



City of Lawton

Lawton Enhancement Trust Authority

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

Minutes

Wednesday, June 10, 2026

3:00 PM

Lawton City Hall
3rd Floor Conference Room

Meeting Called to Order and Roll Call

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

Chairman Ezerski called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM in the 3rd Floor Conference Room of City Hall.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Barry Ezerski, Lane Hooton, Charles Owens, Josh Hale, Ted Symuleski, Dwight Tanner, Chris Rabon, *Onreka Johnson

ABSENT: Johnny Owens (excused), Dwain Baxter (excused), Addie Smith (excused)

*Arrived at 3:01 P.M.

OTHERS PRESENT: Dewayne Burk, Deputy City Manager; Caitlin Gatlin, Communications and Marketing Manager; Tammy Branstetter, Deputy City Clerk; Garrett Lam, Assistant City Attorney; Kelvin Ingram, Parks & Recreation Deputy Director / LETA Executive Director; Jason Poudrier, Arts & Humanities Director; John Saville, Senior Accountant with Financial Services; Edith Phillips, Accountant with Financial Services; Matt Tranquill, President & CEO of the Lawton Fort Sill Chamber of Commerce / CVB; Jamie Southerland, Vice President & COO of the Lawton Fort Sill Chamber of Commerce; Sam Blankenship, CVB Special Projects Manager; Allan Hampton, Ward 5 Council Member; Sherene L. Williams, Ward 7 Council Member; George Gill, Former Ward 4 Council Member; Dennis Totte, Bedrock Nursery

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.

Chairman Ezerski welcomed guests of the meeting and thanked them for coming.

Reports

1. Receive a report from Dennis Totte with Bedrock Nursery regarding current landscaping and irrigation projects.

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

Totte said I don't have anything lengthy here, but we're just continuing on our general maintenance, chasing a lot of irrigation. It's starting to get hot, so we're increasing all the battery nodes just to increase the 2nd Street pots to five days a week. I don't have any proposals for you. I just came to report.

Chairman Ezerski said have you had any more vandalism?

Totte said we've been lucky — I've not seen any more vandalism on 2nd Street. Like I told you, there for a while, it was hot and heavy with cut wires, cut irrigation, baskets being illegally stolen out of the pots. We had that early this year again, replaced a few. It happens, I guess, but luckily, knock on wood, I've had nothing too crazy lately, so that's good. Any areas of interest that you guys have for me, or seeing anything out of pocket or out of place that we need to look at?

Kelvin Ingram, Parks & Recreation Deputy Director / LETA Executive Director, inquired about 36th Street and Gore Boulevard.

Totte said 36th and Gore has been addressed. Dr. Bellino, I think, brought it to a couple people's attention that when you're coming there—I guess that would be eastbound—trying to cross at 36th across the Gore median, it's hard to see. There are some crêpe myrtles that were obstructing the view on the left end of the bed. So we dug three trees out and cleared the area, so I think it's a lot more safe for everybody.

Totte said that's all I have. If you all think of anything, let me know.

2. Receive a report from Parks and Recreation regarding departmental projects and monthly updates.

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

Ingram said the Dunbar School Memorial and Harkey Park improvements are moving right along. We plan on doing our first IPR tomorrow at the Owens Center at 8:00 to discuss the logistics, aesthetics, and the planning considerations for this project. We

anticipate a June 19, 10:00 AM ceremony on the corner of 18th and Douglas. Everyone's invited to come out. We're also going to do a re-opening of the park as well. What I've been told is the monument is already at Martus Stone, so I'll go by and take a look at that as well.

Ingram said as you can tell when you drive by our Aquatics Center at Elmer Thomas Park, it's steadily going right now. I just left there as well. Attendance is very strong. Concessions are very strong. We've even added more appliances in there to accommodate our logistics and supplies. So, we ask that you do come out and support your City Aquatics Center. We are going through some small issues, so just be patient with us with our credit card system as we're getting the bugs worked out. Just rest assured.

Ingram said our general outlook will focus on our facilities, security and updates as well. We have our security that's still running as well. We're taking a little bit more proactive approach with our wade pools and splash pads as well, not only with attendance, but even after hours with our security. Expect in the next months and year or so, we're going to improve that with our security cameras.

Chairman Ezerski said how is the attendance so far at the Aquatics Center?

Ingram said like I said, it's very strong. If you need numbers on that, I can send those out as well. Ms. Yolanda Allen does send out a report on that.

Chairman Ezerski said how's the mowing going?

Ingram said mowing is going great. Even though we do have a few shortages within our team here, we're very active and ongoing, and we're right on schedule. We're even having the time to take away some of our empty lots with our Safe and Clean Neighborhood Services abatements. We don't anticipate any setbacks unless there's a major issue, also weather considerations. So, nothing significant or anything that's apparent.

Sherene L. Williams, Ward 7 Council Member, discussed additional details regarding the upcoming unveiling of the Dunbar School Memorial and reopening of Harkey Park. Ms. Williams said we're going to have food that you can pay to have from John and Cooks BBQ. She noted that there is more than one Juneteenth group. Ms. Williams said not the one from the City, but the one that they do on their own — they're going to provide hot dogs and chips, drinks, and they're going to have activities for adults as well as the children. So, if you can, please have as many children there as possible because this is an educational event, because we have people that went to Dunbar Elementary School who are retired professional football players, generals and colonels. So, it's really going to be educational, and we really want a lot of the children to be there.

Johnson said is this on the same day as the citywide event, or what day is this one on?

Ms. Williams said the time is going to be from 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM on Friday, June 19th.

Ingram noted that City events will be the next day at Elmer Thomas Park.

Chairman Ezerski said so Friday the 19th will be the unveiling of the Dunbar School Memorial as well?

Ingram said yes sir.

Rabon said regarding park updates, I noticed Kathy Newcombe is stalled.

Ingram said you should see the last bit of equipment be installed later this week. I know there are some questions on its final stature right now, but we're going to get those on the next round of improvements. You do have Walker Family Park that's complete, and right up is Kathy Newcombe.

Ingram discussed the splash pad at Lee West Park. He said that one, we're looking at towards the end of July. Right now we need to connect with the City's main drainage. There's some work in there that needs to be done. Once we get done with that, the cement will start getting poured, and we'll start doing some finalizations on that.

3. Receive a report from the LETA Executive Director regarding ongoing LETA projects and departmental updates.

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

Ingram discussed the ASEZ WAO mural project. Ingram said there are no improvements on that at this time. Again, we're reaching out to the Deacon, and we just have to finalize some final paperwork with Stillwater Central Railroad. I have no report on where we're at on that, along with the constant text messages. I don't want to pester him, but at the same time, open communication is missing right now. The way ahead solution is just to continue upsizing our safety and compliance and, again, supporting him wherever he needs us to on that. I would've loved to see this project take off before the hot weather came in, but we'll see where we can go with this.

Ingram said our Veteran's Memorial project, again, no significant updates on this as well. We need to reengage with this project in our meetings to come, but we also continue to better evaluate the scope and design of our considerations.

Ingram said next, which is kind of going to coincide with the Dunbar School Memorial, the Martus Stone coordination and payment closeout, which I kind of hit on. I want to thank the Finance Department for their help coaching me through that and getting that out today. Hopefully, that should already be paid, if not this week, to get the project up and running. The finalization is being done with tomorrow's IPR, which will kind of put some things in order to make sure everyone is on the path for that as well. I learned a

lot from that process getting this done.

Ingram said while progress on several LETA-sponsored projects has slowed since the last meeting, that is largely attributed to extraordinary events and demands across the community. But just know our parties have been involved with our Aquatics Department and things that involve the City, so don't feel as though this took a second burner. However, with our emphasis on getting into the summer season, we had to put our resources there. So just note, we have not lost momentum on this.

Ingram discussed monthly totals from the Department of Safe and Clean Neighborhood Services for the month of May. Ingram said as of June, violation notices sent out were 1,253. Abatement work orders that are pending right now are 119. Work orders requested for the month were 315. The total work orders thus far for this fiscal year are 1,939. Total work orders request thus far for this fiscal year are 1,326.

4. Receive an update from the Cultural Preservation Committee regarding current projects.

Jason Poudrier, Arts and Humanities Director, gave an update from the Cultural Preservation Committee regarding current projects.

Poudrier said over the past couple of years, we've got about \$10,000 to assist with cultural preservation items. We had several items that moved from here at City Hall. We cased them up. We worked with the museum to make sure that they were properly stored and boxed up, and so that way they're all taken care of.

Poudrier said just recently, we went and spent out the remaining funds for storage of artifacts to buy new shelving and materials, again working with the museum. For the first time, probably in its history, the City of Lawton art collection is on proper racks that are metal and has proper materials in between each piece of artwork. In working with the museum, there are a few different items that we're going to need to buy, but we're still working on putting those together.

Poudrier said the City of Lawton art collection, for those of you who are new on this board, used to be in an HVAC closet at the McMahon Memorial Auditorium. The HVAC closet has been completely remodeled. It's actually now a lot bigger. I looked at putting it in other places, but that's actually one of the best-conditioned spaces actually at the auditorium because the space where it is now acts as a return for the entire building. So it's a very well-circulated area as far as humidity controls and stuff go. Before, the way that it was stored, the racks weren't proper racks, and it was not good. So we've taken care of that.

Poudrier said the other thing I wanted to report on was, previously, this board had approved a fence project at the Lawton Farmers Market. I've had difficulties with that contractor and his scheduling, and I've communicated with him. He's actually going to give us the money back, and I have another contractor that's willing to take on the project for the same bid. So this is just a report on that, and then I'll have an action item

next month. Again, with the help of this board, Shepler Park looks amazing. With the help of Engineering, we now have the ADA sidewalks that go up into Shepler Park from the Farmers Market. There is beautiful landscaping at Shepler Park. And then there's a half fence around an electrical unit that just looks terrible, and it's right in the middle. So that's what we're working on replacing.

Symuleski said I was out at the Arts for All. Something needs to be done with the ground there. The grounds have got holes all around it. Is there a way that we can level that ground out a little bit?

Chairman Ezerski suggested filling in some dirt in some places. He said I did notice one or two spots.

5. Receive Monthly Ward Updates from Trustees.

No updates were given.

Business Items

1. Consider and take action to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2026, meeting.

A copy of the minutes from the May 13, 2026, meeting may be obtained from the City Clerk's Office upon request.

Tammy Branstetter, City Clerk's Office, said there's a correction on page six in the second to last paragraph, four lines down, that first full sentence should read, "some aesthetic." I will be fixing that.

Motion by Hooton, **Second** by Johnson, to approve the minutes from the May 13, 2026, meeting with the stated correction. **AYE:** Hooton, Johnson, Charles Owens, Symuleski, Tanner, Ezerski, Rabon, Hale. **NAY:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

2. Consider and take action to approve the list of expenses for the period covering May 12, 2026 – June 04, 2026.

John Saville, Senior Accountant with Financial Services, reviewed the list of expenses for the period covering May 12, 2026–June 04, 2026. A copy of the list of expenses may be obtained from the City Clerk's Office upon request.

Saville said we only have two expenses for you to approve for today. This relates to what Jason talked about. This is the final expenses for the shelving that he was describing.

Motion by Symuleski, **Second** by Johnson, to approve the list of expenses for the period covering May 12, 2026–June 04, 2026, as presented. **AYE:** Hooton, Johnson, Charles Owens, Symuleski, Tanner, Ezerski, Rabon, Hale. **NAY:** None. **MOTION**

PASSED.

3. Consider and take action to approve the Financial Statements for the month of May 2026.

Saville reviewed the Financial Statements for the month of May 2026. A copy of the Financial Statements for the month of May 2026 may be obtained from the City Clerk's Office upon request.

Saville said it's been a fairly quiet month. There's been some good activity in terms of money coming in. So we'll start with the balance sheet. Your listing of cash, there's the breakout of everything that's there. It's really not changed any, with the exception of the Beautification Fund and the Hotel/Motel Tax Fund. The Beautification Fund grew by \$15,177.60, and that's comprised of March and April's court fines. Due to work on the budget for the City of Lawton, we got a little behind on that. We've caught that up. So we took in \$8,620.60 for March court fines and \$6,232 for April. The other item in that particular line is \$325, and that was money that we received for the Trash-Off. Evidently, I think it's \$25 if you're not a resident of Lawton. So we took in funds from non-residents, and that's what that \$325 was.

Saville said then, in the Hotel/Motel Tax, we took in \$79,709.80. I was able to claim \$85,000 in expenses, but I only had available to claim \$79,709.80. So the difference, \$5,400, has already been processed, and it'll come this month. I can't take more than what's on the allocation at that time. So in June, we'll show an additional \$5,400 to make that difference up. We're also going to be able to claim \$5,000 on the Dunbar project. I think that's in the process of being processed to be paid. We can only do the \$5,000 because \$1,100 of that was donated. This board voted to put \$5,000 toward that, so I can claim that against Hotel/Motel.

Saville said then we took in \$29.69 in interest. So the total cash grew by \$94,917.09. So that's a good month. The cash that went out was \$1,638.44. That's the shelving items that we did. You just approved two of the three. The first one was approved, I believe, last month. So, \$1,638.44. The total increase in cash from last month is \$93,278.65, so our ending May balance in cash is \$427,686.81, which is reflected there on your balance sheet. There are no receivables. We do have an account payable for \$1,553. That is to Hatch, Croke & Associates, who performed the tax return for LETA for tax year 2025. So that's the only liability. That was paid right after the first of June, so that will come off.

Saville said then we're left with the net assets. Restricted and unrestricted are unchanged. You'll notice we have a net income showing of \$48,708.79 because of the money we took in. It offset some of the losses. So that's where we're at. So the balance is \$427,686.81. Liabilities and equity match the assets, which the assets are made up strictly of the cash. So that would be the balance sheet.

Saville said moving on to the income statement. Again, you'll see reflected on the income, there's the \$79,709.80 for the Hotel/Motel Tax. The court fine fees income is

\$14,852.60. The miscellaneous income was the Trash-Off money that I mentioned, and then the interest income. So the total income, again, was \$94,917.09. The miscellaneous expense, again, was \$1,638.44 for the shelving project. You had voted \$1,700 on that, so Jason came in a little under on that. Then the \$1,553 for the tax return. So we had total income of \$94,917.09 against expenses of \$3,191.44. That gives us a monthly net income of \$91,725.65. So that's the income statement.

Saville said moving on next to the income and expense tracker. Basically, this is the year-to-date income statement. It shows the revenues on the top half there, everything that's come in year-to-date. The bottom half shows the expenses, and this will tie out. Our total income, again, is \$193,409.40 against expenses of \$144,700.61. So the net income year-to-date is \$48,708.79. Those items there in the expense pending project, we'll see that here in just a minute as we go to the expense tracker, but that totals \$37,648.45.

Saville said the next page will be the tracker. This is largely unchanged. The Trash-Off and the Eye Candy Awards came off the bottom section because those are completed. On the top half, nothing's changed. Jason alluded to the work at the Farmers Market. It looked like we had expensed \$1,730 of that. It was budgeted for \$3,000. Saville asked Poudrier if we have paid them.

Poudrier said we did 50% up front, and then we were going to pay the other part when they finish.

Saville said then the pole analysis and the lighting project, we just left that on there. I'm not sure what we want to do with that. The engineer did not charge us for that pole analysis, and then the City hung the lights for us, so we didn't have to go out to a contractor to do that. But we kept it on there. We really don't have any projects going. I think Dennis mentioned earlier that he'll be working on some things, so we'll see some stuff come through on that.

Saville said down at the bottom, the cultural preservation artifact wrapping materials, that's been on the tracker for a while. It's \$537.02, and that's what remains. For the cultural preservation shelving materials, you approved that a couple of months ago in the amount of \$1,731.95. Jason spent \$1,638.44, so we'll close that out.

Saville said the other one that's in the works is the Dunbar project. We took in \$1,100 in donations, again, and then the \$5,000 that this board voted to support. So that totals \$6,100. I think one of the Council representatives was putting some money toward that as well. I believe it was Ward 7. Once that check is processed, I will process \$5,000 of that for a Hotel/Motel refund.

Saville said then we've got the Hotel/Motel Tax allocation spreadsheet that I provided to you. This is in good shape. Our approved allocation for the year is \$147,460. Through May, we've collected \$147,281.56. So the allocation that will hit us in June will only be \$178.44 because we can't exceed that. You'll see on there that earlier in the year we

took \$53,613.16. There's the \$85,000 that I submitted, but \$79,709.81 was all I had to pull for. So we pulled that. I have that check. It's in the bank. Then we've got \$5,435.46 that they are processing right now to pay for that. In June, we'll take that \$5,435.46 that I get, plus the additional \$5,000 for the Dunbar project. What that amounts to is that we will have expended almost all of the allocation that we had for beautification. We'll leave about \$4,100 that we can carry forward into the next year.

Saville said the fireworks—of course, you all voted for the \$90,000 for that to go back to the City to work with MWR. So that's the remaining allocation of \$50,000. Again, per Council Resolution 25-168, the beautification and the fireworks are the two items that we carry forward. So that will be available to carry forward for next year.

Saville said then Holiday in the Park, the allocation was \$38,540. We now have everything needed to render payment for the \$34,411.32. We had that invoice finalized just today. We got that set up, and that's processing for payment. As soon as that check is cut, I'm going to submit immediately to get all \$34,411.32 reimbursed to us from the Hotel/Motel Tax for Holiday in the Park. Those funds that are left over, \$4,128.68, they do not carry over. That will revert back to the City to be used for, I think, economic development. So we'll use \$34,000 out of the \$38,000.

Saville said we have not gotten a new allocation yet on the Hotel/Motel Tax. I think that goes before Council on the 23rd. We'll know what the allocations for Hotel/Motel Tax will be after the Council meets on the 23rd. But right now, we just don't know. We've submitted our request, so we'll see what they did with that. That concludes my report.

Motion by Johnson, **Second** by Hooton, to approve the Financial Statements for the month of May 2026 as presented. **AYE:** Hooton, Johnson, Charles Owens, Symuleski, Tanner, Ezerski, Rabon, Hale. **NAY:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

4. Consider and take action to approve financial support, in an amount not to exceed \$1,000, to the Lawton Fort Sill Chamber Foundation for professional design services related to the proposed Kids First Amusement Park, to be located near Shepler Park and the Carnegie Library Town Hall.

Chairman Ezerski provided background information on this item. A copy of the Business Plan, Feasibility & Economic Impact Study for the proposed Lawton Fort Sill Kids First Amusement Park may be obtained from the City Clerk's Office upon request.

Chairman Ezerski said for those who were not here last month, we had a presentation from the Lawton Fort Sill Chamber Foundation for \$18,000 to help pay for the design services for the proposed Kids First Amusement Park. This would go at a place to be determined. What's being discussed is just south of the Farmer's Market. This application has changed somewhat due to some things that have happened over the last 30 days. They are now asking for just \$1,000 to go toward the design services, but they are still asking for \$18,000 total. We broke it into two parts. The other part will be Item #5, and we'll discuss that in a minute. There are definitely reasons for that. Matt, can you just talk a little bit about how you were able to get the design services down to

\$1,000?

Matt Tranquill, President & CEO of the Lawton Fort Sill Chamber of Commerce / CVB, said thank you for having us. We are still looking at a \$90,000 architect bill, maybe. But after last month's meeting, I was thinking about who I could talk to that would have more knowledge about architecture and engineering. At my Airport Authority Board meeting, I sit right across the table from Mr. George Gill, and I remembered he's an engineer and has been an engineer for a long time. So I asked him to come to my office and discuss this. He looked at it, and he's not 100% sure if we're going to need an architect. We may need an architect; we just don't know yet. What we are proposing to build, quoting him, is just above a little harder than a sidewalk. So he doesn't think that we're going to need an in-depth architect for this, but we may. We don't know, but he thought that for this time, to show the boards and the trusts that we're talking to, having some mechanical drawings of the park area would be beneficial. When I stated to him that I thought we could get it for \$1,000, he said that is a no-brainer—get the mechanical drawings to show the boards and trusts. Then, later, when it gets further along, when we talk to some more engineers—he's working with me trying to find some engineers to take this job up—then we'll find out if we need an architect.

Tranquill said so the \$90,000 is still in the budget that we may need to use, but we're not 100% sure we need it. At this point, an engineer is telling us mechanical drawings, and that's what we did. If you flip to your last pages, you should have the mechanical drawings there. If you do not, I have a copy of them.

Chairman Ezerski said this is a project that the Mayor is behind, and several of the Council members that are here have also expressed their support for us.

Tranquill said I've asked Mr. Gill to come because if you guys have a question of why an architecture does not need to be done at this point, he's here to explain that and discuss it. Obviously he would be much more knowledgeable than me in the engineering side of this.

Tanner said I've heard nothing but positive things about this whole project. I'd move we go ahead and approve this \$1,000.

Motion by Tanner, **Second** by Johnson, to approve \$1,000 in financial support to the Lawton Fort Sill Chamber Foundation for professional design services related to the proposed Kids First Amusement Park. **AYE:** Hooton, Johnson, Charles Owens, Symuleski, Tanner, Ezerski, Rabon, Hale. **NAY:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

5. Consider and take action to approve financial support to the Lawton Fort Sill Chamber Foundation in an amount not to exceed \$17,000 to assist with the installation and removal of holiday lighting and decorations for the 2026 Holiday in the Park event.

Chairman Ezerski provided background information on this item.

Chairman Ezerski said over the years, if you remember, three years ago, we gave nearly this amount to help with the Holiday in the Park in a grant over and above what the City provided. The City, three years ago, provided \$180-something thousand for the project. Then it dropped to \$100,000, and then it dropped to \$40,000 last year. And more than likely, it's going to be less than that this year.

Chairman Ezerski said the amount of volunteers that have been used to help with setting up and taking down the displays has waned over the years. So they are now having to hire out to get these displays put up. With less money and needing more resources, that is the reason for this ask. Right now, we have \$32,000 in our grant funds that we have not given this year. They cannot tap into the \$4,000 that they had left over from last year — that can't go on to next year. So basically, we do have the money to do this to help them, and there's a description in your packet. They got two bids, and the low bid was \$32,000 for the take-down and the putting up of these light displays for next year. They're asking us for \$17,000. This is another project that, of course, the City is behind, and I talked with the Mayor about this one too, and he was asking for approval.

Tanner said so the \$17,000 would not be coming out of the Holiday in the Park funds?

Chairman Ezerski said it's not. This would be coming out of our grant funds, and right now we have \$32,000 that we have not allocated. In addition to that, we also have roughly \$20,000 that we had for the lighting project that we didn't use because the City ended up hanging up the lights.

Tanner said everybody loves the Holiday in the Park. I would move to go ahead and approve the \$17,000.

Symuleski said where is Holiday in the Park particularly planned to be at this year? I'm hearing that it might not be at Elmer Thomas Park.

Ingram said we're still planning on keeping it in the park. We're just going to abbreviate the route according to the construction that's going on.

Motion by Tanner, **Second** by Rabon, to approve \$17,000 in financial support to the Lawton Fort Sill Chamber Foundation to assist with the installation and removal of holiday lighting and decorations for the 2026 Holiday in the Park event. **AYE:** Hooton, Johnson, Charles Owens, Symuleski, Tanner, Ezerski, Rabon, Hale. **NAY:** None.
MOTION PASSED.

Chairman Ezerski said we'll be moving on to Item #7 on your agenda.

The Authority next considered Item #7.

6. Discuss the current voting structure for LETA's Yard of the Month Contest and take action regarding revisions to the voting structure as deemed

appropriate.

Caitlin Gatlin, Communications and Marketing Manager, provided background information on this item.

Gatlin said before, whenever we had the website, BeautifulLawton.com, people could go on there and really vote as many times as they wanted. We had yards that had a thousand votes on them. So having 33% of the weight kind of made sense in that case. However, now that we're doing it on Facebook, you can vote once. You can't just go and remove your reaction because it's still going to count the same. So, because we're seeing such low numbers—and it's not bad—but we're seeing lower numbers because people can only vote once on Facebook. So, like I said earlier, you effectively would have the power to completely change what the public wanted, but I wanted to bring that one to your attention and also give you a couple of options that we could go with. If these options are something that you'd be interested in, we could just change the voting structure.

Gatlin said option one: You could be the tiebreaker. So, potentially, if we have two yards that are, say, within five votes of each other, the board would have the final say on which yard is the best. Option two: A bonus point system. So if you all want to have, "Well, our first choice is this yard," they would be awarded five reactions. Your second choice would get an extra three reactions, and your third choice would get one extra reaction. I figured that was the easiest way to explain to the public, one way or the other.

Rabon said how many total votes came in for all of those yards last month?

Hale said there was like 46 of them. I just added them up.

Rabon said I like your point system.

Gatlin said with these, we have 35 votes total for all five yards.

Rabon said when you're awarding this point system, are you talking about the board as a whole, or each individual member of the board awarding that point?

Gatlin said it's up to you all.

Rabon said well if it's the board as a whole, I don't see that changing it.

Chairman Ezerski said yeah, 10% is not going to change anything.

Dewayne Burk, Deputy City Manager, said you could just make it a tie-breaker and take the top two, and they could pick from the top two.

Chairman Ezerski said why don't we just be the tie-breaker, and we'll pick from the top

two. Then we'll know who the public voted for, and so, of course, that'll give us a little bit of leeway there.

Burk suggested sending the Yard of the Month nominations to all of the City employees to vote on their favorite yard. This could increase participation.

Chairman Ezerski said that's a good idea.

Gatlin said we can try it.

Motion by Tanner, **Second** by Hooton, that the Authority be the tie-breaker of the top two yards nominated for Yard of the Month. **AYE:** Hooton, Johnson, Charles Owens, Symuleski, Tanner, Ezerski, Rabon, Hale. **NAY:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

7. Consider and take action to approve the selection of the April 2026 Yard of the Month Contest winner and authorize the presentation of associated recognition on behalf of the Lawton Enhancement Trust Authority.

Caitlin Gatlin, Communications and Marketing Manager, provided background information on this item. A copy of the nominations for the April 2026 Yard of the Month Contest may be obtained from the City Clerk's Office upon request.

Gatlin said so April sounds a little familiar, doesn't it? That's because we talked about it last month. Well, whenever I went to the gentleman's house and told him the good news, he said, this is a joke, somebody must have nominated me. I don't want this.

Gatlin said so that's why it's back before you. As you might recall, this is the one where Ward 4 really took over. So, the green-fonted Ward 4 is out because he refused. The one with the next highest votes ward the Ward 4 with the skull in the yard — they had 51 votes. And this is pertaining to the item that we moved — right now, the board has 33% voting power, which effectively can change the way that this works. As I'll explain later, I think that's going to kind of discourage public participation. So, know that, at this point, you have 33% of the vote. However, the public voted for the one with the skull in the yard as their favorite.

Symuleski said I make a motion that we vote and approve Ward 4 Yellow.

Motion by Symuleski, **Second** by Hooton, to select Ward 4 Yellow as the April 2026 Yard of the Month Contest winner. **AYE:** Hooton, Johnson, Charles Owens, Symuleski, Tanner, Ezerski, Rabon, Hale. **NAY:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

The Authority next considered Item #8.

8. Consider and take action to approve the selection of the May 2026 Yard of the Month Contest winner and authorize the presentation of associated recognition on behalf of the Lawton Enhancement Trust Authority.

Gatlin provided background information on this item. A copy of the nominations for the May 2026 Yard of the Month Contest may be obtained from the City Clerk's Office upon request.

Gatlin said for May's Yard of the Month, we had several come in, courtesy of Dr. Bellino, who will send me several text messages with yards, which is okay because I'll tell you the same thing. If you see any yards, I'll give you my phone number, and you can text them to me, and I'll submit them because sometimes we have an issue getting people to actually submit yards. So we kind of need some help.

Gatlin said starting with Ward 5, this is the one that had the most votes. I'm not sure where it is in your packet. This had 19 votes, and these are the most. The next one that had the highest was Ward 2 with 11 votes. That is the one that has a collage of three photos on it, and a nice American flag there in front. Ward 6 was an award winner last year, and they had 3 votes. Ward 1 had 1 vote, and Ward 7 had 1 vote.

Tanner said I think we should go with the citizen's vote. I make a motion that we approve Ward 5.

Motion by Tanner, **Second** by Symuleski, to select Ward 5 as the May 2026 Yard of the Month Contest winner. **AYE:** Hooton, Johnson, Charles Owens, Symuleski, Tanner, Ezerski, Rabon, Hale. **NAY:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

The Authority next considered Item #6.

Adjournment

Motion by Charles Owens, **Second** by Hooton, to adjourn the June 10, 2026, meeting. **AYE:** Hooton, Johnson, Charles Owens, Symuleski, Tanner, Ezerski, Rabon, Hale. **NAY:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

The meeting adjourned at 4:06 P.M.

Minutes of the June 10, 2026, meeting were approved by the Authority at the July 8, 2026, meeting.