



VILLAGE OF LAWTON

Regular Meeting Minutes – Tuesday September 14, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

Village Hall – 125 S. Main Street, Lawton MI 49065

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MINUTES

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** Pro Tem President Appleby called the September 14, 2021, meeting of the Lawton Village Council to order at 7:00 p.m.
- II. **A MOMENT OF SILENCE** was held in Remembrance of Paul Knudstrup.
- III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** - The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- IV. **ROLL CALL:** Present: Pro-Tem President Appleby. Trustees: E. Dudek, N. Smith, G. Dudek, J. Peterson, and R. Turner. Others present: Village Manager Imus, Chief Mack, and 2 other guests.
- V. **CONSENT AGENDA:** The Consent Agenda included the approval of the September 14, 2021, Council Agenda, the August 10, 2021, Council Meeting minutes, and the August 26, 2021, special Council Meeting minutes, disbursements in the amount of \$48,894.76, and correspondence with the County Resource Recovery program. Peterson made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda with submitted corrections, supported by E. Dudek. A unanimous roll call vote approved the motion.
- VI. **COMMUNICATIONS, CORRESPONDENCE AND PRESENTATIONS:**
 - A. New Community Church, 74675 CR 652 in Lawton, MI requested to have the Park Rental fees waived for the use of the Pavilion at Chancey Lewis Park for the Church's use. Discussion was had and it was brought up that the Church has volunteered numerous times to help in the community and at the park. Turner made motion to waive the rental fees with support from Smith. A unanimous roll call vote was taken in favor.
- VII. **CITIZENS' COMMENTS: None**
- VIII. **PUBLIC HEARINGS / APPOINTMENTS:**
 - A. Due to the passing of Lawton Village President Paul Knudstrup, a new presidential appointment was required. President Pro-Tem Appleby confirmed interest in the office. E. Dudek, with support from Smith, made the motion to appoint Pro-Tem President Appleby as President to replace Paul Knudstrup in his unexpired term of President ending November 22, 2022. A unanimous voice vote confirmed the appointment.
 - B. President Appleby recommended to Council to appoint Eric Dudek as President Pro-Tem for the unexpired term of Josh Appleby ending November 2022. Turner, supported by Smith, made the

motion to appoint E. Dudek as President Pro-Tem as nominated by President Appleby. A unanimous voice vote confirmed the appointment.

IX. EXISTING BUSINESS:

- A. Paul Harvey, Wightman and Associates Engineer, presented a first draft of the preliminary Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The CIP was broken down into three groups – Sewer, Water and Streets (both Major and Local). The prioritization of the projects was based on information from the Storm/Sanitary Wastewater Asset Management (SAW - 2019) Report, the Water Asset Management Plan (WAMP – 2017), the 2021 Water Reliability Study, EGLE guidance regarding the Lead Copper Rule (LCR), and the Placement Surface Evolution and Rating (PASER) study for streets. Current budgets and fund balances helped guide the prioritization of projects. Projects were bundled by area and then categorized as Absolute Need, Need, and Want.

The total of included projects over the next 10 years was \$8 million, including approximately one-third of the lead and copper replacements. The CIP will be sent to Baker-Tilly to help in completion of the water/sewer rate study they are finishing

Council noted on the project list was the extension of Morrill Street. In past discussion it was decided it was not in the best interest of the Village to move forward with this project. Paul Harvey will reach out to BakerTilly, and this will be taken off from the CIP.

X. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. E. Dudek, supported by Smith made a motion to establish Halloween Trick or Treating hours within the Village of Lawton for Sunday, October 31, 2021, from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. These are the same hours as in years past. Motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

XI. BOARD, COMMITTEE, AND STAFF REPORTS

- A. **Planning Commission** – Peterson reports Planning Commission met on 9/7/21. Everyone was present in person. They listened to a presentation on the Master Plan and then reviewed the Request for Proposals for the Master Plan that the Manager was sending out.
- B. **Downtown Development Authority (DDA)** - G. Dudek reports no meeting in July.
- C. **Community & Economic Development Committee (CEDC)** – Smith reports no meeting in August; however, Smith, Manager Imus and Sharon Woods met briefly regarding a Residential Target Market Analysis and rescheduled the meeting for 8:00 am on September 22, 2021.
- D. **Finance and Administration Committee** –Appleby reports the committee is down one member. They will be meeting for the Manager’s Review, it will be done the same format, just set back one month.
- E. **Public Safety Committee:** Appleby reports they met before tonight’s meeting. They discussed the Police Department Accreditation though the Michigan Law Enforcement Accreditation

Commission (MLEAC). Ren Turner will join this committee as the Chairperson. The Police Department is having a few issues with some of the vehicle equipment. Chief is seeking information on updates and or replacement.

- F. Public Services Committee** – G. Dudek reports they met 9/1/21 at 7:30 am with DPW Superintendent Hackenberg. Items of topic were filling cracks at Tennis Courts @ Kids Dream, Power Company partially taking down trees and the DPW will finish cleaning up. Hackenberg is searching for a shipping container for additional storage. The Splash Pad will be shut down on September 20, 2021, by My-Splash Pad. Discussion also included the Chip & Seal for streets, Cemetery plotting, and an easement for the drive at Kids Dream.
- G. Water and Sewer Committee** – E. Dudek reports the presentation from Paul Harvey summed up the committee report. He does feel that they are making progress.
- H. Police Department** – Chief Mack’s Reports were included in the agenda packet. He added they had several drunk driving arrests that were probably attributed to the Paw Paw Wine & Harvest Festival. R. Turner has been riding along with our different officers.
- I. Department of Public Works** – Superintendent Hackenberg was at a conference. The WWTP and Public Service Reports were included in the agenda packet.
- J. Village Manager** – Manager Imus wanted to send a HUGE thank you to David Dudek for installing the appliances at the Hamilton Street house! Resource Recovery would like us to hold a collection site for both electronics and tires in either May, July or September. This would be a one-day event preferably in a fence in area. Request for proposals of the Master Plan have been sent out last Wednesday (9/8/21) Bids are due October 7, 2021, and she would like Council to hold a joint meeting with the Planning Commission on Thursday October 14, 2021 to hold interviews with the top finalists and have a 2nd meeting in October to award the Contract. The Van Buren County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority (VBCBRA) approved a Grant for the Phase II Environmental Assessment in the amount of \$13,500. The Village has recorded the deed for ownership of 410 White Oak. The Village must pay the back taxes, and demoliton is being scheduled after an asbestos survey is complete. Imus mentioned the newsletter went out last week with a notice seeking interested candidates for the open Village Council Position.

XII. COUNCIL COMMENTS: E. Dudek talked with a recruiter at the football game on Friday and he had many kind things to say about the Lawton community.

XIII. CLOSED SESSION:

- A.** Turner, supported by G. Dudek, made a motion to go into Closed Session at 8:00pm in accordance with the provisions of Section 8 of the Open Meetings Act to consider the sale of real property. A unanimous roll call vote carried the motion.

XIV. OPEN SESSION:

- A. Council returned to open session at 8:20 pm
- B. Peterson, supported by Turner, made a motion to grant authority to Smith and Imus to work with the Realtor to negotiate a fair and reasonable price for the house at 432 Second Street. A unanimous roll call vote carried the motion.

XV. ADJOURNMENT:

Turner, supported by E. Dudek, made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 p.m. A voice vote was taken with unanimous approval of those present. The next regular scheduled meeting is October 12, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted by Joni Bell, Village Clerk