



Village of Lawton
VILLAGE COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
125 S. MAIN, LAWTON MI 49065 269.624.6407
Tuesday May 26, 2026
MINUTES

- I. **Call to Order:** President Appleby called the May 26, 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, and six guests.
- III. **Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- IV. **Consent Agenda:** The Consent Agenda included the approval of the May 26, 2026 Council Agenda, and the May 12, 2026 Council Meeting Minutes. Peterson made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, supported by Turner. A unanimous voice vote approved the motion.
- V. **Citizen's Comments:**
- VI. **Communications, Correspondence, and Presentations:**
 - A. County Commissioner Tina Leary provided materials management planning updates, recycling updates, the county website update for their new website, vanburencountymi.gov, she also provided information on a search and rescue conducted by the Sheriff's Department, resulting in several officers receiving Awards for Excellence, or Life Saving Awards for their quick actions saving a man's life.
 - B. Village Manager Hackenberg provided council an update on the Market One Awards Ceremony.
- VII. **Public Hearings/ Appointments:**
 - A. **Truth in Taxation Public Hearing:** President Appleby opened the public hearing at 7:14 PM to receive comment on the establishment of the 2026 millage rates. The proposed millage rate is lower than last year's (16.9322) millage rate, and sits at 16.8271 for 2026, due to the Headlee Amendment and will generate a 2.71% increase of the net operating tax revenues for the Village of Lawton. President Appleby commented that the Truth in Taxation Hearing is completed each year in order to allow for the inflationary increase which will total \$22,964 for \$15,514 for operating, \$6,207 for streets, and \$1,242 for library.

B. Hear Public Comment

1. No one who was present wished to make comment on the public hearing.

C. President Appleby Closed the public hearing at 7:15PM with no further citizen questions or comments.

D. Council Consideration of Resolution 12-2026: E. Dudek moved, supported by G. Dudek, to make a motion to adopt Resolution 12-2026 to establish the Village of Lawton 2026 Millage rates at a total of 16.8271 mills. A roll call vote was taken Turner-Yes, Tanis-Yes, Raber-No, Peterson-Yes, G. Dudek-Yes, E. Dudek-Yes. Resolution adopted.

VIII. Old Business: None.

IX. New Business:

- A.** President Appleby brought setting a Public Hearing to approve the 2026-2027 Budget year to the floor. Following a motion from Peterson, seconded by Turner, council set this public hearing for June 9, 2026 following the ZBA Public Hearing already set. A unanimous voice vote approved this movement.

X. Council Comments:

- A.** T. Hackenberg stated the Splashpad is now up and operational, the Pickleball court is being worked on and that will be open going forward 11am-7pm. The attorney requested we charge some fees to the owners of the property where right of way was requested being abandoned near the cemetery. Council agreed, stating there is not a benefit to the Village, so this should not be a taxpayer expense. Hackenberg also provided an update on MEDC funding, Hackenberg also asked that Council check their mailboxes, to prevent it from overflow.

XI. Adjournment: Turner motioned to adjourn at 7:47PM supported by E. Dudek. Motion approved by acclamation.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Brittany Rathbun
Village Clerk