



Village of Lawton
VILLAGE COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
125 S. MAIN, LAWTON MI 49065 269.624.6407
Tuesday January 09, 2024
MINUTES

- I. **Call to Order:** President Appleby called the January 9 2024, meeting of the Lawton Village Council to order at 7:00 p.m.
- II. **Roll Call:** *Present:* Appleby, Tanis, E. Dudek, Peterson, Turner, G. Dudek *Absent:* Smith. *Others Present:* Village Manager Hackenberg, Clerk Rathbun, Police Chief Cordes, and three guests.
- III. **Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- IV. **Consent Agenda:** The Consent Agenda included the approval of the January 9 Council Agenda, the December 12, 2023 Council Meeting Minutes, and approval of the December 2023 disbursements in the amount of \$183,584.10. made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda supported by. A unanimous roll call vote approved the motion.
- V. **Communications, Correspondence, and Presentations:**
 - A. Village Manager Hackenberg presented correspondence from IRIS mass communication system. This is a web-based mass notification system that the village approved at the end of 2023. We do not have a start date as of yet, however, Village Manager Hackenberg is hoping to have it in effect within the first quarter of 2024. Once it is set up, residents can enroll for notifications about hydrant flushing, water main issues, brush pickup or general information when they come in to pay their water bills, or by stopping into the office to sign up for this if they do not have water and sewer and would like the updates.
- VI. **Citizen Comments:**
 - A. Manuel Pratt from 806 E 4th street came in and wanted to get information on the brush pickup. He wanted to know what the regulations were for pickup, if there were any for sizing, or location. He also wanted to inform the council that it becomes a problem if it stays too long. He stated that last summer a small fire was started when part of a transformer fell onto his brush pile. He stated that his brush pile has been there since mid-July. He wanted to make sure he is following regulations correctly to get the brush picked up. President Appleby stated that we have had some notable issues this year, and it is not for lack of trying that it hasn't gotten done but we have had some staffing and some equipment issues. Village Manager Hackenberg apologized that it has been so long since his brush has not been picked up. He stated that that time frame is

unacceptable. Hackenberg stated we do have some regulations, each residence needs to have its own pile, residents cannot combine piles in front of empty lots, piles can only be 8ft wide, and brush is picked up between April through October. Anything outside of these regulations may cause residents brush to be passed over. October through April there is no brush pick up, unless a bad storm goes through town. Hackenberg stated for anyone who would like to review the regulations he would be happy to provide a copy. Both Village Manager Hackenberg, and President Appleby stated that they appreciated him bringing this to a council meeting, and the Village will get this rectified.

VI: Public Hearings/Appointments/Proclamations: None.

VII. Old Business:

VII: New Business:

- A.** President Appleby brought a Consulting services agreement with New Growth for RAP (Revitalization and Placemaking 2.0) Grant to the floor for consideration. Discussion ensued and Village Manager Hackenberg explained that this consulting firm will help us ensure that we meet all of the remaining criteria for the RAP Grant. Trustee Peterson made a motion to enter into a consulting services agreement with New Growth for RAP Grant Administration in the amount of \$29,500.00 per year to be billed in equal monthly increments, with a correction looked into for section 9F, which states that “this law is in accordance with the State of Arkansas.” It should be for the State of Michigan. Seconded by trustee E. Dudek. Roll call vote taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.
- B.** President Appleby brought the Van Buren County 2024 Citizen Planner Program to the floor for Discussion. Village Manager Hackenberg stated this would be good for both Council and Planning Commission to go through, however, unfortunately it is on Tuesdays. President Appleby stated for March and April’s Meeting, we could move the meeting if someone would like to go from either Council or Planning Commission would like to go.
- C.** President Appleby brought the next regularly scheduled council meeting set for January 23rd, 2024 to the floor for discussion. President Appleby stated the last Planning Commission meeting was really good, and they would like to continue that. President Appleby proposed that they would like to cancel the January 23rd Village Council Meeting, and instead attend the joint meeting on January 25th to discuss the Zoning Ordinances. Council agreed to cancel the January 23rd Council Meeting in favor of a special joint meeting with the Planning Commission on Thursday, January 25th.

VIII: Board, Committee, and Staff Reports:

- A.** For the Public Works Department, Village Manager Hackenberg reported that water was way down from last year. He stated this could have to do with Welch’s, if they shut down for a few weeks for the holidays. Hackenberg stated the leaves finished being picked up

this past Saturday. Hackenberg stated Christmas decorations will come down as soon as weather allows, since we are expecting quite a bit of bad weather this week.

- B.** Hackenberg reported that we have gotten two bids on the pickleball court construction thus far. He is waiting on a couple more that can then be sent off to DNR for approval. Hackenberg stated we got another bill for the blight; Zoning Solutions is still working on a couple of the open cases. Hackenberg and Police Chief Cordes have gone through how to enter blight on Silversmith. Hackenberg also stated that DPW employees will be going around entering street signs and trash cans and other items to help with getting this software off the ground. Hackenberg stated the utility extension on the north end of town was put out for bids yesterday, with a bid opening to come on February 9th in order to avoid the MDOT bidding. The finishing touches are being placed on the Reed's Corner plans, Kalin is working on some quotes to see where we are at budget wise with some of it. Hackenberg stated they are designing a vault for the middle that will be covered up. Hackenberg stated Verizon is updating their antennae's, that is what the crane is in town. He also stated Verizon would like to run new fiber optic conduit from Modern Well to the tower, which is being reviewed. Hackenberg stated that we received the Insurance Valuation Report of Tangible Property Assets.
- C.** Clerk Rathbun Reported W2s are out.
- D.** Cordes Reported that the month of December was an average month for the Police Department. He stated he would like to see more Part time officers cover some. J Lagen had one notable incident on New Year's Eve, and was injured. He stated officer Lagen did a great job subduing bringing the person in. Cordes stated that 29 hours were spent on radar. He stated officer Edwards and officer Lagen both attended legal update trainings. Chief Cordes would like to see every officer, himself included, attend those this year. He stated that he has a few chief trainings coming up. Cordes stated going forward, Jeff Mack is still going to continue to come in and help out where needed. Cordes reported he has a list of things to update for the police departments. Cordes stated that he has a friend who is a member of the KVCC academy and they have been in communications, so she will let him know if any free agents come in and are available for hire. Chief Cordes has also started a Standard Operating Procedure manual to make transition easier for the next person who comes into his position.
- E.** Peterson reported Planning Commission met and they are working their way through zoning ordinances. She stated it was a good meeting with lots of input.
- F.** G. Dudek reported that the DDA did not meet.
- G.** E. Dudek reported that the Fireboard met and it was a slow month.
- H.** Rathbun reported that the Library Board met and the hours have been updated to 9:30AM-6PM M-W, 9:30AM-5PM on Friday, and 9:30AM-2:00PM on Saturdays. The library will still be closed Thursdays and Sundays. The library is also in the process of ordering a new book drop for the back of the building before construction starts on Main street in April. Rathbun reported the skylights are finished in the library, and it is looking great.

VIII. Council Comments:

- IX. Adjournment:** Turner moved, with support from Tanis to adjourn the Village Council Meeting at 7:53 p.m. Next regular council meeting to take place on February 13th, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Brittany Rathbun

Village Clerk