



VILLAGE OF LAWTON

Regular Meeting Minutes – Tuesday January 12, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting was held remotely and in person

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

WWW.LAWTONMI.GOV 269.624.6407

MINUTES

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** President Knudstrup called the January 12, 2021 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 Knudstrup. Trustees: J Appleby, E. Dudek, G. Dudek, N. Smith, J. Peterson and R. Turner. Absent: None. Others present: Village Manager Imus, Chief Mack, Superintendent Hackenberg, and 4 other guests.
- IV. **CONSENT AGENDA:** The Consent Agenda included the approval of the January 12, 2021 Council Agenda, the December 08, 2020 Council Meeting Minutes, and the approval of Disbursements in the amount of \$51,958.88 and to set a Public Hearing for the regular Council Meeting on Tuesday, January 26, 2021 to hear comment and consider adoption of the Lawton 2021-2025 Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Peterson, supported by Turner, made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Roll call vote was taken with unanimous approval.
- V. **COMMUNICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE:**
 - A. We have received news that the State Tax Commission has approved the Commercial Rehabilitation Project for 99 Walker St LLC. They are approved to move forward with their project and will receive a 10 year tax abatement for obsolete property. This means a \$3.3 million renovation project with a minimum of 15 new jobs.
 - B. Kalamazoo Area Transit Study (KATS) annual third party contribution of \$1,200 will be covered by the Village Manager's and Superintendent of DPW for their work on the KATS team or any professional services we contract for that deal with transportation, including planning, safety training, environmental mitigation, data or GIS analysis, etc.
 - C. Wightman Engineering submitted a \$318,730 grant application on our behalf of the village to determine what Lawton water services may have lead or copper components that would need to be replaced.
 - D. The Village of Lawton COVID-19 Preparedness Plan and Response Plan – Decision Tree has been updated.

VI. CITIZENS' COMMENTS: Paul Schincariol our County Commissioner gave a brief update, mainly focused on the decommissioning of the Palisades Nuclear Generating Station, slated for closure in 2022. They are in the early stages of forming a Palisades Community Advisory Panel.

Kevin Wokeck made a request for the council to revisit the ORV ordinance to allow 4 wheelers (ATVs) on the village streets like we do golf carts and side by sides. This will be referred to the Public Safety Committee.

VII. PUBLIC HEARING/APPOINTMENTS:

A. Turner motioned to appoint Kelly Kozik of 304 E 4th Street to the Lawton Downtown Development Authority. E Dudek seconded the motion and a unanimous roll call vote was taken in favor of the appointment.

VIII. EXISTING BUSINESS:

A. Appleby made the motion to adopt the Enliven Lawton Downtown Master Plan 2023, seconded by E Dudek. A unanimous roll call vote was taken. By acting on this decision tonight, this will let MDOT know that we set the guidelines on how we are moving forward.

IX. BOARD, COMMITTEE, AND STAFF REPORTS

A. Planning Commission – Turner reported at the meeting they discussed the 2023 Downtown Master Street Plan and parking.

B. Downtown Development Authority (DDA) - G. Dudek reported that there had not been a since the last council meeting.

C. Community & Economic Development Committee (CEDC) – Knudstrup reported that J Peterson will be the new chair of this committee. They reviewed projects that the village is involved in. He noted that the 2nd Street house is making progress, as the breezeway and garage are now complete.

D. Finance and Administration Committee – Knudstrup reported that the committee review disbursements each month and they ask questions to make sure money is being spent in the best interest of the village. They are currently looking at the budget process, when budget is set, they will start looking at the Investment policy.

E. Public Safety Committee – J Appleby reported that the committee did meet before the council meeting tonight. Councilman Appleby had some concerns about tree trimming that needed immediate attention by the police department. They discussed the hiring process of the new Police Officer position, (the posting closes at the end of January). They briefly discussed the blight and parking issues.

- F. Public Services Committee** – There has been no meeting since last council meeting. Gail Dudek will chair this committee. Dudek mentioned that they need to get regular meeting schedule set.
- G. Water & Sewer Committee** – E Dudek will chair this committee. He reported that nothing was new and that they are still waiting for data from staff, after that Baker Tilly will crunch the numbers for the new rate structure.
- H. Police Department** – Chief Mack reviewed his monthly report.
- I. Department of Public Works** – Superintendent Hackenberg presented the Public Services monthly reports. Hackenberg reported that the Village is PFAS free! We are required to be tested and this is the same results as the last time we were tested by the State a couple of years ago. Wightman continues working on the water reliability study.
- J. Village Manager** – Manager Imus reports that she received new information that 410 White Oak has been through the court system and that the Village will take over ownership. Imus has also been working on the upcoming budget and she is wondering if a workshop is needed? She sent out a rooster via email asking for Council review and input if changes need to be made. The newsletter went out with utility bills and has the first notice of rate increases to be expected. We will have a rate calculator online so customers can review what their increase might be.
- X. COUNCIL COMMENTS** – President Knudstrup reminded council that there are two meetings scheduled for the months of January and February 2021. He spoke about the committee assignments and who will be chairing each committee and how each is staffed and encourage committees to meet monthly. He also mentioned concerns about the budget. He commented that right now the General Fund looks okay, but once new legislature gets back in session the budget situation could change.
- XI. ADJOURNMENT** – Appleby, supported by Turner, made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. A roll call vote was taken with unanimous approval of those present. The next regular scheduled meeting is January 26, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted by Joni Bell, Village Clerk