



VILLAGE OF LAWTON

Regular Meeting Minutes – Tuesday December 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:** President Appleby called the December 14, 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 Appleby. Trustees: E. Dudek, N. Smith, G. Dudek, J. Peterson, and R. Turner, R. Tanis. Others present: Village Manager Imus, Village Clerk Bell, Chief Mack, Superintendent Hackenberg and two other guests.
- IV. **CONSENT AGENDA:** The Consent Agenda included the approval of the December 14, 2021, Council Agenda, and the November 23, 2021, Council Meeting minutes, and Disbursements in the amount of \$89,187.70. Peterson made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda with the addition of Item B. Project Summary, under New Business. E. Dudek supported the motion. A unanimous roll call vote approved the motion.
- V. **COMMUNICATIONS, CORRESPONDENCE AND PRESENTATIONS:**
 - A. The Village Manager has been notified that the Village of Lawton has been awarded the DNR Passport Grant Award in the amount of \$74,000 for Improvements to Chancey Lewis Park. The final contract will be awarded in January 2022 with construction to start in Spring of 2022. The \$74,000 grant will be matched by \$26,000 committed by the Lawton DDA.
 - B. The Village of Lawton has also been awarded the MEDC RRC Technical Assistance Award in the amount of \$30,000 for the Master Plan and Zoning Ordinance. The reimbursement will come in three phases, \$7500 for phase 1, \$15,000 for phase 2 and upon completion \$7500 (phase 3).
- VI. **CITIZENS' COMMENTS:** Paul Harvey, Wightman gave an update on progress being made. The GIS map water and zoning maps are up and running. Once the water and sewer rates are updated the CIP can be finalized and the GIS team will finalize the GIS module which shows our proposed projects on an interactive map. The CIP is very close to completion.
- VII. **PUBLIC HEARINGS / APPOINTMENTS: NONE**

VIII. EXISTING BUSINESS:

- A. Water and sewer rates are nearing completion. There is not a huge difference in the rates if we bond or pay with cash. The largest increases come when someone is using over 5,000 gallons. We are running through BakerTilly to confirm the numbers. We could possibly have a vote at the January 2022 council meeting.

IX. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Smith made a motion to approve the 2022 Meeting Schedule as proposed in the agenda packet, supported by Turner. A unanimous voice vote carried the motion.
- B. Addition to Agenda: Project summary / quote from Wightman for Construction Documents, Permitting, and Bidding Administration to extend water and sanitary sewer for new construction on Morrill Street. Turner motioned to approve the project summary and quote in the amount of \$8150, supported by Smith. A unanimous roll call vote supports the motion.

X. BOARD, COMMITTEE, AND STAFF REPORTS:

- A. **Village Manager** – Manager Imus reports that she has hoped to have a demolition contract on the agenda for tonight for 410 White Oak, but she is still waiting for quotes to come in due to asbestos abatement. We need to have the building down by December 31st to have it removed from the tax rolls. However, Imus spoke with our township assessor and he agreed to remove it from the rolls this year because it was inhabitable and in the Village’s name. The Lion’s parade on December 10th was a huge success, despite the rain. We have received all of the necessary environmental information from Envirologic and are ready to close on the Reid Property. Our attorneys are working on the closing documents. We have not received any new information from Welch’s. There is a County Task Force, led by Market Van Buren for county wide high speed internet service. They have a survey that we should encourage all Village businesses and community members to respond to and support the task force initiative. The DPW employees have voted (4-0) with one not voting, to unionize. We will be meeting with the union at a later date. Imus informed Council on a group that is part of the Michigan Constitutional Crusaders that have been targeting local municipalities in the area with phone /video camera’s trying to get reaction from employees so they can claim that their constitutional rights have been violated. Imus has made staff aware of this and how to handle the situation if they should come to the village hall or other entities. We will need to create a Master Plan Sub Committee of 9 – 12 individuals from the community, council, DDA, business owners, planning commission and school.
- B. **Department of Public Works** – Superintendent Hackenberg’s reports were submitted as part of agenda packet.

- C. **Police Department** – Chief Mack’s reports were submitted as part of agenda packet. He also spoke to Council regarding the First Amendment Audit individuals that have been targeting local municipalities in the area.
 - D. **Fire Board** – E. Dudek reports it was been a slow month, he will submit a list of calls for last month via email.
 - E. **Planning Commission** – Peterson reported that Planning Commission did not meet this month.
 - F. **Downtown Development Authority** – G. Dudek was absent from the DDA meeting in November and there is no meeting scheduled in December. Manager Imus did let them know about the Grants the Village will be receiving.
 - G. **Community & Economic Development** – Smith reports that committee did meet this month, however, she forgot her notes and will email to council.
 - H. **Finance and Administration Committee** – Appleby reported they did meet and have decided to add new reports to be aware of what is happening throughout the community.
 - I. **Public Safety Committee** –Turner reports they did not meet before Council meeting tonight. He reports they are still looking into Ring doorbell options.
 - J. **Public Services Committee** - G. Dudek reports they did not meet this month.
 - K. **Water and Sewer Committee** – No regular meeting scheduled at this time.
- XI. **COUNCIL COMMENTS:** President Appleby addressed council regarding a tour of our facilities. He has spoken with Superintendent Hackenberg to make small group tours sometime in January 2022, weather permitting. G. Dudek asked to talk about the Golf Cart ordinance and where specifically the crossing points are in the Village per the ordinance. Police committee to review the ordinance and make amendments.
- XII. **ADJOURNMENT:**
Turner, supported by Smith, made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m. A voice vote was taken with unanimous approval of those present. The next regular scheduled meeting is January 11, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted by Joni Bell, Village Clerk