



City of Lawton

City Council

Minutes

Lawton City Hall
212 SW 9th Street
Lawton, Oklahoma
73501-3944

Tuesday, July 1, 2025

6:00 PM

Lawton City Hall
Wayne Gilley Auditorium

Meeting Called to Order with Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

"Official action can be taken only on items which appear on the agenda. The Council may adopt, approve, ratify, deny, defer, recommend, or continue any agenda item. The Council may also propose and enact floor amendments to any matter presented before them. When more information is needed to act on an item, the Council may refer the matter to the City Manager or the City Attorney. The Council may also refer items to standing committees of the Council or a board, commission, or authority for additional study. Under certain circumstances, items are deferred to a specific later date or stricken from the agenda entirely."

Meeting called to order by Mayor Stanley Booker with invocation led by Wyonna Alberty followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Present:

Councilwoman- Ward 1 Mary Ann Hankins-Booker
Councilman- Ward 2 RL Smith
Councilwoman- Ward 3 Linda Chapman
Councilman- Ward 4 George Gill
Councilman - Ward 5 Allan Hampton
Councilwoman - Ward 7 Sherene L Williams
Councilman - Ward 8 Randy Warren

Absent:

Councilman - Ward 6 Bob Weger

Also Present:

Stanley Booker, Mayor
Dewyane Burk, Deputy City Manager
Timothy Wilson, Interim City Attorney
Donalynn Blazek-Scherler, City Clerk

Councilwoman Hankins-Booker announced her intent to resign from the Ward One Council seat. No specific date was given at this time.

Business Items

A point of order was raised by Gill regarding participation in discussion related to proposed City Charter amendments. He stated that while all members of the public are

welcome to attend Council meetings, only citizens of Lawton are permitted to speak before the Council or offer suggestions or proposed changes to the City Charter.

Motion by Gill, Second by Sherene L Williams, to adhere to the conditions set forth for audience participation for individuals wishing to speak during discussions regarding amendment to the Lawton City Charter. AYE: Mary Ann Hankins, RL Smith, Linda Chapman, George Gill, Allan Hampton, Sherene L Williams, Randy Warren. NAY: None. Motion Passed.

1. Consider approving a resolution amending Appendix A, Schedule of Fees and Charges, Lawton City Code, 2015, by amending fees for online landfill payments and in-person credit/debit card landfill payments as set forth in Exhibit "A" of the resolution, and establishing an effective date.

Mayor Booker noted the item codified prior Council direction. Blazek-Scherler confirmed the amendment formalized a previously approved merchant services agreement for landfill payments, which includes a 2.95% convenience fee with a \$2.20 minimum per transaction for credit and debit card payments.

Clarification was provided that the fee applies only to credit/debit card transactions and does not affect cash payments. The item was recommended by the Fee Committee.

Motion by Allan Hampton, Second by George Gill, to approve Resolution 25-180. AYE: Mary Ann Hankins, Linda Chapman, RL Smith, George Gill, Allan Hampton, Sherene L Williams, Randy Warren. NAY: None. Motion Passed.

2. Discuss proposed amendments to the Lawton City Charter, receive public comments, select all propositions that will be presented to the electorate at the September 9, 2025 election, and provide direction to staff to prepare the election resolution and exhibits.

Mayor Booker advised the Council that the final Council action on ballot language would occur at the July 8 regular meeting, and confirmed this meeting constituted the final opportunity for public input.

Mayor Booker explained that several proposed amendments had been consolidated, particularly those related to the True North Culture Statement, and that some items were removed to allow further policy development and refinement prior to potential Charter consideration. He emphasized that the Council cannot amend the Charter, but may only determine whether to submit questions to voters.

Council members were provided time to review citizen-submitted suggestions. Mayor Booker explained that inclusion of any citizen-proposed Charter amendment would require a motion by the Council.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Hollie LaForest spoke in favor of retaining existing term limits, citing concerns regarding

concentration of power, civic engagement, and public trust.

Anderal Ward advocated for leadership rotation and improved civic engagement, emphasizing the importance of shared public service.

Paul Greene supported maintaining current term limits and cautioned against embedding current technology terminology into the Charter.

Annette Wiseman recommended scheduling additional public input sessions and supported term limits as a safeguard against complacency.

Mike Sanfellipo raised concerns unrelated to the Charter regarding property flooding; Mayor Booker advised the matter appeared civil in nature and directed follow-up through appropriate channels.

Megan Medina opposed eliminating term limits, emphasizing generational opportunity and accountability.

Kaysa Whitley offered multiple Charter suggestions, including ward residency requirements and zoning reform considerations.

Mayor Booker closed public comment after confirming no additional requests to speak from Lawton residents.

Mayor Booker reviewed proposed Charter amendments item by item, recommending that:

True North Culture Statement be consolidated and presented as a single ballot question.

Certain items be deferred for policy refinement rather than immediate Charter placement.

The probationary period for classified employees be extended from six months to twelve months, aligning with collective bargaining agreements.

Several items be removed due to statutory limitations or redundancy.

Term limits be discussed but not advanced unless Council desired to submit the issue to voters.

Gill stated that he agreed that a limitation on terms should not be included as a ballot question.

Motion by Randy Warren, Second by George Gill, to approve the addition of the True North Culture statement as a ballot item. AYE: Mary Ann Hankins, Linda Chapman, RL Smith, George Gill, Allan Hampton, Sherene L Williams, Randy Warren. NAY: None. Motion Passed.

Motion by George Gill, Second by Randy Warren, to approve adding that the City Manager is charged with fostering the True North Culture Statement as part of including

the True North Culture Statement as a ballot question. AYE: Mary Ann Hankins, Linda Chapman, RL Smith, George Gill, Allan Hampton, Sherene L Williams, Randy Warren. NAY: None. Motion Passed.

Motion by RL Smith, Second by Sherene L Williams, to approve a ballot question to change the employee probationary period from 6 months to 12 months. AYE: Mary Ann Hankins, Linda Chapman, RL Smith, George Gill, Allan Hampton, Sherene L Williams. NAY: Randy Warren. Motion Passed.

Motion by George Gill, Second by Sherene L Williams, to approve not including an amendment to Council term limits as a ballot question. AYE: Mary Ann Hankins, Linda Chapman, RL Smith, George Gill, Allan Hampton, Sherene L Williams, Randy Warren. NAY: None. Motion Passed.

Motion by George Gill, Second by RL Smith, to approve only 2 ballot questions. AYE: Mary Ann Hankins, Linda Chapman, RL Smith, George Gill, Allan Hampton, Sherene L Williams, Randy Warren. NAY: None. Motion Passed.

Executive Session

Motion by George Gill, Second by Allan Hampton, to enter into executive session. AYE: Mary Ann Hankins, Linda Chapman, RL Smith, George Gill, Allan Hampton, Sherene L Williams, Randy Warren. NAY: None. Motion Passed.

The City Council entered Executive Session at 7:13PM and reconvened in Open Session at 7:43PM. No action was taken in Executive Session, in compliance with the Oklahoma Open Meetings Act.

Motion by RL Smith, Second by Allan Hampton, to return to open session. AYE: Mary Ann Hankins, Linda Chapman, RL Smith, George Gill, Allan Hampton, Sherene L Williams, Randy Warren. NAY: None. Motion Passed.

3. Pursuant to Section 307B.4, Title 25, Oklahoma Statutes, consider convening in executive session to discuss the pending action in the District Court of Comanche County titled Julie Magness v. City of Lawton, CJ-2023-410 and, if necessary, take appropriate action in open session.

No Action Taken.

Adjournment

The City of Lawton encourages participation from all of its citizens. If participation at any public meeting is not possible due to a disability, notification to the City Clerk at (580) 581-3305 at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting is encouraged to make the necessary accommodations. The City may waive the 48 hour rule if interpreters for the deaf (signing) is not the necessary accommodation."

Motion by George Gill, Second by Allan Hampton, to adjourn. AYE: Mary Ann Hankins, Linda Chapman, RL Smith, George Gill, Allan Hampton, Sherene L Williams, Randy

Warren. NAY: None. Motion Passed.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:44PM.