



VILLAGE OF LAWTON

Regular Meeting Minutes – Tuesday April 13, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting was held in person and remotely

Lawton Elementary School – 780 East Second Street, Lawton MI 49065

WWW.LAWTONMI.GOV 269.624.6407

MINUTES

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** President Knudstrup called the April 13, 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, Superintendent Hackenberg, and Chief Mack and 6 other guests.
- IV. **CONSENT AGENDA:** The Consent Agenda included the approval of the April 13, 2021 Council Agenda, the March 09, 2021 and March 23, 2021 Council Meeting Minutes, Disbursements in the amount of \$96,046.72. Appleby made motion to approve the agenda with exception to add the approval of the Mutual Aid Agreement to the agenda, seconded by Peterson. A vote was taken with unanimous approval.
- V. **COMMUNICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE:** None
- VI. **CITIZENS' COMMENTS:**
 - A. The Girl Scout's asked for a fee waiver for the Park Pavilion rental and shared what they could use the monies for in lieu of, they also offered to volunteer their services in the community if needed. Council agreed to waive their fees.
 - B. Bonnie Nye, Craft Fair chair, questioned if any decision on holding Summerfest has been made. Manager Imus commented that the Summerfest Committee is still reviewing their options, she has spoken with several committee members, but this is not Council's decision to make.
- VII. **PUBLIC HEARINGS / APPOINTMENTS:**
 - A. Motion made by Turner, supported by E. Dudek to open Public Hearing to hear comment on new water and sewer rates in the Village of Lawton. A voice vote was taken with full approval. E Dudek commented that he would like to hear more from the public, as there were no comments at tonight's meeting. Additional notices of the rate increase have been sent out in the newsletter and on the website. This rate increase will take effect on the June bills. Barring no public comments, Turner made motion to close the Public Hearing with support from Appleby. A unanimous voice vote was taken.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. G. Dudek made motion to Approve Resolution 08-2021 with support from Smith. This Resolution is to establish a Downtown Social District containing a commons area and adopting a management and maintenance plan in order to allow certain on-premises liquor licenses expanded use of shared area for consumption of alcohol pursuant to Public Act 124 of 2020. A unanimous roll call vote approved this Resolution.

IX. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. FIRST READING of Ordinance 200 of 2021 to grant a franchise to Consumers Energy Company to lay and maintain lines within the Village of Lawton. Discussion on making changes, reducing the term from 30 years to 10 or 15 years. This has been sent to our Attorney for review. There will be a second reading at the May meeting.
- B. Peterson moved to approve the appointment of Jessica Wood, Dickinson Wright PLLC as the Village Attorney for general services, with support from E. Dudek. A unanimous roll call vote was taken.
- C. Appleby motioned to approve Resolution 09-2021, a Resolution to combine Parcel #08-45-600-051-60 and Parcel #08-45-600-051-70, supported by Turner. A favorable roll call vote was taken.
- D. Approval of the Mutual Aid Agreement with Van Buren County. This is a standard agreement with Van Buren County, in which all other entities are participating. Appleby motioned with support from Turner to approve the agreement. A voice vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

X. BOARD, COMMITTEE, AND STAFF REPORTS

- A. **Planning Commission** – Peterson reports that they met on April 6, 2021. They discussed Best Practices and Redevelopment Readiness Program. It was determined the Village needs to develop a “Master Plan”. Planning Commission will be asking council to proceed with the Master Plan in the fall of this year.
- B. **Downtown Development Authority (DDA)** - G. Dudek reported that they met on March 24, 2021. The Façade improvement Program and the Pickleball Grant Application for Lewis Park were topic of discussion. The Façade Grant application deadline will be May 1, and the DDA will pay for 50% of grant not to exceed \$1,000. They welcomed new board member Zach Shinabargar and approved a Resolution to provide a \$20,000 match to the grant for the Pickle Board Courts.
- C. **Community & Economic Development Committee (CEDC)** – Peterson reported the Committee met on March 16, 2021. Discussion included the Tech Center House and its progress, A proposal from Wightman, water, and sewer rates, NextGen, the laundromat demo slated for end of this month, the Social District’s status, and the Passport grant.

- D. **Finance and Administration Committee** – Knudstrup reported the committee met. They reviewed monthly disbursements. Manager Imus was asked to hold a workshop on the Budget process potentially in June. They talked about Brownfield Development Authority (BRA) in response to the 99 Walker Street property and working with Market Van Buren. They had a lot of input on the Hamilton Street house, and they are working on a process for performance reviews.
- E. **Public Safety Committee:** Appleby reports they met before the meeting tonight and discussed the Mutual Aid Agreement, Public Safety goals and part time wage recommendations.
- F. **Public Services Committee** - G Dudek reported discussion on tree removal at Kid's Dream, cemetery needs, increasing cemetery lot prices, the Chip and Seal Grant, the condition of roads in Concord Hills, the sidewalk on Bitely Street, widening of entrance at Chancey Lewis Park and the downtown / park cameras.
- G. **Water and Sewer Committee** - E Dudek reported the utility increase decisions are waiting on final reporting from Baker Tilly. He hopes to have another committee meeting before the April 27th council meeting to prepare for public input before the May 11th meeting.
- H. **Police Department** – Chief Mack reviewed his monthly report.
- I. **Department of Public Works** – Superintendent Hackenberg presented the WWTP and Public Services monthly reports. He has secured Dumpsters that will be here on April 21, 2021, for blight enforcement and spring cleanup. He reports they are looking at raising the lot prices in the cemetery. He is getting ready for auction, the old police car and DPW has a few things that can go. He is also checking into street sweeping for 2nd and 3rd Streets along with Concord Hills.
- J. **Village Manager** – In response to widening the drive at Chancey Lewis Park, Manager Imus has received suggestions to loop the driveway to the south of the property. She also commented that we are just waiting on Baker Tilly for finalization.

XI. COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Turner questioned compliance of the ordinance for golf cart operations on the village street and motorized wheelchairs operating on the streets.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

E. Dudek, supported by Turner, made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. A roll call vote was taken with unanimous approval of those present. The next regular scheduled meeting is May 11, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted by Joni Bell, Village Clerk