



LAWTON VILLAGE COUNCIL

Regular Meeting Minutes – Tuesday December 12, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

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

WWW.LAWTONMI.ORG 269.624.6407

MINUTES

- I. **Call to Order:** President Pro-Tem E. Dudek called the December 12, 2023, meeting of the Lawton Village Council to order at 7:00 p.m.
- II. **ROLL CALL** *Present:* E. Dudek, Peterson, G. Dudek, Smith, Turner, Tanis, and Appleby via Zoom *Absent:* None. *Others Present:* Village manager Hackenberg, Clerk Rathbun, Chief Mack and two other guests.
- III. **Consent Agenda:** The Consent Agenda included the approval of the December 12, 2023 Council Agenda, the November 14, 2023 Council Meeting Minutes, and approval of the November 2023 disbursements in the amount of \$244,473.45. Peterson made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda with grammatical correction to the minutes, supported by Smith. A unanimous roll call vote approved the motion.
- IV. **COMMUNICATIONS / CORRESPONDENCE / PRESENTATIONS:** None
- V. **CITIZENS' COMMENTS:** None
- VI. **PUBLIC HEARINGS / APPOINTMENTS / PROCLAMATIONS:** None.
- VII. **OLD BUSINESS:** None.
- VIII. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - A. E. Dudek brought the 2024 Meeting Schedule to the floor for discussion. Trustee Smith made a motion to accept the 2024 Meeting Schedule with a correction under the title to say “all public meetings will be held openly, at Village Hall unless posted elsewhere”. Trustee Tanis seconded the motion, followed by a unanimous voice vote with all in favor, and none opposed.
 - B. E. Dudek brought Ordinance 5 of 2023 to the floor. Turner motioned and G. Dudek seconded to adopt Ordinance 05 of 2023: An ordinance to amend section 70.03 “Parking of Vehicles and Trailers” of Chapter 70, “General Provisions” Title VII, “Traffic Code” to the Lawton Village Code, this ordinance will effect the overnight parking during the winter hours, and can be found in full on our website at www.lawtonmi.org. A roll call vote was taken with all in favor, and none opposed. Ordinance Passed.
- IX. **BOARD, COMMITTEE, AND STAFF REPORTS**
 - A. Village Manager Hackenberg reported that Iris Mass Communication System was brought up at his MRWA meeting in order to send mass notices via text message, email, or automated voice message. Other communities are utilizing this for communicating with residents. Village Manager Hackenberg stated it would be very useful for announcements such as hydrant flushing, leaf pickup, M-40 project updates, among other updates. Trustee Peterson asked how we would go about capturing people without water bills, or people without water and sewer. Manager Hackenberg stated we do have a mailing list for those without water and sewer we could utilize to get those people signed up. To get in touch with those who live with apartments, he plans to work with apartment management on how to get ahold of these residents, as well as owners of houses who have renters. Hackenberg stated it appears legislation is going through, called the Water Affordability Act which will add a few dollars per

month to everyone's water bill. This amount will be charged to residents by the state on their water bills in order to help residents across the entire state who cannot pay their water bills if it goes through. Village Manager Hackenberg introduced the new Village Police Chief, Gregory Cordes, who will be starting Monday, December 18th. Hackenberg also reported that Zoning Solutions sent an update on current properties they are working on. The village is at \$4300/5000 budgeted for this including their attorney fees thus far. Some of these addresses are waiting on a court date, some of these are waiting on a default judgement from the court. Council would like to see Zoning Solutions focus on the addresses we have given them and get those cleaned up with the remaining budget for this fiscal year, Village Manager Hackenberg is going to discuss Council's wishes with Zoning Solutions during their next call. Village Manager Hackenberg stated the bathrooms in the park are in the process of being built and are coming along nicely. He reported a digital copy of Reid's Corner will be available this Friday, and he will give it to council at that point for review. Progressive will need their feedback back by January 5, 2024. Hackenberg also reported that we will have a copy of the draft ordinances by December 22, at this point it will be sent out to planning commission and Village Council for the meeting on January 2, 2024. He reported a few permits have been approved for the water and sewer extension on the north end of town. He stated after all of the permits go through, we can get it out to bid after that, and will have a starting date after that.

- B. Village Manager Hackenberg reported that the DPW got everything ready for Christmas in the Village, and council stated how happy they were with the Village decorations. Hackenberg stated with the weather being good, and leaves still being out, the DPW is going to continue picking up the leaves for as long as possible. He stated that if something drastic should happen, to put us too far behind, we will hire Mattawan to come out and help. Council woman Peterson stated she wanted to thank the American Legion and the DPW for getting the lights up on the train station, because it looks fabulous.
- C. Clerk Rathbun reported that the FOIA request from the company was not allowed to be denied by the attorney, however, it was able to be heavily redacted because it did contain banking information. This led to the Village realizing that they needed more FOIA information on the website in one easy to find location, so PixelVine is now working on creating a FOIA tab with the villages form, policies, fees, and the FOIA Ordinance and Resolution.
- D. Chief Mack reported that he has been in communication with Greg Cordes, he will be here on the 18th to make sure he has access to whatever he needs. Incoming police Chief Cordes reported that he is excited to come in here and get started. He reported that on the Blight, he just went through this in Lawrence, and he has some contacts for the court ordered cleanups.
- E. Peterson reported Planning commission did not meet.
- F. G. Dudek reported DDA met, but had no new updates.
- G. E Dudek reported that the Fireboard met, but had no new updates.
- H. Clerk Rathbun reported the library board met, and that the Library will be closed between December 22nd to January 2nd. While the skylights are being done in the library, Director Tone will offer curbside pickup for patrons on all regular days that are not a holiday or an observed holiday.

X. **COUNCIL COMMENTS:** None.

XI. **ADJOURNMENT:** Turner supported by Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:48PM. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Brittany Rathbun
Village Clerk