

LAWTON URBAN RENEWAL AUTHORITY

3RD FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
MARCH 17, 2026

Minutes of the Lawton Urban Renewal Authority meeting held March 17, 2026, in the 3rd Floor Conference Room, City Hall, 212 SW 9th Street, Lawton, Oklahoma.

The agenda for the meeting was posted on the bulletin board in City Hall in compliance with the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act.

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 P.M. by Evan Watson.

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT Evan Watson
 Jesse Cross
 Darren Medders
 John Purcell

MEMBERS ABSENT: Allee Passmore

ALSO PRESENT: Christine James, Planning Director
 Kameron Good, Senior Planner
 Christina Ryans-Huffer, Planner I
 Jennifer Wynne, Recording Secretary
 Garrett Lam, Assistant City Attorney
 John Saville, Finance

The meeting has established a quorum and was posted according to the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act, 25 O.S. 301-314.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Consider approving the minutes from the regular scheduled meeting on February 17, 2026.**

Motion by Medders. Second by Purcell to approve the minutes from the regular scheduled meeting on February 17, 2026. **Aye:** Medders, Purcell, Watson, Cross. **Nay:** None **Motion Passed 4-0**

- 2. Consider approving the transfer of all Lawton Urban Renewal Authority bank accounts to be in line with the City of Lawton's contracted financial institution of Liberty National Bank.**

Evan Watson: Item 2: Consider approving the transfer of all Lawton Urban Renewal Authority bank accounts to be in line with the City of Lawton's contracted financial institution of Liberty National Bank.

Christine James: Yes, it just has come to our attention that of course, you know, you have the City of Lawton and then you have several different component units, and some of the component units don't bank at the same bank that the City of Lawton had the contract with. And so, for ease of just efficiency and transparency we're kind of leaning towards changing all the banks over to being the same as the City's. And just to stack and flow and is able to get all the statements on in a timely manner instead of saying, "oh we've got these three over here, but we're still waiting on these two over here because they're at XYZ bank. This one's over here at the XYZ Bank." So just to increase efficiency, and stuff like that, we would like to fall under the City's kind of umbrella of contracted financial institution. Which right now is Liberty, but it may or may not always be. They go back out for RFP's every so many years.

Evan Watson: OK.

John Saville: The contract is through December of this year.

Christine James: There you go, December of this year.

John Purcell: Do we get the, if we switch over, do we have the same kind of sweep account with the same interest rate that we've been getting?

Christine James: The sweep accounts seem like almost every bank, financial institution, does it a little bit different, and so we would just fall under what is contractually what they have at Liberty. And not every component unit has sweep accounts.

John Purcell: I know that's what I was wondering. Because we've done pretty good with the sweep account on interest and are we going to have, do we know?

Darren Medders: We're still going to have a sweep account.

John Purcell: Are we going to have a sweep account that pays interest?

John Saville: Liberty, I believe with all the operational accounts Liberty has, there's also a sweep account with it. I don't know what their rates are off the top of my head but it's just part of the process to see what they have since we have so many other accounts. My guess would be that they would be very favorable to us.

John Purcell: I think we need to find that out before we approve.

Evan Watson: Maybe a little more info?

John Purcell: Yes. I would think so.

Evan Watson: Well, the only thing that I would add to that is, I mean, it doesn't sound like our contract with Liberty is for very much longer either. I mean not saying the City will change but never know.

John Saville: I generally do that every five years, and I think December of this year is when that happens.

Evan Watson: When that runs. Yes.

John Saville: But with LURA, I think we use BancFirst for LURA, and there's a sweep account and a cash account. That doesn't present any operational problems from our standpoint as far as getting the statements on time. Couple of other entities it's difficult to get the statements. One of them I don't even have a statement yet. You know, here we are halfway or more through the month and I don't even have a prior month statement. So that's a large part of the efficiency that we're looking for. But BancFirst has been pretty good as far as using that. If you wanted to keep it at BancFirst it wouldn't be a huge deal but mostly it's just for convenience. But we can look into what their interest rates are on that.

John Purcell: I don't know. I think since they're going to renew in December of this year and we know we've done pretty good on interest with them I'd prefer to just keep it where it is until they either renew with Liberty or wherever they go and we find out a little more that wherever we go.

Christine James: Do you know when the RFP goes out?

John Saville: I don't.

Christine James: I'm assuming it could be at least 90 - 120 days prior to that.

John Saville: Usually, I would say in 90 - 120 days. So, prior to December and back out three or four months.

Evan Watson: So, I mean procedurally what do we just table it until we find out a little bit more info on the key points?

Darren Medders: Find out the difference in interest rates.

John Purcell: And if they have a sweep account.

Evan Watson: That they've got a sweep account.

John Purcell: And then anyway the other part is if we switch over now and then we go in the end of this year we go to another bank we're going to switch again.

Evan Watson: Sure. Yes.

John Purcell: I make a motion we table this till we get some more information.

Evan Watson: Right.

Motion by Purcell. Second by Cross to table transferring of Lawton Urban Renewal Authority bank accounts to be in line with the City of Lawton's contracted financial institution of Liberty National Bank until further information is gathered. **Aye:** Purcell, Watson, Cross, Medders. **Nay:** None **Motion Passed 4-0**

3. Consider receiving the Financial Report for months January and February 2026 and take action as necessary.

John Saville presented the Financial Reports for the months of January and February 2026. All financial reports are given for this item will be filed with the minutes.

Reports provided for this item are part of these minutes and on file in the City Clerk's office.

Motion by Medders. Second by Purcell to accept the Financial Report for months January and February 2026 and take action as necessary. **Aye:** Watson, Cross, Medders, Purcell. **Nay:** None **Motion Passed 4-0**

4. Consider approving the expenditures for January 01, 2026, through March 06, 2026, and take action as necessary.

John Saville presented the expenditures for January 01, 2026, through March 06, 2026. All financial reports are given for this item will be filed with the minutes.

Reports provided for this item are part of these minutes and on file in the City Clerk's office.

Motion by Purcell. Second by Medders to approve the expenditures for January 01, 2026, through March 06, 2026, and take action as necessary. **Aye:** Watson, Cross, Medders, Purcell. **Nay:** None **Motion Passed 4-0**

5. Consider discussing LURA's agenda structure and take action as deemed necessary.

Evan Watson: Item 5: consider discussing LURA's agenda structure and take action as deemed necessary.

Christine James: If you recall at the last meeting, Purcell you asked about if citizens participation, or public participation, audience participation, whatever we call it, is a requirement. And we did the run that through legal and they said no it was not a requirement.

John Purcell: OK.

Christine James: So, this is just discussing if you wanted to make any changes or leave the agenda structure how it is.

Evan Watson: Have we had any lately?

John Purcell: No but there's a possibility.

Evan Watson: Sure.

John Purcell: If we don't need it, why don't we put it on there? I don't know what we need to do to not show on the agenda audience participation.

Christine James: You just have to tell us you don't want it.

John Purcell: Well, I'd like to hear what everyone else thinks about it. I'm just thinking in this particular meeting do we really want audience participation other than invited that pertains to it? I'm not talking about someone who's involved in an item, but I'm talking about someone walks in and wants to jump up and talk.

Darren Medders: But if you have audience here and you remove that when's their chance to?

John Purcell: Well, if they're here to talk about a specific thing we're talking about because they're involved in the thing they need to be able to do that. But if someone just wants to walk in and talk about anything that they have no interest in really. They just want to come in and cause a problem. Do we really want that on there that way? Because if someone was

going to come in and talk about a particular item they'd be talking while we're doing the item not at the end of the meeting is all I'm saying.

Evan Watson: So, what? Have we had that problem with issues before?

Christine James: Not that we're aware.

John Purcell: I mean sure we haven't in this particular meeting.

Evan Watson: That's kind of where I'm at with it. I mean I'm a little hesitant to remove it just for, you know, the possibility that something could happen.

Darren Medders: What ifs.

John Purcell: Then let's not do anything. I have no problem with that. I just thought I'd ask.

Evan Watson: Well, it's good to know that. I mean we can remove it at some point in the future if we decide we need to, but, I mean, again, I'm a little neutral on it. But I probably lean towards leaving it on there. Again, I could be persuaded the other way though potentially, so. Anybody else have any thoughts about?

Jesse Cross: I'll make a motion that we approve the way it is right now.

Motion by Cross, Second by Medders to retain LURA's agenda structure as is.
Aye: Cross, Medders, Purcell, Watson. **Nay:** None **Motion Passed 4-0**

Commissioner's Reports or Comments

None

Secretary's Report

Christine James: We are still working on gathering the different people for the Ad Hoc Committee. So, Richard's working on getting someone from Chamber and the FISTA, and stuff like that. And so, we haven't seated everyone yet. So, when we do we will start scheduling that meeting. We do have a meeting next week with the consultant to kind of go over a kind of a game plan. But we're still waiting on all the seats for the committee, but we'll get there.

Evan Watson: Sure. Questions? Comments?

John Purcell: The fact that you weren't here last time, did anyone tell you you're it?

Evan Watson: No.

John Purcell: You got volunteered and approved.

Evan Watson: OK, perfect. Great.

John Purcell: I just thought we ought to tell you.

Evan Watson: Good to learn, yes.

John Purcell: That's what happens when you don't show up, right.

Kameron Good: It's two from LURA. It's Allee. Are you familiar with what we're talking about on that?

Evan Watson: Well, no but I can get up to speed.

Kameron: It's just an ad hoc for the implementation of the Blight Study.

Evan Watson: OK.

Kameron Good: And so, to form an Ad Hoc Committee will be a member from the Chamber, member from CPC, FISTA.

Christine James: Chamber.

John Purcell: Council.

Evan Watson: And y'all just send me notice when I'm supposed to show up to that?

Christine James: Yes.

Evan Watson: OK. Perfect.

Kameron Good: Yes, absolutely.

Evan Watson: All right. Sounds good to me.

Audience Participation

None

Adjournment

Motion by Medders. Second by Purcell to adjourn the meeting **Aye: Medders, Purcell, Watson, Cross. **Nay:** None **Motion Passed 4-0****

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 1:44 P.M.

These meeting minutes were approved by the LURA members at their meeting on

2026-05-19

Evan Watson

Chairman

Lawton Urban Renewal Authority