present were asked to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. ROLL CALL:** Present: President Reeves. Trustees: J Appleby, J. Peterson, E. Dudek, G. Dudek, P. Knudstrup, and R. Turner. Absent: None. Others present: Village Manager Imus, DPW Superintendent T. Hackenberg, Chief Mack, Attorney Heckman, and 2 guests.
- IV. RESOLUTION 20-06 TO ADOPT REMOTE PUBLIC MEETING PROCEDURES:** Peterson, with support from Appleby made a motion to adopt the Resolution. Motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.
- V. CONSENT AGENDA:**
- The Consent Agenda included the approval of May 12, 2020 Council Agenda, the March 10, 2020 Council Meeting Minutes, the Approval of Disbursements in the amount of \$176,785.10 (April - \$55,619.59 and May - \$121,165.51, and setting a Truth in Taxation hearing for June 9, 2020 at 7:00 PM. Knudstrup, supported by Turner, made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.
- VI. COMMUNICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE:** None
- VII. CITIZENS COMMENTS:** County Commissioner Paul Schincariol gave a report on the County's current financials, the recent 911 Services ballot approval, and support for the 99 Walker Commercial Rehabilitation District.
- VIII. PUBLIC HEARING on RESOLUTION 20-07 ESTABLISHMENT OF THE VILLGE OF LAWTON COMMERCIAL REHABILITATION DISTRICT #1 –** President Reeves opened a public hearing to hear comment on the establishment of the Village of Lawton Commercial Rehabilitation District (CRD) No. 1 at 99 Walker Street in Lawton, MI. A roll call was taken with unanimous approval. Peterson commented that the Commercial Rehabilitation District would be able to offer tax incentives for the rehabilitation of the facility and bring it

back on our tax rolls. With no other comments, Reeves closed the public hearing that included a roll call with unanimous support. Knudstrup, supported by Peterson made a motion to approve Resolution 20-07 to establish the Lawton Commercial Rehabilitation District No. 1 to be located at 99 Walker Street. A roll call was taken with unanimous support.

**XI. OLD BUSINESS - RESOLUTION 20-05 - A RESOLUTION TO PROCEED WITH THE REDEVELOPMENT READY COMMUNITIES (RRC) PROGRAM WITH THE MICHIGAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (MEDC) TO ASSIST THE VILLAGE IN CREATING STRONG PARTNERSHIPS AND DEVELOPING BEST PRACTICES FOR COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT**

Reeves introduced the Resolution and Knudstrup expressed his support of the RRC initiative. Knudstrup, supported by Appleby, made a motion to approve Resolution 20-50. With a roll call vote, the motion was approved unanimously.

**IX. NEW BUSINESS** - Superintendent Rice sent a request for a Lawton Public Schools “Graduation Parade” on or around May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Council discussed the event with full support. Police and Fire Department representatives indicated their interest in assisting if given adequate notice to arrange. R. Turner suggested the American Legion lead the parade for the Seniors. Turner, supported by G. Dudek, made a motion to approve the Graduation Parade. A roll call vote was taken with unanimous support.

**X. BOARD, COMMITTEE, AND STAFF REPORTS**

**A. Planning Commission** - Turner reported that Planning Commission had approved both a Special Use Permit and Site Plan application for Consumer’s Energy to renovate their valve station located at 523 N Main. It was noted that Consumer’s will also be requesting a variance for the height of their fence.

**B. Downtown Development Authority (DDA)** - G. Dudek reported that the Splash Park construction will begin on May 18, and that the DDA is going to do the downtown flower planters this year with the donations received.

**C. Community & Economic Development Committee (CEDC)** – Knudstrup reported that the CEDC had been focusing on increasing communication, and the newsletter and weekly reports are helpful. He also suggested the development of a flyer for summer visitors to find COVID friendly supplies and services.

**D. Finance and Administration Committee** – Reeves reported that the committee met to discuss the State’s potential Revenue Sharing cuts and appreciated the DPW modifying their schedule to accommodate reduced overtime hours.

**E. Police Department** - Chief Mack detailed his monthly report and commented that the statistical numbers were down in April. The Radar detector in the main vehicle died after 19 year of service and

replaced by a new one with the ability to detect from the front and rear. Two drunk driving arrests have been made in 2020.

**F. Public Services** - DPW Superintendent Hackenberg detailed his monthly report. He noted that there was a waterline break at the WWTP, and the DPW was beginning their spring general maintenance projects at the cemetery and for the motor pool. The School District had purchased graduation banners that were being installed on the lights in downtown, and that AT & T was finishing the installation of their antenna on the water tower.

**G. Village Manager** - Imus reported that a May 26<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting would need to be held to approve a resolution in order to submit a TEDF Category B grant to MDOT due on June 1, and that there had been a meeting earlier in the week confirming the TAP grant for the 2023 M-40 streetscape project in the amount of \$236,700.

**XI. COUNCIL COMMENTS:** Reeves commented that he appreciated staff for all their efforts on keeping the Council informed and working on reducing overtime costs. Peterson expressed concern regarding code enforcement, especially for tall grass, parking in yards, and dangerous buildings, and requested the Village Manager work with the police and code enforcement officer to ensure compliance. Turner stated that he had repurposed the 'Welcome to Lawton' signs for installation along secondary Village entrances. He also requested a list of veteran internments over the last year so flags are installed at their grave sites in time for Memorial Day.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT:** Moved by Turner with support from Knudstrup to adjourn the Village Council meeting at 8:08 pm. Motion approved by acclamation.

Respectfully submitted by: Lisa Imus, Village Manger

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Richard Reeves, President

**Certification of Minutes**

I hereby certify that the attached is a true and correct copy of the minutes of a regular meeting of the Village Council of the Village of Lawton held on May 12, 2020, I further certify that the meeting was duly called and that a quorum was present.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joni Bell, Village Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date