



VILLAGE OF LAWTON

Regular Meeting Minutes – Tuesday March 23, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting was held remotely

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 March 23, 2021 Meeting of the Lawton Village Council to order at 7:01 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, 1 other guest.
- IV. **CONSENT AGENDA:** The Consent Agenda includes the approval of the March 23, 2021 Council Agenda. E Dudek made a motion to approve the consent agenda with support from G Dudek. A roll call vote was taken with unanimous approval.
- V. **COMMUNICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE:** None
- VI. **CITIZENS' COMMENTS:** Paul Schincariol, Van Buren County Commissioner shared that the Commission has approved a Veterans Transportation Plan. It was determined that a major need for Veterans in the County is transportation. Beginning April 1, 2021 transportation from their homes to the VA Hospital in Battle Creek, MI will be provided. He also added that he was glad to be a part of the groundbreaking ceremony for Blueberry Hill.
- VII. **PUBLIC HEARINGS:** None
- VIII. **EXISTING BUSINESS:**
 - A. Discussion on the Social District, common area boundaries, duration times, maintenance and additional picnic tables, seating, umbrellas etc. along with a Resolution for consideration for adopting a Management and Maintenance Plan were of topic. Common areas would include Cannon Park, the old Water Tower Lot and vacant lot owned by Ray Reid. The Village will be renting the vacant lot from Mr. Reid. This will be finalized at the next regular meeting.
- IX. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - A. Consider Resolution 07–2021, Recreation Passport Grant requesting \$100,000 for renovations to Chancey Lewis Park with a \$26,000 match from DDA and General Fund.

Peterson moved to adopt Resolution 07-2021, supported by Appleby. A roll call vote was taken with unanimous approval.

- B. Discussion on the Wightman Proposal for Development Planning – Utilizing GIS and Engineering Services was held. The GIS map zoning would be very beneficial and worth the money, other pieces of the project need to be reviewed with Wightman for further discussion.
 - C. Discussion of the Village developing their own Brownstone Redevelopment Authority (BRA) or to stay with the County’s BRA was held. Staff will work with the County to get more information on where they are with the 99 Walker project. A local BRA would be very beneficial for future projects.
 - D. Setting priorities for future goals and projects is essential for long term success. We need to set priorities for the Village Manager, so she is not pulled in multiple directions. Other items to consider for future goals could be Master Plan to facilitate long-term Strategic Planning. The topic of holding two meetings per month was discussed. The first meeting will be for conducting Council business, the second meeting for discussion of issues, projects, workshops etc. Council is committed to the additional meetings as long as it is not long term.
- X. **BOARD, COMMITTEE, AND STAFF REPORTS:** None
- XI. **COUNCIL COMMENTS:** Appleby wondered if there were updates regarding the spring clean up dates. Imus informed Council that there will be a dumpster at the DPS and the drop off will be by appointment only in April and May. This way if a blight citation is issued, the police officer can distribute a business card with DPW’s telephone number will be given out, so that a call for an appointment can be made. DPW will still hold the June and August weekend dates however the July date may be cancelled, TBD. Turner questioned the status of the old police car sitting in the back parking lot. He has been approached by someone with interest on what Council is doing with it. He suggested taking sealed bids to sell, however it is slated to go to Brown’s Auction this spring.
- XII. **ADJOURNMENT:** E Dudek, supported by Turner, made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. The next regular scheduled meeting is for April 13, 2021

Respectfully Submitted by Joni Bell, Village Clerk