



City of Lawton

Lawton Enhancement Trust Authority

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

Minutes

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

3:00 PM

Lawton City Hall
3rd Floor Conference Room

Meeting Called to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Ezerski called the meeting to order at 3:00PM in the 3rd floor conference room of City Hall.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Dwain Baxter, Ted Symuleski, Johnny Owens, Barry Ezerski, Lane Hooton, Addie Smith, Dwight Tanner, Chris Rabon

ABSENT: Charles Owens (excused), Jeremy Lohman (excused)

OTHERS PRESENT: Dewayne Burk, Deputy City Manager; Neal Kirmer, Communications & Marketing; Tammy Branstetter, City Clerk's Office; Garrett Lam, City Attorney's Office; Kelvin Ingram, Community Enrichment and Parks & Recreation Deputy Director / LETA Executive Director; Larry Parks, Community Enrichment and Parks & Recreation Director; John Saville, Financial Services; Jason Poudrier, Arts & Humanities Director; Tiffiney Dimery, Ward 4 Councilperson; Dennis Totte, Bedrock Nursery; Dr. Rosemary Bellino, Former City Council Member and former President of Lawton Beautiful, Inc; Nicole Kirby & Reggie Brown, Beal Woods Community Builders, Inc; David Maldonado, ASEZ World Mission Society Church of God; Merline LeDay-Mauney, 911 Monument Project; Matina Davis, Citizen of the Community

Statement of Compliance with Oklahoma Open Meeting Act, 25 O.S. 301-314

Chairman Ezerski verified with Branstetter that the meeting notice and agenda were posted in accordance with the Oklahoma Open Meetings Act.

Introduction of Guests

Guests of the meeting introduced themselves.

Reports

1. Receive a report from Dennis Totte with Bedrock Nursery regarding current landscaping and irrigation projects, provide direction to Mr. Totte on current

projects and take action as deemed necessary.

Dennis Totte, Bedrock Nursery, gave a report regarding current landscaping and irrigation projects.

Totte said we're doing a lot. We got the new pots set—the concrete containers came in, and we set and plumbed them. They're full of soil and ready for spring. I think we did eight or ten of them. We're going to be doing a lot of tree trimming over the next six weeks, probably. Hopefully, by the end of February, before everything starts budding, we'll be done with all of that. This includes all the medians and parks—cleaning everything up, pruning and elevating, and cutting out dead wood, storm damage, and any breaks. After that, we'll go right into the bed cleanups. We'll cut down the ornamental grasses and roses, probably in the first to middle part of February, and then re-mulch everything. We'll mulch all the beds at all the sites. That's what we'll be doing over the next couple of months.

Chairman Ezerski said have you had any damages or seen anything out of the ordinary?

Totte said I'm not seeing anything alarming or out of the ordinary—no. I don't see a lot of freeze damage or kills anywhere. I usually bring something and do an evaluation everywhere to see if there are any plants lost or anything like that when things start rebudding, but I think everything is looking pretty good right now.

Chairman Ezerski said what would it cost to do some pots on C Avenue from 2nd Street to 6th Street? I had a couple of business owners ask. We had some business owners actually talking about how they'd sponsor them or help pay for them.

Totte said I need to get the exact location, and we'd get a pot count. There are a lot of things involved there. We'll have to get a tap for the water, and we'll have to run irrigation to them. If you'll give me the details of where and what businesses, I can get a plan together.

2. Receive a report from Parks and Recreation regarding departmental projects and monthly updates and take action as deemed necessary.

Kelvin Ingram, Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation, gave a report on departmental projects and monthly updates.

Ingram said we've had great momentum thus far here since late November. First, I want to put out the Lee West Park Reopening Ceremony, if it's not already on your calendar. It is scheduled for 19 January at 10:00 a.m. at Lee West Park, corner of 67th Street and Lynnwood. We're doing a reopening of the park. If you drive by now, you'll see citizens already enjoying the space, but we'll have an official ceremony to commemorate the reopening. We ask that you attend if you have time in your schedules. I know it's a holiday for most of us, but here at the city, we'll be engaged in that activity to make sure we open this thing in the right way. If you do need a calendar

invite, I can push that out your way as well so we can mark it on our calendars.

Ingram said again, what you're going to see there too is it's in phase right now, so we're going to open this park, but we're also going to make more improvements in there throughout the future with another splash pad and also other amenities as well. The parking area is in its phase as well, so there's parking that can accommodate not only our patrons, but also to help alleviate that traffic along Lynnwood as well.

Ingram said if you drive by Mocine Park here in Ward 7, Mocine Park is open. If you have not had a chance or opportunity to see that, it's great. And that's going to be also a good marker of what you're going to see with our park improvements throughout.

Ingram said going into our aquatics and our lifeguard portion of our Parks and Recreation, we're starting to get full steam ahead again with our planning and our hiring process for our Lawton Aquatics Center, and that only goes to our Fee Committee, what we are going to establish. After we brief our Director, who is co-incidentally here as well, we're going to move forward with our planning and consideration for our Fee Committee to convene. But also, we're hiring lifeguards. If you know anybody who wants to be a lifeguard, put it out to us. We're doing hiring for that as well, so we can have ample staff, so we can have a fluid swim season without any interruptions. Any applications you may have, I have some on me as well, or down at the Owens Center we also have some available for anyone who can fit that moment.

Ingram said going into our lakes, you can see it's things that are also voted on from the City Council, but we're doing some revisions there — streamlining efficiency, and also procedures over there at the lakes. We're talking permitting, also boat inspection, dry stalls, and repurposing some of the properties there as well. Also, we're doing some construction there on Schoolhouse Slough, so we're going to start seeing construction there and also some of our roadways at the Lakes Division.

Ingram noted that we're soon going to start with Phase III of our Parks Improvement Program.

Chairman Ezerski said are you targeting around Memorial Day to open the Aquatics Center?

Ingram said that's correct — that's our target date. We look forward to those hard dates being published as well throughout our social media platforms and also through formal channels.

Larry Parks, Director of Parks and Recreation, mentioned the seasonal park hours. He said it's not an update — it's seasonal for the winter season. It passed through Council, so you will see increased LPD out in the parks during limited visibility and dark hours.

Ingram said that signage has just been approved, so you're going to start seeing those signs at our parks.

Ingram discussed increased security at parks. He said there is increased security, with cameras in key locations in and around our parks that can hopefully help cut down, or really minimize, our vandalism and also our occupancy and enforcement of that code for our parks.

Chairman Ezerski said what percentage of our parks do you think are going to have that this year?

Parks said with the park Improvements, the final addition is the lighting and the cameras. We just completed round two, so each one of those parks will get cameras, and they will get solar lighting. We're probably at about 45% right now.

Hooton said what kind of construction at Schoolhouse Slough are you talking about?

Ingram said what we're going to do is improve the ramp area and roadways around there.

3. Receive a report from the Executive Director regarding ongoing LETA projects and take action as deemed necessary.

Kelvin Ingram, LETA Executive Director, gave a report regarding ongoing LETA projects.

Ingram said there are three items that are going to be presented to you here today. Again, just excuse the timeliness of two of our attendees. One item is the tributes to Harkey Park. Also, with the 911 Memorial, this was an ongoing project years ago that we're trying to reintroduce and get this product over the goal post. Also, with the ASEZ Church, Deacon Maldonado, I think that was an agenda item that was on last Council meeting, probably reintroduced. I got some traction on it from the last meeting, and Deacon Maldonado is on his way now.

4. Receive Monthly Ward Updates from Trustees and take action as deemed necessary.

No updates were given.

5. Receive report from Cultural Preservation Committee and take action as necessary.

Jason Poudrier, Arts and Humanities Director, gave a report from the Cultural Preservation Committee.

Poudrier said for Cultural Preservation, we had a meeting, and we're looking at doing some improvements to the artifact room here at City Hall. The other thing that was discussed at the Cultural Preservation Committee is renaming some of the rooms and some of the places here in City Hall. However, City Council, at the meeting last night, talked about how there really needs to be more of a system set up for that. So I'm just

reporting that the Cultural Preservation Committee was working on it, and now the City Council is setting up how they want to have things done.

Chairman Ezerski said I know FISTA was working on a lease with the museum for moving their artifacts over.

Poudrier said the first step in making the renovations to the Museum of the Great Plains is to move the artifacts out of the museum so they are protected. We've worked with the engineers and the designers on several different plans on how best to preserve and protect the artifacts—leaving them in place, moving them, and also looking at the cost of protecting them in place versus moving them and protecting them. After looking at all the different methods of protecting them, the one that they determined was that the best option was to move them out of the area. That ensures they are preserved in a climate-controlled space, everything is taken care of, and there is no risk of construction damage. There is also added security at Central Plaza. It will be more secure than having miscellaneous contractors coming in and out, as well as the building being not secured as contractors are coming in and out. Although it does seem like a large cost, this method is actually cheaper than trying to leave the artifacts in place and moving construction around them, which would extend construction time, construction costs, and labor costs. We're excited to have that agreement with Central Plaza. The next step is to finalize an agreement with a moving company to move the artifacts, which is currently being worked through finance and the City Attorney right now.

Chairman Ezerski said one of the things at the FISTA meeting was that we were talking about maybe having a little bit of a display—storing everything inside, but having a display of some museum items in a window or something like that.

Poudrier said part of the agreement with FISTA is that there will be something in each one of the storefronts, whether it's just a mock-up or pictures of what's going on or what's being done. Basically, the museum collections are being stored there, but it gives people an idea of what's happening so it doesn't just look like an empty store full of boxes. It shows that it's actually being used for the public good while we're at this stage of making the museum so it doesn't look that way anymore.

Poudrier said the other part of that—and just to go a little bit further—we explored several different methods of taking care of the roof and the windows. However, the issue with storm damage and rain is that it goes beyond just the roof. What we started realizing was that, yes, we could seal over the roof and prevent additional leaks, but then we would also be sealing in all of the existing water and mold damage. So it's not just the roof and the windows being redone, but also many of the walls. Another thing we looked at was the exterior. When you look the pictures, I thought, "Oh my gosh, you're changing the whole look of the museum—do you really have to do that? Why can't we leave the exterior the way it is?" Well, when the newer addition of the museum was built, a new exterior material was used that was supposed to be the next best thing, and it wasn't.

Poudrier said they're now going back to tried-and-true material. The material that was used before was porous and allowed water in. Birds actually have nests in the sides of the museum walls because of how soft the material is. It was some kind of compound—there were several buildings across the nation built during that time frame using this material, and it did not perform the way it was supposed to. It didn't last. So it's not that we're just cosmetically updating, we're going back and changing things to make them actually last longer, using the materials that have been used for centuries.

Poudrier said so you may look at the overall cost of the museum project and think, "Do you really have to do all of those things?", and I've been asking all those questions. But the great thing is that if this project gets completed within a one-year time frame, then it will save cost. We'll get everything moved out of the way. As soon as we get everything moved out of the way, construction commences and gets done in a year, then we'll have a museum that really is the pride of Southwest Oklahoma.

Hooton asked who's going to do the packing and the moving?

Poudrier said we're actually looking at three different companies — Crozier, US Art, and M & D. All three of them, basically this is what they do for their profession. I think U.S. Art is like the moving company for the Antiques Road Show. Basically, if any artifacts have to be shipped around the nation, they handle that. Crozier has recently worked with, I believe, the University of Michigan Museum.

Poudrier said one of the things with the museum staff is that three out of four of them actually have curation degrees. They know how to take care of materials and don't mind unpacking at the end of the process. They could actually pack up most of the stuff, but not within the timeframe of when we want to get this packed up and done. You have four people that have curation degrees, and who we're bringing in are people with museum backgrounds who are experts in moving museums and artifacts. So, they come in, they professionally pack everything, do it expeditiously, and then get everything moved. They coordinate all that, handle all the logistics. They have all the programs to do all that. And then when we move back in, that's when the museum staff can help move back in because there's not going to be just a huge rush to get moved back in. But right now, we want to get this project started as soon as possible. So, that's why we're looking at bringing in additional help. So, it will go before Council, either with a recommendation of going with a specific entity, or that we go to Council for permission to go out to bid. We'll be doing one of those two things by the end of February.

Chairman Ezerski said it sounds like in a couple of years we'll be in a really good spot.

Business Items

1. Consider approving the minutes of the December 10, 2025, meeting.

A copy of the minutes of the December 10, 2025, meeting may be obtained from the

City Clerk's Office upon request.

Motion by Johnny Owens, **Second** by Baxter, to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2025, meeting. **AYE:** Hooton, Baxter, Smith, Symuleski, Tanner, Johnny Owens, Ezerski, Rabon. **NAY:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

2. Consider approving the list of expenses for the period covering December 4, 2025 – January 6, 2026.

John Saville, Financial Services, presented the list of expenses for the period covering December 4, 2025 – January 6, 2026. A copy of the list of expenses may be obtained from the City Clerk's Office upon request.

Saville said this report - it's five items listed, but it's actually three checks because Bedrock had two of these items listed on the same check. But the first item listed there is \$477. That was a late invoice that got misplaced through some sort of an issue with transitioning — one company bought another and that fell through the loop. So we had to jump through some hoops to get that. That was \$477. Then we had some beautification projects, the annual flower bulb replanting and the poinsettias for the lobby down at the City Hall. And then the car accident cleanup and the 2nd Street pots with the missing containers are the final two objects there.

Motion by Johnny Owens, **Second** by Baxter, to approve the list of expenses for the period covering December 4, 2025 – January 6, 2026. **AYE:** Hooton, Baxter, Smith, Symuleski, Tanner, Johnny Owens, Ezerski, Rabon. **NAY:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

3. Consider approving the Financial Statements for the months of November and December 2025.

John Saville, Financial Services, presented the Financial Statements for the months of November and December 2025. A copy of the Financial Statements may be obtained from the City Clerk's Office upon request.

Saville said we can scoot through November pretty quick; there's not much activity here. I have managed to catch up now, so whenever we meet, I should be able to be reporting for the month that just ended. I think I'm in a position where we can keep that just rolling so that we're reporting as currently as we possibly can.

Saville said on the balance sheet, you'll see that the cash balance for City National and all the different items that are broken out is \$303,574.05. We actually had a net increase in money flowing into the cash account of \$7,682.69. We had \$12,146.32 worth of increases, including court fines of \$45.26. We had the insurance proceeds that we've been talking about. Some of these things we've reported on, but now they're working their way through the financials, so the \$5,069.80 was the insurance settlement. We had \$50.52 worth of interest, and then we received that \$2,500 Freedom Festival sponsorship from AT&T that carried over from fiscal year 25. We were working to get that in, and that did come in. The decreases to the cash included those lights for \$652.08 for Hunzicker, some repairs from Bedrock and some irrigation

repairs and planting for fall for \$1,504.55 and \$1,007 to Bedrock, and then the Fast Signs for that sidewalk project worked its way through. So the decreases total \$4,463.63. That's where we're at now as far as the City National Bank account. There are no receivables and no payables, so our net assets, as they've been, are \$423,102.41. Restricted is \$45,677.39. The net loss as of November is \$73,850.97, so the equity, and of course no liability, so the cash and the equity do tie out.

For the month of December, Saville said for the balance sheet, we're showing LETA cash in the amount \$349,453.43, so we had a jump on that from what I just reported, and that is because we were able to draw down and put in the bank hotel motel tax draws. Our first draw for beautification was \$53,613.16. After we finish with the balance sheet, income statement, and other tracking sheets, we can look at the hotel motel tax to see how we're doing. Then again, we had court fines at \$4,000, so we had increases to the cash account. I just reported \$305,574.05 for November, so our ending balance is \$349,453. All of that money was increases, except for that \$477 payment that we made, which was from Freedom Festival. We took in, like I said, \$4,427 for court fines, we had hotel motel tax at \$53,613.16, and then we had \$700 donated for the Dunbar Monument project. Interest earned was \$2,860. Beautification projects, we did have \$12,232 go out on that. I think that was the bulb planting that we talked about, and then the poinsettias. So, that's where we're at on the cash. The liabilities are basically what we reported on just a minute ago to approve on the expenses. Those were items that were put in prior to the end of November, but the checks didn't cut until December. So that's a timing thing. So that \$11,989.60 that's a payable — that's really the car accident cleanup and the missing concrete containers. So that will go away. It's just the timing of the month. And then again, we have our equity. And then our net income is improving because of the income we got in. So our net loss for the year is \$39,961.19. And for expenses, that \$12,232.38 again that we reported on here just a bit ago, that was really our expense, and then the \$477. So the income for the month was actually a positive \$45,879.38.

Saville said we have our two tracker sheets here. The first one that I have to report on here is the income and expense tracker. This is where we show the activity year-to-date. I've tweaked this one a little bit, you'll notice at the bottom of the page. In the past, we've just been showing the income year to date and then the expenses year to date. I thought I'd just go ahead and total those and then give us a net income or loss for the year, which is that \$39,961.19, which you'll notice back on the balance sheet. And then I decided to go ahead and add a tracker for the total of the projects in process that are remaining. So these items that are listed here will be showing up on that next tracker sheet that we have. So this is basically just your year-to-date income statement. And then those three items listed are projects pending.

Chairman Ezerski said so the \$64,000 in year-to-date expenses for the beautification projects, is that money that we've already spent?

Saville said yes.

Chairman Ezerski said and checks have been written?

Saville said yes.

Saville said and the other sheet will list our projects by groupings, like the LETA beautification projects. Last month, we talked about the City Hall lighting project that had been hanging on there — we removed that. The 2nd Street mural project - you all decided to go ahead and leave that on there for now. We had not spent anything on that, but the discussion was that that might come around. And then the Farmer's Market fencing, we've spent \$1,730 against an approval amount of \$3,000, leaving \$1,270. It appears that there may be more work to do on that based on the invoice that I saw. So we've left that on there. The last two items on there, the \$2,500 for the light pole analysis, I understand that they weren't charging us for that, so it seems like we might be able to release that P.O. and get that incumbrance off of there. And then the lighting project of the \$27,000, the City hung those for us, so I don't think we're going to have any costs incurred on that. The \$652.08 represents those 10 boxes of lights that we bought to supplement what we had. But, if you want to leave that active in case you want to expand and get the lights, then that P.O. would still be in place.

Chairman Ezerski said do we need a motion to take the \$2,500 off of here?

Tanner said did that \$2,500 come out of the LETA beautification projects?

Chairman Ezerski said yes it did.

Tanner said so we can add that back in.

Chairman Ezerski said we had Fox, Drechsler & Brickley over in Altus do the engineering on that. They're awesome guys, and they did that as a donation to us.

Saville said I'm not sure about the formalities of that. You all voted to spend up to that amount, but there was no cost incurred. I don't know if we can just release it or if you need to vote on it or not — that's kind of outside of my wheelhouse.

Chairman Ezerski said we're going to take up this issue on an agenda item later.

Saville said again, the remaining amounts on that totals \$30,917.92, that includes those last two items on beautification. The repairs, maintenance, and replanting, all but one of those have now been expensed. So the remaining amount on the last five items there is zero. Those will come up on the next report. The 2nd Street irrigation repair, that was approved for \$2,950. We have an estimate in hand for that. It's just nothing's been expensed on that. I don't know whether he's done anything with that or not. But the P.O. is active, and it's out there. So, whenever he does that, we can pay that pretty much immediately upon getting the invoice. And then that last item down there is another one of these ones that carried over from prior fiscal year, the cultural preservation artifact wrapping materials. So I went ahead and scooted that out there

showing that as a remaining amount. And the last meeting you all decided to leave that on there for now.

Saville said I've got this little hotel motel tax thing that I'm going to be watching monthly. This one shows we've had six months of allocation come in now and that's \$68,699.96. And that's halfway through the year. So if you just double that, that's our trend. So we're trending \$137,399.93. Our approved budget was \$147,460. So we're kind of trending under water on that. In dollars, it's a negative trend of \$10,060.07.

Chairman Ezerski said is that just to the reflection of the hotel motel tax collections?

Saville said yes. So, the allocations that come in, you know, they set the budget for that, and then they allocate it based on everybody getting their percentage of the pie. I think ours is six percent on beautification, and then whatever comes in, they just split that out. And that could come back. As we move through the year, it might drop a little bit over the next couple of months, but I think in my trending, toward the end of the fiscal year, it seemed to want to bump up.

Saville said again, I'm reflecting on there that we did draw down \$53,613.16. So far, out of all the allocation that we've gotten, we can draw \$15,086.80—that's what we could draw today—but we'll kind of see how the invoices come in that we can apply to that and then draw as we can. So I'll just be watching this pretty close, just to watch the trends, and I'll report this to you monthly in a similar kind of spreadsheet. I'll just be updating the spreadsheet basically.

Saville said the other two hotel motel tax allocations LETA gets has to do with Freedom Festival and Holiday in the Park. I did not present anything like that yet because there's been no activity on any of those. I suspect Holiday in the Park might ramp up a little this year; we might start getting some things on that. But I did a quick little look based on the same percentage that we've received. We've received 93 percent of what our budgeted allocation is so far, six months into the year. Freedom Festival has \$140,000 allocated to it, and Holiday in the Park has \$38,540, so if I split that in two, where we're halfway through the year, and apply that 93.18 percent, right now we should have somewhere in the area of a little south of \$18,000 toward Holiday in the Park that would be available to draw. And then we've got \$65,226 roughly for Freedom Festival when that time rolls around. So I think I'll probably show you the Holiday in the Park report next month because I suspect that we'll start seeing some invoices come in. And then as we get closer to Freedom Festival, I'll have all three of these so that we can monitor that and then make those draws as we can.

Motion by Symuleski, **Second** by Hooton, to approve the Financial Statements for the month of November and December 2025. **AYE:** Hooton, Baxter, Smith, Symuleski, Tanner, Johnny Owens, Ezerski, Rabon. **NAY:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

4. Consider accepting a donation in the amount of \$5,000 from donors for a Dunbar School Memorial to be placed within Harkey Park.

Larry Parks, Community Enrichment Director, provided background information on this item.

Parks said this was to garner funds in the amount of \$5,000. What we're hoping for right now, for those of you who have not read the agenda item commentary, this memorial is for the Dunbar School that did make its way onto the D&D, sadly, and we had to take it down - we did take it down. What we're trying to do: Dunbar School was a very historic part of Lawton, and we want to place this monument within Harkey Park. Lemuel Harkey Park is across the street; it's on 18th and SW Douglas. It's across the street from where the school was originally. Lemuel Harkey was the principal for the entire time that school was in operation. So this monument will go a long way for enhancing that park as a public space, which, as you all know—probably many of you who sit at the table or in the room—that park is set to get a major overhaul in Park Improvements Phase III. There's a huge unit going in there. We're going to do some landscaping and place some other items in there. So this would go a long way for visitors and for residents. It's cultural, historic preservation. If you look through the packet, you'll see the memorial. Yours is slightly different than what I have there, because we've changed some stuff in an attempt to cut down on some costs. So, there's no more two photos in there — there's one and a description. I will tell you that we did save bricks from the actual school, we have the cornerstone, and we are going to put all that in place. The \$5,000 donation will go a long way. I donated myself. I can tell you, this is very, very important to the city's history.

Johnny Owens said who do I talk to about making a donation to this?

Parks said the City Clerk's Office.

Tammy Branstetter, City Clerk's Office, said they can drop their payments off and make it out to the Lawton Enhancement Trust Authority, and then we'll make sure it gets deposited with LETA.

Chairman Ezerski said on the check, in the memo just put that it's for the Dunbar memorial.

Tanner said are you asking us to receive a donation for \$5,000?

Parks said I'm asking you to give us \$5,000.

Tanner said I'm not opposed to that if it's in our budget.

Chairman Ezerski said we still have \$35,000 in our grant fund.

Tanner said I would make the motion we donate \$5,000 for this project out of our grant fund.

Motion by Tanner, **Second** by Rabon, to donate \$5,000 for this project out of our grant

fund. **AYE:** Hooton, Baxter, Smith, Symuleski, Tanner, Johnny Owens, Ezerski, Rabon. **NAY:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

This motion was later rescinded by Tanner.

Motion by Tanner, **Second** by Symuleski, to rescind the original motion and action taken by this committee on the \$5,000 donation to the Dunbar Monument and table it until the next meeting. **AYE:** Hooton, Baxter, Smith, Symuleski, Tanner, Johnny Owens, Ezerski, Rabon. **NAY:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

5. Receive an introduction from Beal Woods Community Builders, Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to revitalizing neighborhoods by ensuring the safety of residents and structures while also deterring crime.

Nicole Kirby and Reggie Brown, Beal Woods Community Builders, Inc, gave an introduction of their organization.

Kirby said I'd like to say thanks to Reggie for getting an introduction. So I have just some info—our mission statement and a little bit of who our founders are—and a sticker there for you. You don't really seem like the group to put the stickers on your notebook or your water bottle, but you can start a new trend today. But we've been giving those out to kids in the neighborhood, just a reminder for them to pick up trash in our neighborhood and to have pride in their neighborhood.

Kirby said we are new because we are a spin-off of the neighborhood watch that has met there in the Beal Woods area. That's specifically 2nd Street through 11th Street, and Lee to about F Avenue, up to Gore. But we're staying focused on that area just because you've got to start small before you get too big. Some of our projects: we're working with the city about maybe getting a trash can on G Avenue next to the railroad, kind of across from the convenience store where a lot of trash gets dumped. And then we're going to be talking with the school about having a contest, like an art contest of, "What does neighborhood pride look like to you?". So we want to just start emphasizing with the kids neighborhood cleanliness and pride in your community. So if you guys have grants that come up, we do have several empty lots that could be maybe some passive recreation areas or just beautification. So we're open to receiving input or guidance and help with any of that.

Tanner said I think it's an excellent program you have going on — I wholeheartedly support it.

Chairman Ezerski said we just so appreciate citizens of the community getting involved to try to make things better. Our hats are off to you and your organization for what you're doing.

Ingram said where are you located?

Kirby said we meet at Calvary Baptist Church — it's at 8th Street and H Avenue.

Chairman Ezerski said this is great — thank you so much for all you're doing. If you come up with a project or something that you think might help over there, just come back and talk to us.

Dewayne Burk, Deputy City Manager, called a point of order. Burk said given the way that the previous item was written in the initial agenda, on the advise of our counsel, we probably need to bring that back to the next meeting and clean the language up because it is an expenditure of public funds. We need to reword that so that we correct it, and put it on the agenda for the next meeting.

Chairman Ezerski said do we need a motion to strike that then?

Burk said I think just recognizing that that's what we're going to do and putting it in the minutes will clear that up. In the event somebody would have wanted to speak against it, they would not have known that we were looking at an expenditure because it looks like we're accepting a donation. That's why we need to bring it back.

Tanner said should we just go ahead and make a motion to rescind it anyway?

Chairman Ezerski said I would, and really we would table the idea until the next meeting.

Motion by Tanner, **Second** by Symuleski, to **rescind** the original motion and action taken by this committee on the \$5,000 donation to the Dunbar Monument and table it until the next meeting. **AYE:** Hooton, Baxter, Smith, Symuleski, Tanner, Johnny Owens, Ezerski, Rabon. **NAY:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

6. Receive a status update on the outdoor mural, approved for installation by ASEZ, a globally recognized volunteer group under the World Mission Society Church of God, at SW F Avenue and SW 2nd Street, and take action as deemed necessary.

Kelvin Ingram, LETA Executive Director, provided background information on this item.

Ingram said if you can remember last month's meeting agenda, we had on the financial report the 2nd and F Street mural by the ASEZ Church. David Maldonado is the deacon of this church here and has led many other community-led initiatives here in our community. I've asked him to come back so we can reintroduce this. What Deacon Maldonado has provided for you are some additions to our packets with a concept and where we're going to go forward.

Deacon Maldonado said it's been about a year and a half since they have introduced us. We're a young adult volunteer group for the World Mission Society Church of God. We had a leadership change. So I came from Oklahoma City, and then the leader from here, he went to Tulsa. The estimated cost comes around \$400 for what we were approved for. The goal for us to have this done on February 22nd.

Deacon Maldonado said the wall has kind of deep grooves, and we were wanting to see if we could skim coat about 200 square feet of that wall. It's 20 by 10 feet, and we want to skim coat it down. That way we can do the mural without having any hindrance of designing the mural.

Ingram said again, this is on F Avenue and 2nd Street. That's in the vicinity of the mall, coming out of the south entrance going south under the bridge.

Chairman Ezerski said originally, we gave up to \$800 for this. Are you needing additional money for that?

Deacon Maldonado said I'm not sure — we have not received the funds. I heard we were approved for it, but we're pretty much just giving an update that we were going to follow through by the 22nd of next month.

Deacon Maldonado said what we do is we contribute to development of local communities through emergency relief, hunger relief, protection and the rights of clean water and hygiene, medical support, welfare promotion, education support, and environmental preservation. So this is something that's for beautification of Lawton.

Rabon said so your project initially was set at \$800. What was your estimate that you passed around?

Deacon Maldonado said it was \$465 but we have the water pressure washer to clean up the wall, so that should be fine. That was \$65, so it should be exactly at \$400. And that's for two murals, this one here and then the second page as well.

Ingram said so each mural is \$400?

Deacon Maldonado said yes. So we want to see which one you guys wanted to approve. We have the one with the legend at the bottom and then, as you can see, the words next to each of the images.

Rabon said was there a question last time about who owned those retaining walls, whether the city owned them or whether they were owned by the railroad, and who maintains them?

Tanner said I think we approved up to \$800, and any of the legalities of going through the city to get approval to put these murals where they want to put them would be up to them. We just approved the funding.

Chairman Ezerski asked Burk if he knows who owns this bridge.

Ingram noted that it's a railroad bridge.

Burk said I'm familiar with the area, but I don't know exactly who owns it.

Deacon Maldonado said if you have any other locations to provide, we'd be willing to work with those as well.

Ingram said I'll touch base with our Public Works Department and gain some more information from Mr. Watrous as well, but if anything, we're trying to reintroduce this to re-energize this project. This is something that was standing on here for quite a while that generated some questions and concerns.

Chairman Ezerski said we approved the concept of the project. It's just, we do need to make sure that we don't put something on someone else's property.

Tanner said that would be up to your entity to seek whatever approval from whoever owns that property to use the \$800 donation.

Deacon Maldonado said we could also communicate with some of the owners and see where we can do the mural.

Johnny Owens said it would either be the city, the state or the railroad.

Garrett Lam, Assistant City Attorney, said it's likely to be the railroad.

Johnny Owens said I bet it's railroad — I think they have to keep that up.

Ingram said is there anyway we can move this date, or are we pinned to February 22nd?

Deacon Maldonado said that was the goal because we have many other things, but I could communicate with those doing the mural and come up with another date.

Ingram said that would be my recommendation.

Chairman Ezerski said at this point, we're going to basically take it back and then reissue it at a later date.

Motion by Tanner, **Second** by Rabon, to cancel the original agreement and the funds of \$800, and bring this item back at another date. **AYE:** Hooton, Baxter, Smith, Symuleski, Tanner, Johnny Owens, Ezerski, Rabon. **NAY:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

Chairman Ezerski said so Deacon, we're not saying we're not going to do it. All we're saying is we want to make sure that before we formally approve funding for this, that we have all our ducks in a row, that we know who owns the entity that we're going to be putting the mural on, and that we have permission from them to do so.

7. Consider canceling the remainder of the Lawton Fort Sill Planning Committee

Meetings until the end of the fiscal year, and due to construction and renovations at Elmer Thomas Park supporting the City of Lawton and Fort Sill's intent to have Lawton Fort Sill Freedom Festival on Fort Sill for 2026 with sponsorship of up to \$90,000 to Fort Sill's Moral Welfare and Recreation(MWR) Department out of Lawton Fort Sill Freedom Festival Hotel Motel Funds.

Jason Poudrier, Arts and Humanities Director, provided background information on this item.

Poudrier said with this, we're working with Parks and Recreation and looking at doing some major renovations at Elmer Thomas Park, with the Boardwalk and the Amphitheater. If you've not seen any of those renderings, Parks and Recreation has them, and they are beautiful. However, we're not going to be able to have the festivals in the park this coming year due to that renovation.

Poudrier said one of the things we've learned about construction with McMahon Memorial Auditorium, as we tried to stay open while they were working, is that it just became a situation where we were in each other's way. It is going to get done faster and cheaper for the City of Lawton if we are out of the way. Similar to this construction project, if we said, "Okay, do everything you want, but then stop at the end of June so we can have a festival, and then start back up, and then for the International Festival — stop again and start back up," it would be better for us just to move the festival.

Poudrier said when we looked at several different locations, we looked at the Polo Field out on Fort Sill. Fort Sill said they would be willing to host us out there. They're also about to use their MWR funds for their summer concerts, and we could actually combine the summer concert along with the Lawton Fort Sill Freedom Festival. That way, we would have a huge headliner, along with the fireworks and drone show, out on Fort Sill this year, which works out great since this is the 250th celebration of our nation.

Poudrier said we would have an all-star headliner, and then where the city would come in is that we would sponsor, as we've done in the past. We would pay for the drones and fireworks show. As John mentioned for hotel motel funds, there's about \$140,000 that has been allocated this year. However, what we typically use those funds for is paying for entertainment, fireworks, drones, the stage, and multiple other items.

Poudrier said Fort Sill will actually be shouldering the majority of the cost this year. They will be paying all of the headliner costs and stage costs. That's where I came in and said, looking at what we paid just for fireworks and just for drones, and maybe a few contingencies, if we did a sponsorship of \$90,000, would that be enough to make things work and still have a wonderful festival this year? They said that would go very well together.

Poudrier said we're still going to go for outside donations, just as we have had in the past. We finally got the AT&T one, and so we will have Fort Sill funds, city funds

through hotel motel, as well as private funds. This is basically saying that our planning committee would no longer be meeting because essentially we don't have jurisdiction over Fort Sill. We would simply become a sponsor and advisor to the festival. We would also approve a sponsorship of \$90,000, which would go to MWR and would essentially equate to the cost of the fireworks and the drone show.

Chairman Ezerski said so are they saying the concert is going to be right around the end of June?

Poudrier said it would still be the first Saturday before Fourth of July, which is June 27th of this year.

Chairman Ezerski said and they haven't said who the concert is?

Poudrier said the headliner has not been released yet. As soon as they make it public, then I can share as well. But one of the things, just like with the different contracts that they have, and stage contracts, is that most of those have clauses say that you can't release until they give you permission.

Tanner said and so what you're asking is, since we're not having it this year at Elmer Thomas Park, they're having it at Fort Sill, just to use that money and give it to Fort Sill to use, up to \$90,000? Is that something we can do?

Chairman Ezerski said so the motion would be to cancel the remainder of our meetings for the planning for the Freedom Festival through the end of this fiscal year and then support the donation of \$90,000 to the MWR.

Tanner said are we allowed to do that as a trust to give \$90,000 to Fort Sill to use for their festivities?

Lam said are you looking for a vote on the funding today?

Poudrier said the funding doesn't have to be today.

Lam said because I don't think your agenda item reads that way anyway. It just reads as if you're going to cancel those meetings for that subcommittee.

Motion by Tanner, **Second** by Hooton, to cancel the subcommittee meetings.

AYE: Hooton, Baxter, Smith, Symuleski, Tanner, Johnny Owens, Ezerski, Rabon. **NAY:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

8. Receive an update from Merline LeDay-Mauney regarding a proposed 911 Monument to be placed at the Public Safety Center and take action as deemed necessary.

Kelvin Ingram, LETA Executive Director, gave background information on this item.

Ingram noted that this is another item that's been on the agenda for quite a while for the city as well. I have Ms. LeDay here to speak on behalf of this. This is more to update us and to gain more traction so we can get this ongoing project the attention it needs.

Ms. LeDay-Mauney said I'm Taressa's mom, and this is for her Girl Scout Gold Award project. This has been going on for a couple of years. Basically, it was approved to go to the Safety Building on 2nd Street. I asked McMahon to help with the funds, which they said they would match funds with LETA. So right now, we have a project list that costs about \$84,000. That's not counting the engineering portion, which Mr. Parks is working on that.

Ms. LeDay-Mauney said this monument represents the seven victims that we lost here in Oklahoma that a lot of people don't know about. One was actually from Lawton. She attended Eisenhower, and she died just before her birthday. Senator Rice's brother, and a couple of other civilians that were engineers. My daughter decided that she wanted to do a monument that would represent the seven victims from the state of Oklahoma and everybody that perished in 9/11. This supports firefighters, police, and the monument covers a lot of history. Even in Lawton, I think it would provide history for schools, for kids who don't know anything about 9/11 except what they see on TV.

Ms. LeDay-Mauney said there will be two Twin Towers. There will be a Pentagon, which represents the planes hitting both towers and then hitting the Pentagon. There will be seven benches, which represent the seven victims, and seven crêpe murals that represent them as well. The base will be pentagon-shaped, and the Pentagon will sit on top, which will have engravings of all the victims. The sponsors will be engraved on the back of the towers. The towers will be about 10 feet tall. I spoke with Dwayne, and Dwayne seemed to think they needed to go from 8 to 10 feet because of the height of the Safety Building, to make it look right out front. The area presented to us was the area right in front of the rocks, the big rocks area.

Ingram said is that in front of the police department?

Ms. LeDay-Mauney said yes.

Ingram said from what I'm gathering as I get more information, it was proposed to be better suited to sit in front of the police department due to the significance of the event and the demographic of what happened, if I'm correct. What we're trying to do is reintroduce this to gain the traction it needs so we can get this project ongoing.

Chairman Ezerski said at this point, how long do you think it'll be before you're ready to present like an actual proposal?

Ingram said we don't know yet. Was there anything that was pre-approved?

Chairman Ezerski said I don't believe we've actually given a dollar amount to this because we didn't know what the dollar amount was going to be.

Ms. LeDay-Mauney said they wanted to see what the McMahon Foundation would do. The McMahon Foundation said they would match funds.

Ingram said how long has this project been in its initial state until now?

Ms. LeDay-Mauney said since 2019, then COVID hit.

Tanner said so you think it's going to cost about \$90,000?

Ms. LeDay-Mauney said I would say once Mr. Parks finds out about the engineer, I think he was supposed to be working with Mr. Burrell, and he also had another engineer in mind to speak with about the project. The project was initially supposed to go in the park. But when speaking to Dewayne, he asked about it going to the Safety Building because of the fire department and the police department. To them, 9/11 is a big hit, so they felt it would be better positioned there, and they would also help with taking care of it.

Chairman Ezerski said I'm more just waiting to see what the exact total is to do anything.

Tanner said I can't speak for everyone else, but I think that it's a good project. Once you get the funding together, I'm sure the rest of the trustees will be willing to help out.

Ms. LeDay-Mauney said I think it will bring some attraction to Lawton as well.

Symuleski said we were in favor of it back at that time, but they never had any concrete information.

Chairman Ezerski said I guess when you get ready, when you have all the numbers together and find out how you want us to help you, we'll take it up then. We appreciate all your hard work on it.

No action was taken on this item.

9. Discuss the status of the C Avenue Lighting Project and consider taking action regarding additional blocks of lighting.

Chairman Ezerski provided background information on this item.

Chairman Ezerski said I saw several of you out at the lighting ceremony we had right before Christmas. It was a wonderful evening, 74 degrees — couldn't beat it for that time of year. It's a neat deal. The business owners who came to our trust meeting several months ago were very excited, and we were actually able to do it before Christmas, which they were excited about as well.

Chairman Ezerski said the great thing about this, if I can do a really brief recap, is that

we originally approved \$2,500 for the engineering, for a structural engineer to check to see if the poles would take it. They came out, did the report, and said yes, they could handle it, and they didn't charge us for that. So we have that \$2,500 that we can have come back. Then we approved roughly another \$27,000 for hiring somebody to put everything up and to buy the remaining lights we needed for that one block. Thanks to Richard, City Manager Ratliff, and others at the city, they were able to figure out a way to have city staff do it. So it didn't cost us anything other than the man-hours for city staff to put it up. For us, all we had to pay for were the lights, which was awesome.

Chairman Ezerski said since we now have the precedent for that, and we have the money set aside for the project, I think we need to go ahead and start continuing on with the rest of the project from Second to Sixth. We have Liberty Bank that is discussing right now possibly doing a donation to pay for lights maybe all the way down to Eighth Street. They're going to get back to me in the next week or so. I gave them a ballpark estimate on what the lights would cost, and they're going to let me know in the next week. They think they will definitely do one block and they might do two.

Chairman Ezerski said the other thing we have to look at, and Richard Rogalski was going to look at this in the next week or two, is how many actual poles there are between Seventh and Eighth. The number of poles is pretty standard between Second and Seventh. Eighth, I don't know if you've been over there. It's kind of in front of where Buddy Green has his office and McMahon's office is. They're a little more staggered and not the same distance apart as they are between Second and Seventh. They're going to try to see how that would work. Of course, that's kind of putting the cart before the horse, because we need to see if they'd even be willing to do that. For now, the goal would be to have the blocks between Second and Third, Third and Fourth, and Fifth and Sixth done by the middle of the summer so that we have that whole corridor done.

Chairman Ezerski said we would still need to purchase lights for three more blocks. Right now, it's roughly \$2,000 a block, and we would use the funds that we've already set aside for this to purchase the lights. Then, as city staff has time, they would be able to put them up. My plan would be to do one block a month, maybe starting in March or April, and then by June or July we'd have that corridor done. If Liberty steps up and pays for the next block or two, we would continue on with that, and eventually we would start working our way around up 2nd Street. What we would probably do is do 5th to 6th Street first, and then go back 4th to 3rd, and 3rd to 2nd. Then by summer, we would have it all done.

Johnny Owens said so what you're saying is, the poles are alright - it's the lights in the amount of \$6,000.

Chairman Ezerski said basically, what we need to do is just approve a reallocation of the funds just for the lights. Because originally, the money was going to be set aside for lights and the installation. We don't have to do the installation, so we won't need the entire amount, but we want to leave it there until we know exactly how much the total

cost of the lights will be. Then if we get donations for other lights, that's even better. For right now, I'd like a motion to be able to purchase the lights for those other three blocks out of the funds that have already been allocated, and then, direct city staff to be able to install those as time permits.

Tanner said right now it looks like we've got \$29,500 encumbered. So you'll leave all that encumbered for the lights?

Chairman Ezerski said well right now, we don't need to encumber the other \$2,500 because we know we don't need it, absolutely.

Tanner said but you said the \$27,000 would be use for the labor?

Chairman said we don't need to — no. We could drop that number down to \$10,000 if we want to, so that we can unencumber those funds, and then the other \$10,000 can be used towards purchasing the lights, and that would be enough.

Saville said I think the PO that was issued to cover the \$652 for the 10 boxes of lights came out of the \$27,000. The PO was in place. I'll have to go back and look at the PO and see how that's worded, but we may be able to operate with the PO we have okay without having to do anything else, but I'll double-check that when I get back and we'll see.

Chairman Ezerski said but the original one was just for one block. So we would need a motion to extend that for the other three blocks.

Rabon said can we not unencumber those funds until the project is complete?

Chairman Ezerski said that's kind of what Saville just mentioned.

Rabon said I'd make a motion to reallocate those funds that are in the light project for the purchase of the additional lights.

Tanner said the \$27,000, and there's \$2,500 for the architect — do you want to encumber all of it?

Rabon said I'd take the \$2,500 out because we know we're not using that.

Chairman Ezerski said so the motion would be that we first are going to take the \$2,500 that was set aside for the engineer, we're going to remove that and unencumber that from our project, and then we are going to use funds from the remaining \$27,000 to purchase lights for the remaining three blocks in that stretch, and then we will direct staff to install those lights as they come in, as time permits on their schedule.

Tanner said just a footnote, if we put that \$2,500 back into the beautification projects, we're still going to be \$2,000 in the negative there.

Chairman Ezerski said we can adjust that as we go. I mean, if we have another project that comes up, we can move it. But I kind of want to know what the lights are going to be, the exact cost, before we take it totally out.

Ingram said we're doing this on the basis that the labor is going to come from the city?

Chairman Ezerski said that's correct — as time permits.

Ingram said is that going to pin us to a timeline, or are we flexible in our timeline?

Chairman Ezerski said we're flexible in our timeline. I mean, the goal would be to maybe do one a month, but if they don't have time, we understand.

Lam said the other thing I would say is I wouldn't make that part of your motion, because this unit doesn't direct city staff — the city manager does. So, if that was worked out between the city manager and whoever last time for how those were installed, we'll leave that to them and not put it in part of our motion.

Motion by Rabon, **Second** by Johnny Owens, to unencumber the \$2,500 that was set aside for the engineer and use funds from the remaining \$27,000 to purchase lights for the remaining three blocks. **AYE:** Hooton, Baxter, Smith, Symuleski, Tanner, Johnny Owens, Ezerski, Rabon. **NAY:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

Adjournment

Motion by Johnny Owens, **Second** by Hooton, to adjourn the January 14, 2026, meeting. **AYE:** Hooton, Baxter, Smith, Symuleski, Tanner, Johnny Owens, Ezerski, Rabon. **NAY:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:24 PM.