



VILLAGE OF LAWTON

Regular Meeting Minutes – Tuesday May 11, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting was held in person and remotely

Lawton Elementary School – 780 East Second Street, Lawton MI 49065

WWW.LAWTONMI.GOV 269.624.6407

MINUTES

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** President Knudstrup called the May 11, 2021 Meeting of the Lawton Village Council to order at 7:00 p.m.
- II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** - The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- III. **ROLL CALL:** Present: President Knudstrup. Trustees: E. Dudek, N. Smith, J. Peterson and R. Turner. Absent: Appleby, G Dudek. Others present: Village Manager Imus, Superintendent Hackenberg, and Chief Mack and 4 other guests.
- IV. **CONSENT AGENDA:** The Consent Agenda included the approval of the May 11, 2021 Council Agenda, the April 13, 2021 and April 27, 2021 Council Meeting Minutes, Disbursements in the amount of \$60,059.30, Annual MML Liability Insurance in the amount of \$41,074.00 and approval of Wightman GIS/Engineering services in the amount of \$6,651.50. Peterson made motion to approve the consent agenda as presented with support from E. Dudek. A unanimous roll call vote approved the motion.
- V. **COMMUNICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE:**
 - A. The family of Raymond Reed made presentation to council bestowing the corner lot owned by the Reid Family, located at 119 North Main Street, to the Village of Lawton and to memorialize said property in honor of John and Zella Reid.
- VI. **CITIZENS' COMMENTS:**
 - A. Commissioner Paul Schincariol gave an update on happenings in Van Buren County. The new website for the county is now <https://www.vanburencountymi.gov>
- VII. **PUBLIC HEARINGS / APPOINTMENTS:**
 - A. Motion made by Turner, supported by Smith to open the Public Hearing to hear comment on the Consumers Energy Gas Franchise. A unanimous roll call vote supported the motion. No public comments were heard. Since there is a 60 day opt out clause in the contract, there is not a concern with a 30-year contract per the Village Attorney. E Dudek made a motion to close the public hearing with support from Peterson. A unanimous roll call vote was taken.
 - B. **SECOND READING** of Ordinance 200 of 2021 and **APPROVAL:** Franchise to Consumers Energy Company to lay and maintain lines within the Village of Lawton. E. Dudek made motion to adopt Ordinance 200 of 2021, supported by Turner. A unanimous roll call vote approved this Ordinance.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS: None

IX. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Resolution 10-2021 A Resolution in support for D. Coy Ducks to establish a Sidewalk Café. E. Dudek motioned to adopt Resolution 10-2021 with support from Turner. Motion Approved by a unanimous roll call vote.
- B. Resolution 11-2021 A Resolution to recommend approval of a Social District Permit from the Michigan Liquor Control Commission for D. Coy Ducks. Peterson with support from Smith made a motion to adopt Resolution 11-2021. Motion Approved by a unanimous roll call vote.
- C. Resolution 12-2021 A Resolution to recommend approval of a Social District Permit from the Michigan Liquor Control Commission for Big T's. E. Dudek motioned to adopt Resolution 12-2021, with support by Smith. Motion Approved by a unanimous roll call vote.
- D. Resolution 13-2021 A Resolution to recommend approval of a Social District Permit from the Michigan Liquor Control Commission for Barn Brewers. Turner motioned to adopt Resolution 13-2021, supported by E. Dudek. Motion Approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

X. BOARD, COMMITTEE, AND STAFF REPORTS

- A. **Planning Commission** – Peterson reported discussion on the Redevelopment Readiness Community program and the Master Plan. The 2019 RCC report was discussed, there was an update on the 2023 M-40 project and they talked about rezoning.
- B. **Downtown Development Authority (DDA)** - G. Dudek absent. No report.
- C. **Community & Economic Development Committee (CEDC)** – N. Smith reports they discussed several topics including White Oaks, the Laundromat, the Car Wash, code enforcement and the potential to get outside help on blight enforcement.
- D. **Finance and Administration Committee** – Knudstrup reported the committee met. They reviewed disbursements and talked about upcoming events. May 18th a virtual Town Hall Meeting to provide a 30% review update on the 2023 M40 project, they talked about Rules and Procedures that council can review and discuss at the May 25th meeting, Hydrant Flushing will be on May 27, 2021, the June budget workshop, and a Performance and Review process.
- E. **Public Safety Committee:** E. Dudek reports they met before the meeting tonight. A new form for blight complaints/investigation has been created, once it is finalized it will be on the website, it can be emailed or picked up at Village Hall. The form will be used by the Police Department and will track the progress of the complaint.
- F. **Public Services Committee** - G Dudek absent. Superintendent Hackenberg updated that they are contacting various communities to gather information on cemetery rates.

- G. Water and Sewer Committee** - E Dudek reports they have not met since the last meeting.
- H. Police Department** – Chief Mack reviewed his monthly report.
- I. Department of Public Works** – Superintendent Hackenberg presented the WWTP and Public Services monthly reports. He also mentioned Hydrant Flushing will take place on Thursday, May 27th, and gave an update on the 2nd Street house.
- J. Village Manager** – Manager Imus is sending invites to all downtown area business to let them know about the Town Hall Meeting being held virtually on Tuesday, May 18th at 6:00 pm, this will be a 30% review of the project. There will be a 60% review meeting in October 2021. Imus also gave an update on the 2nd Street house, the contract with Jeremy Shank is now complete. Landscaping still needs to be finished. She is waiting on a proposal from the realtor, Blaine Allen, he will be adding some virtual appliances and furniture staging as a marketing tool.

XI. COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Turner offered up an angled parking idea for the 2023 revamp of downtown. He proposed that West Union could be made a one-way street with angled parking and that would cut down on traffic. Council supported the suggestion.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Smith, supported by Turner, made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 p.m. A roll call vote was taken with unanimous approval of those present. The next regular scheduled meeting is May 25, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted by Joni Bell, Village Clerk