

**MINUTES
LAWTON ACCESS BOARD
THIS MEETING WAS A VIRTUAL MEETING
CONDUCTED ON THE ZOOM PLATFORM
212 SW 9th STREET
MARCH 23, 2021**

Mike Jones called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. Notice of meeting and agenda were posted on the City Hall notice board as required by law.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Polk, Ray; Love, Kay; Young, Dana, Jones, Mike

ABSENT: Bonacci, Rocco (Attempted to connect later)

OTHERS PRESENT:

APPROVE MINUTES from July 28, 2020 meeting

Motion by Love, **Second** by Polk, to approve the minutes of July 28, 2021. **Aye:** Love; Polk; Young; Jones; **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

BUSINESS ITEMS:

1. New Business

A. Vote on motion to approve the expenditure of \$10,583.70 in ADA Compliance Improvement Funds for accessibility improvements at two city facilities:

1 – Lawton Public Library: \$6,657.85 to improve accessibility for disabled employee (alarm panel relocation; new accessible furniture/desk; accessible entrance/wheelchair ramp/crosswalk)

2 – Owens Multipurpose Center: \$3,925.85 to supplement construction funds for accessible restroom construction

Jones reminded the group of a desire to utilize ADA Accessibility Improvement funds not only for the construction of sidewalks but for any type of project that improves accessibility at any city building or facility. Jones reminded the group of two city projects that would benefit from these funds and why they need them: (1) the construction of new ADA accessible restrooms at the Owens Multi-purpose Center, and (2) the construction of a wheelchair-accessible ramp and doorway at the main library. Regarding the Owens Multi-purpose Center, the building was undergoing an interior remodel that included the remodel of existing restroom spaces to become wheelchair accessible but ran into a cost overrun when they encountered a structural column hidden within a concrete block wall. This column blocked the planned accessible entrance and had to be relocated; work which was not anticipated and therefore not budgeted. The contractor estimated this additional work to cost \$3,925.85 over and above the

original project cost. These additional requested funds were transferred after our previous vote by phone and the project was completed.

In the case of the library project, they had a new employee who was disabled and, because he is confined to a wheelchair and the pavement on the north side of the building was in poor condition, he had a very difficult time getting from his parking space in the employee parking area to the employee entrance on that side of the building. With the assistance of the Streets Division we proposed a project that would include the construction of a new accessible path across the parking lot and alley to a new wheelchair ramp, accessible automatic door and control pylon. The alarm control panel inside the library was also lowered to accommodate his limited reach range. This work was completed on March 22nd for a total cost of \$6,657.85.

Jones stated that the funds were allocated to the project because of a vote that was taken over the phone with each of the board members prior to proceeding with the work. A formal vote on the expenditure needs to take place today to finalize the expenditure. Jones asked the group if there were any questions prior to the vote and Polk asked if any improvements were necessary to the parking lot where the employee travels to the new accessible entrance. Jones stated that new pavement was poured, and a new section of driveway and curbing was needed because of poor drainage conditions in that area. Jones stated the new work was completed in a very good way and has resulted in fully accessible path from the employee's parking space into the building as should be provided.

Love stated that she was glad the work was accomplished and an accessible path now exists for disabled employees there.

Motion by Love, **Second** by Polk, to approve the expenditure of \$10,583.70 in ADA Compliance Improvement Funds for accessibility improvements at the Owens Multi-purpose Center and Main Library and accept the work accomplished. **Aye:** Polk, Love, Young and Jones. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

Jones announced to the group the recent news of our new board member, Dana Young, and asked Young to introduce herself to the group and talk about what brings her to the board and what she would like to accomplish as a member of the Lawton Access Board.

Young thanked the group for having her and said that she grew up in Lawton and looks forward to improving overall accessibility in town. She said that her father is disabled and she is visually impaired so she understands the importance of improving accessibility for Lawton's citizens. Young said that being visually impaired has caused her to greatly appreciate the availability of accessible sidewalks and wheelchair ramps where they are provided.

Jones asked the group at this point to consider making the Downtown Sidewalk Project the group's next highest priority for funding with ADA Compliance Improvement Funds. Since that time, and as a result of taking part in a mobility training session with Dana Young, Jones asked the group to consider the funding of improvements to accessible pedestrian signals at

existing street intersections around town. Jones agreed to present to the group the figures pertaining to equipment improvements and upgrades at existing pedestrian signal crossings.

2. Comments/Discussion

3. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 3:27 p.m.