



Village of Lawton
VILLAGE COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
125 S. MAIN, LAWTON MI 49065 269.624.6407
Tuesday May 27, 2025
MINUTES

- I. **Call to Order:** President Appleby called the May 27 2025, 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, Raber *Absent:* None. *Others Present:* Village Manager Hackenberg, Clerk Rathbun, and five guests.
- III. **Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- IV. **Consent Agenda:** The Consent Agenda included the approval of the May 27 Council Agenda, and the May 13, 2025 Council Meeting Minutes. Peterson made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda with several corrections to May 13, 2025, supported by E. Dudek. A unanimous voice vote approved the motion.
- V. **Citizen's Comments:**
- A. Sheila Motycka wanted to know minimum lot size, minimum house size, and how many homes could feasibly be placed on her property if they were to sell it. Village Manager Hackenberg stated he would send her the ordinance information for this.
 - B. Tony Greenway a resident of Main Street wanted to ask about brush pickup. Greenway stated that his brush has not been picked up, and he would like to know about pickup or whether communication could be sent out if it is running behind. Hackenberg stated his brush will be picked up by the end of the week, the truck broke down, and they are getting back to brush pickup now.
- VI. **Communications, Correspondence, and Presentations:**
- A. Hackenberg stated there will be a zoom online planning training. It's a two-day meeting, and it will be emailed to council.
 - B. Village Manager Hackenberg provided an overview of financials and audit highlights.
- VII. **Public Hearings/ Appointments:** None.
- VIII. **Old Business:**
- A. President Appleby brought the rental ordinance update to the floor as the attorney was present to answer any questions. Hackenberg recommended an implementation date longer than 30 days in order to educate people so that they know it will be. Discussion about the best course of action of implementation and enforcement was had. The council would like to see letters sent to know landlords, as well as a press release for approval at the June 10 meeting. Discussion was had on time of registration vs. being

licensed. Council would like to see the language changed to allow for a separate registration window and a licensing window to allow time for the inspections. Council wanted to know what happens to renters if the owners have not been licensed. The attorney stated we take them to court, get a formal hearing, and since compliance is the goal, and they can try to enter into a consent judgement to get the rental ordinance, otherwise if that is not followed at that point, then the judge will give an order that they can no longer rent. This will provide landlords plenty of opportunities to become compliant. Discussion was had about a future construction board of appeals, and how this would come into play. Land contracts were also discussed. The village attorney will make changes as needed, and the final draft of the zoning ordinance will go to the Planning Commission in order to be passed.

IX. New Business:

- A.** President Appleby brought Resolution 05-2025: a resolution in support of continued MEL funding to the floor for discussion. After discussion of how important MEL is to our local community, E. Dudek made a motion to pass Resolution 05-2025 in support of continued MEL funding, seconded by Turner. A unanimous voice vote approved the motion.
- B.** President Appleby brought Resolution 06-2025: a resolution in support of the Vineyard Classic Bike Tour to the floor for discussion. After discussion, Turner, seconded by G. Dudek motioned to pass this resolution, with a unanimous voice vote approving the motion.
- C.** President Appleby brought a request from Duane Packer to burn a pile in coordination with the Lawton Fire Department to the floor for discussion. Village Manager Hackenberg stated that this has been done in the past. Turner made a motion to allow Duane Packer to burn a pile in coordination with the Lawton Fire Department, seconded by E. Dudek. A voice vote was taken with all in favor, and none opposed. Motion carried.

X. Council Comments:

- A.** E. Dudek stated that some of the new trees are leaning due to storms. Hackenberg stated that landscaping and sprinkler contractors will be in to fix things this week.
- B.** President Appleby stated that the town looked beautiful for the Memorial Day Parade, and that the Legion did a great job.
- C.** Trustee Turner stated as a representative of the American Legion, they wanted to express gratitude to both the Village Council and Fire Department for assistance with the Memorial Day parade.

XI. Adjournment: Turner motioned to adjourn at 8:03PM supported by E. Dudek.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Brittany Rathbun
Village Clerk