



## VILLAGE OF LAWTON

Regular Meeting Minutes – Tuesday June 08, 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](http://WWW.LAWTONMI.GOV) 269.624.6407

### MINUTES

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** President Knudstrup called the June 08, 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: E. Dudek, N. Smith, G. Dudek, J. Appleby, J. Peterson, and R. Turner. Absent: None. Others present: Village Manager Imus, Superintendent Hackenberg, Chief Mack and 4 other guests.
- IV. **CONSENT AGENDA:** The Consent Agenda included the approval of the June 08, 2021, Council Agenda, the May 11th, 2021, and May 25, 2021, Council Meeting Minutes, Disbursements in the amount of \$64,325.70 and to set Truth in Taxation Public Hearing for the June 22, 2021 Council Meeting. Peterson made motion to remove the Council Agenda from the consent agenda for further discussion. Motion supported by E. Dudek. A unanimous voice vote approved the motion. Peterson then made another motion to approve the Council Agenda with amendments, supported by E. Dudek. A unanimous voice vote approved the motion.
- V. **COMMUNICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE:**
  - A. A letter from Barbara Ewing regarding American Flags in the downtown area was presented. In response to this letter, Imus will contact Mrs. Ewing and update her on the flag status. They are normally up from Memorial Day to end of September.
  - B. Letter from Learn and Grow Childcare asking to waive Park Pavilion Rental Fees for a field trip. It was discussed by council and decided that it was in the best interest not to waive the fees. Manager Imus will inform Learn and Grow Childcare of the decision, encouraging them to still attend without a reservation.
- VI. **CITIZENS' COMMENTS:**
  - A. Van Buren County Commissioner Paul Schincariol gave an update on the County business happenings.
  - B. Summerfest Committee, Mandy Lawson, Heather Shannon and Bonnie Nye proposed to hold a scaled-down festival on July 10, 2021, from 4:00 pm to Midnight. See New Business.
- VII. **PUBLIC HEARINGS / APPOINTMENTS: NONE**

**VIII. OLD BUSINESS:**

- A. A second draft of the Rules of Procedure was included in the packet, follow-up with Imus with suggestions or questions.

**IX. NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. The Summerfest Committee would like to hold a Parade, Arts & Craft Show and close M-40 on July 10, 2021, from 4:00 pm to Midnight. Appleby with support from Turner made motion to approve requesting a Permit for M-40 street closure. A unanimous voice vote approved the motion. It was noted that because of the late planning, and the inability to staff a huge crowd, these events will not be advertised outside of Lawton.

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

- A. **Planning Commission** – Peterson reports that they did not meet in June.
- B. **Downtown Development Authority (DDA)** - G. Dudek reports that they met on May 19<sup>th</sup>, planted flowers at Canon Park and the cemetery, planted and placed the flower pots around downtown, placed a donation box at Kids Dream, attended a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Just Fit in the Eaton Building, took down the Splash Pad donation sign in front of the Village Hall and are looking at logo's for the DDA. Dudek also reports they have five applications for the Façade program!
- C. **Community & Economic Development Committee (CEDC)** – Smith reports they did not meet in May.
- D. **Finance and Administration Committee** – Knudstrup reports the committee met and reviewed disbursements, talked about ordinance and code enforcement. Discuss agendas for upcoming meetings. Received updates on the social district and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street house projects.
- E. **Public Safety Committee:** Appleby reports they met before the meeting tonight. Happy to report the Police Department is now fully staffed! They are exploring an Accreditations Program for the Department. More information and discussion to follow. They also discussed the possibility of contracting with Safebuilt for Zoning Enforcement.
- F. **Public Services Committee** – G. Dudek reports they met on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Updates on the Social District that 27 wine barrels from St. Julien Winery in Paw Paw have been donated, cups have been ordered and that Barn Brewers were opting out for this year. They also discussed the maintenance of Kids Dream Park, trees to be removed and the maintenance of the Splash Pad. Committee would like to contact Attorney Knotek regarding widening the entrance to Chancey Lewis Park. R. Turner, on behalf of the Legion, requested additional markers and flags for cemetery placement for our military veterans.
- G. **Water and Sewer Committee** – E. Dudek reports they did not meet as they are waiting on information from BakerTilly.

- H. **Police Department** – Chief Mack presented his monthly report and added that our new officer is in training, and he is excited to have him on board and for the community to meet him!
- I. **Department of Public Works** – Superintendent Hackenberg presented the WWTP and Public Service reports. He noted that 4.88 miles of Chip and Seal bids are out, and that lead and copper sampling will be done sometime during June – September 2021.
- J. **Village Manager** – Manager Imus updated Council on the Laundromat, Moore Excavating requested to have the demo permit re-issued, they have until July 3, 2021 to complete the demolition. She also shared concerns that the school will not be staffed evenings due to summer break and if Council would like to meet in Council Chambers or should she be looking for another place to hold meetings. After discussion, it was agreed to return to Village Hall Council Chambers for upcoming hybrid meetings.

**XI. COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

President Knudstrup offered Council time for comment, barring none, he gave a visual presentation charting everything that Council has in the works, short and long term, upcoming major projects and goals. Knudstrup’s list was lengthy and summed up by saying “that’s a lot on one plate”.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT:**

Turner, supported by E. Dudek, made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. A voice vote was taken with unanimous approval of those present. The next regular scheduled meeting is June 22, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted by Joni Bell, Village Clerk