



**Village of Lawton**  
**VILLAGE COUNCIL**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**125 S. MAIN, LAWTON MI 49065 269.624.6407**  
**Tuesday June 09, 2026**  
**MINUTES**

- I. **Call to Order:** President Appleby called the June 9 2026, meeting of the Lawton Village Council to order at 7:00 p.m.
- II. **Roll Call:** *Present:* Appleby, Peterson, Turner, G. Dudek, Raber, Turner *Absent:* Tanis *Also Present:* Village Manager Hackenberg, Clerk Rathbun, Library Director Tone, and nine guests.
- III. **Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- IV. **Consent Agenda:** The Consent Agenda included the approval of the June 9 Council Agenda, the May 26, 2026 Council Meeting Minutes, and disbursements in the amount of \$221,439.23. Peterson made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda with an amendment to the minutes to show pickleball courts are not yet open, and splash pad hours are 11am-7pm supported by Turner. A unanimous roll call vote approved the motion.
- V. **Communications, Correspondence, and Presentations:**
  - A. Library Director Tone stated that the library had its ceiling repaired last month. The ceiling had several leaks and cracks. She also reported Summer reading sign ups start June 17<sup>th</sup>, and the summer calendar of events are listed on the library website, with certain events requiring registration.
- VI. **Citizen Comments:** None.
- VII. **Public Hearings/Appointments:**
  - A. James Johnson presented his request for a fence variance at 523 E 3<sup>rd</sup> St. He would like to build a 6' wooden privacy fence around his yard. Since he is on a corner lot, there are two parts of his yard considered front yard, where a wooden privacy fence is not allowed to be that high, as opposed to a normal yard that only has one portion of the yard considered the front yard. This variance would also allow him a few more feet to be fenced in than otherwise possible. It will be sixteen feet from the road, and 24 feet from the center of the road. Johnson stated this fencing would also help him get his property in accordance with the driveway ordinance as well, and there is no sidewalk, or view encroachment happening. This will also allow for his vehicle to be parked fully off of the road.

1. Following a voice vote with all in favor and none opposed, President Appleby opened the Zoning Board of Appeals public hearing at 7:11 PM.
  2. President Appleby asked for any public present who would like to comment during the Zoning Board of Appeals hearing. None present wished to comment.
  3. With no further comment, Peterson with support from made a motion to close the public hearing at 7:12 PM. A unanimous voice vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.
  4. Peterson motioned to approve the variance, with support from E. Dudek, a roll call vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. This resulted in the variance at 523 E Third St allowed by the Zoning Board of Appeals.
- B.** Village Manager Hackenberg presented a summary of the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget. This will be the Village's first July 1-June 30 budget. Revenues anticipated are \$1,722,934, and anticipated expenditures are \$1,637,550. This leaves a net surplus of \$85,384.
1. Following a motion from Turner, and a second from Peterson and a unanimous voice vote with all in favor, and none opposed, President Appleby opened the public hearing at 7:38 PM
  2. President Appleby asked for any public present who would like to comment during the budget hearing,
  3. With no further comment, E. Dudek with support from G. Dudek made a motion to close the public hearing on the FY 26/27 Budget at 7:40 PM. A unanimous voice vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.
- C.** Katie Vanderhulst, the Community Development Director from Market One presented a summary of the MSHDA Community Development Block Grant Funding for the Village of Lawton Home Rehab Project. This would be for homeowner homes only, not rentals. She answered several council questions, including eligibility, how long homeowners would need to remain in the home after the grant is awarded, and how Market One would administrate and help advertise to homeowners and businesses, and how townhalls would be helpful.
1. E. Dudek made a motion to open the public hearing seconded by Turner. Following a voice vote with all in favor, and none opposed, President Appleby opened the public hearing at 7:51 PM.

2. President Appleby asked for any public present who would like to comment during the Public Hearing for the MSHDA grant.
3. Residents expressed support for this, and questions about income requirements. With no further comments, Turner with support from E. Dudek, made a motion to close the public hearing on the MSHDA Community Development Block Grant Funding for the Village of Lawton Home Rehab Project at 7:59PM. A unanimous roll call vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.

**VIII. Old Business: None.**

**IX. New Business:**

- A. President Appleby brought Resolution 13-2026 to the floor for discussion. E. Dudek made a motion, seconded by Peterson to adopt Resolution 13-2026, adopting the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget. A unanimous roll call vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.
- B. President Appleby brought Resolution 14-2026 to the floor for discussion. Turner made a motion, seconded by E. Dudek to adopt Resolution 14-2026, approving the MSHDA Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Request for the Village of Lawton Home Rehab Project, and procurement policy. A roll call vote was taken with all in favor, and none opposed, motion carried.
- C. President Appleby brought the MML Workers Compensation Renewal Invoice to the floor in the amount of \$22,465. After Discussion, Peterson made a motion to pay MML in the amount of \$22,465 for the annual Worker's Compensation, seconded by G. Dudek, a unanimous roll call vote approved this motion.
- D. Village Manager Hackenberg presented the Annual Participation Plan Review memo, highlighting several ways the Village reached out to the community in the past year to be in line with the adopted Participation Plan. This is an annual review as a part of the RRC designation.
- E. Village Manager Hackenberg and Trustee Peterson provided an overview of the planning Commission Annual Review, and provided an overview. Planning Commission met reviewed this annual review, and recommends council approve it. Following discussion, E. Dudek made a motion that council approve the annual Planning Commission review, seconded by Turner. A unanimous voice vote approved this motion.

**X. Board, Committee, and Staff Reports:**

- A. Village Manager Hackenberg presented his monthly report, highlighting that the pickleball courts were painted incorrectly and are being repainted. The net system has

been delivered and is at the DPW as well as pickleball signs. Hackenberg will follow up with the contractors this week to find out how long the paint needs to cure before they can be opened to the public. He stated the destruction of the button for the splashpad is on video, and has been given to the police department. The button that is on there is currently our only option for our system. The Village asks that parents monitor children at the splash pad, and follow the newly posted signs. In other news, the Village has filled the vacant DPW position with local, Kevin Cook, being brought on.

- B.** Rathbun Reported Trustees Tanis, Turner, E. Dudek, and Raber are up for election in the November 2026 election, Raber's will be to fill the remainder of Smith's partial vacant term, and she will need to re-run in 2028 as well for a full term if interested. All paperwork is due back to the township by no later than July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026 at 4:00 pm.
- C.** Peterson reported the Planning Commission met, reviewed the Annual Report, and presented that to council.
- D.** G. Dudek reported that the DDA met, the first food truck rally turned out great, and they had a wonderful band and perfect weather. They have another planned for next week, and they will be the first and third Tuesdays of the month going forward.
- E.** E. Dudek reported Fireboard met and has nothing new to report.

**XI. Council Comments:**

**XII: Adjournment:** Turner with support from E. Dudek made a motion to adjourn the Village Council Meeting at 8:21PM. Next regular council meeting to take place on July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 7PM.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Brittany Rathbun  
Village Clerk