

MINUTES

LAWTON CITY LAKES AND LAND COMMISSION REGULAR CALLED MEETING

JANUARY 21, 2026, 4:15 PM

CITY HALL – BANQUET HALL

212 SW 9TH STREET, LAWTON, OKLAHOMA

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Meeting was called to order at 4:15 p.m.

Larry Parks: Director/Community Enrichment

Also Present: Misty Roberts/Lakes Admin 2

James Bonnarens: Lakes Superintendent/Parks and Recreations

ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

Austin Rabon (Chair)
Kade McClure (Co-Chair)
Donald Smith
Jimmy Garrison
Robert Weger

Absent:

Mark Scott
Dustin Hilliary

Notice of the meeting and agenda were posted on the City Hall noticeboard as required by law.

REPORTS

1. Parks & Recreation Staff

- Lake Improvements update

Jim Bonnarens reported that cleanup efforts have taken place at the Lake Ellsworth area over the past few days. Two dump trucks of debris were removed, consisting mostly of Styrofoam, old jug lines, and bathtubs used for noodling.

A contract is currently in place with the FDA to trap beavers that have been causing significant damage around the lake area.

The School House Slough paving project is now in the engineering phase with WSB. A construction sign will be placed at the entrance to School House Slough to inform the public of the proposed construction timeline, which is anticipated to begin after Labor Day.

The Robinson's Landing dry stall project has been put out for bid.

- 2026 lease renewals

Bonnarens states that leases for the School House Slough, campers, trailers, dry stalls, wet slips and boat houses (approximately 360 leases) were mailed out December 10th and have until January 31st, 2026, to renew and pay without penalty. If payment is not received by then, they will have until the 15th of February to pay with a one-time

admin fee and daily late fees. After the 15th, we will know what will go back out for bid.

- Trespassing/encroachment issues on city property and possibly drafting a code to address the issue.

Bonnarens noted that this issue was discussed at the last meeting, specifically regarding landowners adjacent to city property treating that property as their own. Residents have been parking or storing

personal items—such as boats, vehicles, and grills—on city-owned land. While this becomes especially problematic during mowing season, it should be addressed year-round since the property does not belong to them. Just as individuals would not store personal belongings on land such as a wildlife refuge, the same standard should apply to city property.

Rabon asked whether a formal code is necessary or if the city could instead issue notices informing residents that their items are on city property and must be removed.

Bonnarens stated that he had spoken with Alan Rosenbaum, Assistant City Attorney, to seek guidance on potential actions and whether the matter should be taken to the City Council to establish a formal code.

Rabon stated he would prefer to pursue the civil route by treating the items as abandoned property. This approach would allow the city to issue notice, and if no action is taken by the owner, the city could remove and dispose of the property.

Rabon requested that the department prepare a draft to present to the Lakes and Land Commission.

2. Lake Commission

Rabon welcomes the two new members of the Lakes and Land Commission: Jimmy Garrison and Councilman Dr. Robert Weger

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: Alex McWhorter, James Brennan, Mike Wray

Alex McWhorter a boathouse owner at Lake Ellsworth criticized the rising cost of boathouse permits at Lake Ellsworth, pointing out that the annual fee has increased from \$667 to \$1,250 in 2026 and is projected to reach \$2,000 by 2029. His main concern is that these price hikes haven't been matched by visible improvements or added services for permit holders or boathouse owners.

James Brennan a boathouse at Lake Ellsworth echoed Mr. McWhorter's concerns.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

3. Discuss and take action, if necessary, on partnering with Premium Parking Solutions to collect and enforce day-use occupancy; tentative start date May 1, 2026

Jim stated that at the previous Lakes and Land meeting, Premium Parking Solutions was introduced as a potential method for managing and collecting fees at the Lake Lawtonka Day use area. He explained that the city is currently not collecting any revenue from this area. Historically, the city employed part-time personnel to collect a \$3.00 per vehicle fee; however, this approach was discontinued when labor costs exceeded the revenue collected. The fee was later increased to \$5.00 per vehicle, but collection was limited to the Fourth of July holiday due to insufficient staffing to manage ongoing fee collection.

Due to only one way in and one way out of the day use area this would be a good area to start the program.

The following are options discussed with Premium Parking Solutions:

Topics of discussion for partnering with Premium Parking Solutions (PPS) for camera parking enforcement at Lawtonka Day Use Area:

The initial cost to the city for installation of signs and cameras that are needed for virtual enforcement. This enforcement would be the responsibility of Premium Parking Solutions include all reporting and tracking information that the city would have access to see and monitor.

Option 1: Vendor partnering for signs, camera, and AI camera enforcement.

- The approximate cost of the signage would be **\$5000**. PPS would install signs at an estimated cost of **\$700**. Combined signing of area would total **\$5700**. The most recent quote for cameras would be **\$8381.00** per camera/lane (installation included). Total cost of cameras entry/exit $\$8381.00 \times 2$ cameras would be **\$16,762**. All parking revenue collected by the vendor would go towards recovering the costs of signage, installation, and cameras totaling **\$22,462**. Once this amount is collected by the vendor, the city would start receiving 70% of the revenue and vendor would get 30%. The vendor would also be performing 100% of the collection and citations to non-paying visitors.
- The cameras are capable of identifying in state and out of state if the city wanted to charge in state patrons a discount of \$5 and out of state \$8.
- Once this area is operating and the city is seeing revenue from our Day Use Area, there are options to expand parking in our Primitive Camping area.

Future expansion:

- **Primitive camping field**-currently underutilized for tent camping, excepting out large holiday weekends. Would use this area as “overflow” day use with a parking rate of \$5/vehicle in state (optional \$8/vehicle out of state).
- **Group Use 1, 2**- We currently rent these sites by reservation only, with a fee of \$40/day, 7am-11pm. Having the ability to charge for parking, we would change the reservation/booking fee to \$10 and then charge every vehicle attending \$5/vehicle in state (optional \$8/vehicle out of state) for parking.
- If expansion of the parking program does expand. We will need to provide fencing that will route people through a fixed point.

Option 2- boots on the ground manual enforcement using city staff which would consist of checking tags and issuing citation on vehicles at rates of \$15-\$30. We would also need to check with legal to determine citations, how to proceed if those are ignored, etc. Staffing levels over the summer months would have to increase.

- Parking fees and citation amounts. – Parking fees and citation amounts can be adjusted based on what we collectively deem appropriate to ensure a successful operation. Our initial proposal would be \$5/day in state (optional for \$8/vehicle out of state) with possibly of having annual passes (Subscriptions) at \$75-per year in the future.
- Citations handled by vendors would start at \$65 per violation to deter abuse, and to cover administrative/infrastructure costs and processing/follow up of citation payment. Signs will indicate the parking fee and also include the fines for not paying. If the fines are too high or the city is concerned with that cost, PPS is open to discussion.

- MPS is the company that collects tag information and is very serious about the protection of vehicle owner information, limiting access to anyone not involved in the collection process. This protects the vehicle owner's information but also insulates our team from liability should the information be abused.
- Have City Legal Department review for input on citations and how those would be handled if enforcement is done by staff or by vendor.

There was continued discussion regarding contracts and the fees to be collected. Rabon stated that he felt that fair market would not be \$5.00 per carload but closer to \$8.00 per car per day.

Bonnarens states that currently the code is \$5.00 per car, and we would have to take it to council to have it changed to \$8.00 per car.

Rabon recommended option number one but be contingent that the City is going to allocate the funds to the lakes. The promise of this was made two years ago, but not sure if it is occurring. Rabon stated that if this is to happen that the funds need to stay at the lake and not for projects in town.

McClure suggested that we do not charge a difference between state and out-of-state parking fees that there would be one flat fee of \$8.00 if accepted by council.

Motion: McClure made a motion to accept the agreement between Premium Parking Solutions and the City of Lawton for Option 1 and the rate per vehicle be \$8.00 contingent upon all funds being allocated back to the lakes. The motion was seconded by Smith.

Vote: AYES – Rabon, McClure, Smith, Garrison, Weger

Result: Motion passed.

Rabon stated that at the next meeting he would like an income/expense statement from each lake and how the funds are being spent.

A motion was made by Rabon to adjourn the meeting, and a second motion was made by **McClure**. **AYES: Rabon, McClure, Smith, Garrison, Weger**

Meeting was adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY THE LAKES AND LAND COMMISSION
CHAIRMAN, AUSTIN RABON