



## VILLAGE OF LAWTON

Regular Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, August 11, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

*Meeting was held remotely and in person*

Lawton Fire Hall – 125 S Main Street, Lawton MI 49065

[WWW.LAWTONMI.GOV](http://WWW.LAWTONMI.GOV) 269.624.6407

### MINUTES

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** President Reeves called the August 11, 2020 Meeting of the Lawton Village Council to order at 7:00 p.m.
- II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** - The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- III. **ROLL CALL:** Present: President Reeves. Trustees: J Appleby, J. Peterson, E. Dudek, G. Dudek, P. Knudstrup and R. Turner. Absent: None. Others present: Village Manager Imus, Chief Mack, and 2 guests.
- IV. **CONSENT AGENDA:** The Consent Agenda included the approval of the August 11, 2020 Council Agenda, the July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Council Meeting Minutes, and the approval of Disbursements in the amount of \$88,995.22. Peterson, supported by E. Dudek, made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Motion approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present.
- V. **COMMUNICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE – None.**
- VI. **CITIZENS' COMMENTS**
  - A. K. Kozik asked the comments if they had made plans for Halloween, and if any special accommodations were being planned due to COVID-19. She also expressed concern to Council regarding racism and how it could potentially affect the Lawton Community. Being in an uncomfortable time right now, Kozik wanted to ensure Lawton continues to express a positive message about who we are as a community.
  - B. County Commissioner Schincariol updated the Council on County Business. An update will be done to the County website, it is anticipated that the I-94 bridge will have two roundabouts added, and that the County is working with the Health Department for COVID grants.

### VII. CALL TO ORDER OF THE LAWTON ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

President Reeves called the Lawton Zoning Board of Appeals meeting to order regarding a variance request from Mr. David Lesman for the property located at 118 White Oak Road, Lawton, MI parcel # 80-45-700-058-00. The variance request is for a reduced lot size and reduced front yard setback to accommodate a residential structure.

Turner, supported by Appleby, made a motion to open a public hearing to receive public comment. Motion was approved unanimously via a roll call. Mr. Lesman explained that he was going to demolish the

existing house but wanted to use the existing basement foundation for a new home. The foundation is 14' from the front property line. The requested 14' setback is in line with the neighboring house to the east. With no additional public comment, Turner, supported by G. Dudek made a motion to close the public hearing. The motion was approved unanimously via a roll call.

After discussion, Appleby supported by Turner made a motion to approve the variance request, stipulating a minimum lot area of 4,077 sq. ft (from the required 8,700 sq. ft), a front setback of 14' from the property line (from the required 30') and a rear setback of 20' (from the required 25'). This was conditioned upon the demolition of current structure within 6 months; the construction of a 8' X 10' (minimum) accessory building for storage; and that the new home be compliant with all zoning ordinance requirements, and aesthetically compatible in design and appearance with other residences in the vicinity. The motion was approved via a roll call vote with Knudstrup abstaining. President Reeves adjourned the ZBA Meeting.

**VIII. OLD BUSINESS – None.**

**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Ordinance 01-2020:** Ordinance 01-2020 Prohibiting the use of Engine Brakes on vehicles within the Village Limits was presented for a first reading. The second reading and adoption decision will take place at the September meeting.

**B. Parking Lot Lease:** A lease with NextGen (Remarkable Foods Inc) for portion of the parking lot used by the Little League for employee parking and drive through access was reviewed. The lease would require tenant to vacate the area during 4pm and 10 pm during Little League season. Reeves noted he had spoken with C. Richter regarding the proposal. Appleby supported by Turner made a motion to approve the lease. The motion approved by unanimous roll call vote of those present.

**X. BOARD, COMMITTEE, AND STAFF REPORTS**

**A. Planning Commission** – Turner reported that there was not a meeting in July.

**B. Downtown Development Authority (DDA)** - G. Dudek reported that the Splash Pad has been extremely busy. Volunteers continue to open the park and maintain the sod. Outstanding items include fencing and pavers/flat work that will be completed after the pad closes on Labor Day. There was discussing about obtaining additional land to widen the drive to the park.

**C. Community & Economic Development Committee (CEDC)** – Kudstrup reported that the committee is working on a Communications Strategy that will include a calendar of scheduled events, deadlines and occurrences. Property redevelopment has been slowed through the COVID Pandemic, but

expectations are still high for a new Sr living facility and some new housing within the Village limits. Ordinance and Code Enforcement continue to be a top priority.

- D. Finance and Administration Committee** - Reeves reported that the Police contract was still in negotiations, reviewed several blight concerns, and commented on COVID-19 necessary precautions.
  - E. Police Department** – Chief Mack reviewed his monthly report
  - F. Public Services** – Manager Imus presented the Public Services monthly report.
  - G. Village Manager** – Manager Imus thanked all the individuals that completed the “Enliven Lawton” survey, and for those that participated in the Charrette today. She reminded that the next Summer Clean-up weekend was August 28 and 29.
- XI. COUNCIL COMMENTS** – Appleby commented that a downtown planning priority should be to continue to work with our businesses to identify and remove obstacles, especially considering all of the COVID challenges. Peterson commented that a problematic home was being renovated and sold.
- XII. ADJOURNMENT** – Turner, supported by D. Dudek, made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. A roll call vote was taken with unanimous approval of those present.