



Village of Lawton
VILLAGE COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
125 S. MAIN, LAWTON MI 49065 269.624.6407
Tuesday March 24, 2026
MINUTES

- I. **Call to Order:** President Appleby called the March 24 2026, meeting of the Lawton Village Council to order at 7:00 p.m.
- II. **Roll Call:** *Present:* Appleby, Tanis, E. Dudek, Peterson, G. Dudek, Raber, Turner *Absent:* None. *Others Present:* Village Manager Hackenberg, Clerk Rathbun, Library Director Tone and eleven guests.
- III. **Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- IV. **Consent Agenda:** The Consent Agenda included the approval of the March 24, 2026 Council Agenda, and the March 10, 2026 Council Meeting Minutes. Peterson made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, supported by G. Dudek. A unanimous voice approved the motion.
- V. **Citizen's Comments:**
 - A. Margaret Cornish, a resident, stated she has had leaves out since prior to Thanksgiving that have not yet been picked up. She stated she has reached out, and hasn't heard back, but, she would like them picked up. Village Manager Hackenberg stated when we were been hit by weather last year, there were some remaining to be picked up, and the DPW will be out next week once they have dried out some with the new leafvac truck to get them.
 - B. Mandy Wallace, a non-resident from Wayne Township stated she is in to visit. She stated she and her husband own a business in Dowagiac, which provides rolling dumpster rentals. They also provide labor for cleanup or clean out jobs. For the past year or so they have been interested in serving the community for blight needs. She wanted to express interest in bidding on local blight jobs. However, overall, she is trying to gather information on what will best serve local communities blight needs.
 - C. Library Director Tone stated the library will be closed Easter Weekend, to have carpets cleaned. She stated she and the library Children's Program employee, Leah participated in Literacy night at the elementary night and were able to give out 75 bags to the kids.

VI. Communications, Correspondence, and Presentations:

- A.** Heather Shannon stated that Summerfest is set to take place on July 11 this year. Festivities will begin at 11am. Main Street will be closed at 9am for preparation. Planned activities include: a car show on main street, a bike show near Red Brick Hall, and Craft show on 3rd street all starting at 11. The Farmer's Market will be taking place in Reid's Corner. Kids activities this year will take place in the Fire Hall. Summerfest also has a magician and performer Alakazam lined up for family entertainment, as well as singing and interaction at Reid's Corner. Tyler Roy will be playing from 3pm-5pm, and the parade will be at 5pm. The parade will start at the elementary, come down 2nd to Main Street, and turn down 4th Street. Hair Mania will start at 7pm with fireworks to follow, and the road will be reopened to through traffic by midnight.

VII. Public Hearings/ Appointments:

VIII. Old Business:

- A.** President Appleby brought discussion of Blight/Rental Administration for the Village of Lawton to the floor for discussion. President Appleby stated that the Village staff has recommended council go with Beth Middleton-Pompey. He stated there is a good case for both, however, the recommendation comes with our familiarity with Beth, and the fact that she helped develop our rental inspection ordinance. Peterson made a motion to adopt Resolution 01-2026: A Resolution to Terminate Zoning Solutions, seconded by G. Dudek. A roll call vote was taken with the following votes: Turner: Yes, Tanis: Yes, Raber: Abstain, Peterson: Yes, G. Dudek: Yes, E. Dudek: Yes, Appleby: Yes. Resolution 01-2026 declared adopted by majority vote. Following this vote, Appleby made a motion, seconded by Turner to adopt Resolution 02-2026: A Resolution to Enter into a Contract with Beth Middleton-Pompey for Blight and Rental Inspection Enforcement. A roll call vote was taken with the following votes: Peterson: Yes, Turner: Yes, G. Dudek: Yes, Raber: Abstain, E. Dudek: Yes, Tanis: Yes, Appleby: Yes. Resolution 02-2026 Declared adopted by majority vote.

IX. New Business:

- A.** Village Manager Hackenberg reviewed current Village Budget Projections for the budget year to start in July and going out for the next five years. Hackenberg broke down current standings in each account, as well as each of his projections individually for council, as well as answering questions. He also recommended adopting a fund balance policy in the future, stating most municipalities maintain about a 30% fund balance. Village Manager Hackenberg also followed up on Trustee Peterson's request at the last meeting for ideas as far as funding options for the potential new DPW building, and gave council some of the options he has looked into to consider.

X. Council Comments:

- A.** Trustee Raber mentioned a new bakery in Lawton Joya Sweet Treats. She stated while not in town, this is a new local bakery that is located on M-40, and is owned by locals.
- B.** President Appleby stated Ulrich Claassen passed, and he was a big part of Lawton, and on the council for many years. He held a moment of silence for him.

XI. Adjournment: Turner motioned to adjourn at 8:35PM supported by E. Dudek. Motion approved by acclamation.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Brittany Rathbun
Village Clerk