



Village of Lawton
JOINT MEETING OF THE LAWTON VILLAGE COUNCIL and DOWNTOWN
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
SPECIAL MEETING
125 S. MAIN, LAWTON MI 49065 269.624.6407
Tuesday November 25, 2025
MINUTES

- I. **Call to Order:** President Appleby called the November 25 2025, joint meeting of the Lawton Village Council and Downtown Development Authority to order at 7:00 p.m.
- II. **Roll Call:** *Present:* Appleby, E. Dudek, Peterson, Turner, G. Dudek, Raber, Osborne, Lawson, L. Dudek, Shannon, Shinabargar, Kozik, *Absent:* Tanis, Comis, Dluge. *Others Present:* Village Manager Hackenberg, Clerk Rathbun, and five guests.
- III. **Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- IV. **Approval of Agenda:** Peterson, supported by G. Dudek made a motion to approve the joint agenda for Village Council and DDA for November 25, 2025. A unanimous voice vote approved the motion.
- V. **Citizen's Comments:**
- VI. **Communications, Correspondence, and Presentations:**
- VII. **Public Hearings/ Appointments:** None.
- VIII. **Old Business:** None.
- IX. **New Business:**
 - A. DDA Chairman Osborne reviewed the 2025 DDA Activities and Finances, noting the history of the DDA, and broke things down into three portions:
 1. Current DDA Projects which include: annual spring flowers and watering, which makes the DDA approximately \$3,000/year in revenue, street banners on Main Street, Reid's Corner which encompasses rules of the facility, and the Farmer's Market, Tuesday Night Food Trucks, Fall Flowers and fall downtown decorations, Fall Escapade Parade, the Chancey Lewis Court Pickleball Court Project, the Storefront Revitalization Façade Program; which can be used for signage, painting, and several other projects for downtown businesses, and the Deck the House Christmas Contest.
 2. Current DDA needs including: a DDA building that will allow for them to have storage space for all of their things, a group distribution email for

communication, and he would like the parks and recreation budget added to the DDA monthly meeting.

3. Future DDA Projects: Kid's Dream revitalization Projects, Splash Pad upgrades they might need in the future, overflow parking in the back with the pickleball courts in the back, possible dog park area near the wells, walking/riding trail system, not only around there but around the community but possibly with other communities that are interested in that, possible program for businesses to rent a lift on their façade work, and he would like to finish the projects they have started.
- B. Village Manager Hackenberg reviewed the Current Parks and Recreation Plan for the Village. He highlighted that it is located on our website for all to see, and he is working on surveys for the public for what they would like to see in the parks. Hackenberg stated Kids Dream Revitalization is at the top of the list, it is over 30 years old, and it has outlived its life expectancy. The Village can no longer make several repairs to the structure because it is outdated and parts are no longer made for it.
- C. Chairman Osborne discussed DDA projects and goals for the next year. Osborne stated this year they will try to breakdown into more individualized committees to handle the different projects, they will also start looking into more grants that are specific to their projects. He also stated that the biggest project they would like to tackle getting funding for is the Kids Dream revitalization project.

X. Council/DDA Comments:

- A. Turner stated as a past member of the DDA, he would like to thank the DDA and state they are doing a great job.
- B. Shannon wanted to know whether the Village has lights for the downtown poles, Hackenberg stated yes.
- C. Osborne wanted to thank the council for ongoing village support.
- D. Raber asked questions on the Hydrocorp paperwork stating that homeowners will be charged the cost of repairs. Village Manager Hackenberg stated that the homeowners will have no cost for inspection, and will only be required to pay for repairs related to illegal cross connections. These would be things like a well being hooked up to the village water system.
- E. Drew asked where we are at with the road signs off of main Street. Hackenberg stated he just received a quote last week.

XI. Adjournment: Turner motioned to adjourn at 8:09PM supported by Osborne

Respectfully Submitted by,



Brittany Rathbun

Village Clerk