City of Lawton

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

City Council
Minutes

Tuesday, January 23rd, 2024 **2:00 PM** **Lawton City Hall Council Chambers/Auditorium**

Mayor Booker called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Notice of meeting and agenda were posted on the City Hall notice board as required by law. Invocation was given by Ticey Moreland, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT:	Mary Ann Hankins, Ward One
	Kelly Harris, Ward Two
	Linda Chapman, Ward Three
	Bob Weger, Ward Six
	Sherene Williams, Ward Seven
	Randy Warren, Ward Eight
ABSENT:	George Gill, Ward Four
	Alan Hampton, Ward Five
ALSO PRESENT:	Stanley Booker, Mayor
	John Ratliff, City Manager
	Timothy Wilson, Interim City Attorney
	Donalynn Blazek-Scherler, City Clerk

PRESENTATION: Employee Spotlight Award presented by City Manager John Ratliff: Earnest Morman, Public Works

REPORTS: MAYOR/CITY COUNCIL:

Mayor Booker went into detail about how we are still in blood emergency with less than two day supply across Oklahoma.

Weger expressed his gratitude for the guidance of our True North Compass and emphasized his growing appreciation for transparency. Recently, he had received concerns from his constituents regarding some changes happening at the lake. As their councilman, he took the initiative to reach out to the city for clarification. He then thanked Ratliff and his team for their prompt responses and thorough answers to his questions, which ultimately led to his constituents being very satisfied with the outcome.

Chapman reminded citizens that Meadowbrook Heinz Neighborhood Watch meeting will be this Monday and Mayor Booker is the speaker at 7 PM at St. Paul's United Methodist Church on 38th St.

Harris wanted to echo Weger's sentiments, sharing his own experience of making several calls to the City, where the staff responded swiftly and provided him with the answers he needed. He also took the opportunity to highlight Mr. Poudrier, noting that his concert at the McMahon Auditorium on Saturday was a tremendous success. Harris congratulated Poudrier on his outstanding performance. He concluded by emphasizing that exciting things are happening throughout the city and assured residents that the council is working diligently on their behalf.

Hankins gave a heartfelt shout-out to the Water Department, recounting a recent issue at her church on D Avenue. The church had been without water, and while the city had initially believed the problem was resolved after fixing the main waterline in front, it turned out the issue was actually with the line from the sidewalk in front of the church. She acknowledged how the Water Department went above and beyond their duties to secure the necessary help and get the problem fixed.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Gary B. Arnold, 2314 NW 76th Street, stated that he wanted to address a concern he recently became aware of, which could potentially be an issue affecting the youth in our community who could benefit from the services provided by SCORE. He shared that he had spoken with Blake Thompson, the director of SCORE, about a situation in Lawton Public Schools where students are being denied approval to enter the program. Reflecting on his own challenges during his youth, he expressed a deep understanding of the need for alternative learning opportunities. He emphasized that such programs offer significant benefits to the community and asked the Council to consider looking into this issue further.

Jos Haliz, 4205 Park Avenue, He expressed concern about the current state of our air quality monitoring system, noting that we only have one air quality sensor unit tower. He emphasized the need for additional towers, pointing out that with the growing population and the increase in factories coming into the area, the potential risks to public health are significant. He stressed that expanding the monitoring system is crucial to better safeguard the community's well-being.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Mayor Booker stated that items #15 and #28 will be considered separately.

Motion by **WARREN**, second by **WILLIAMS**, to approve the consent agenda with the exception of items #15 and #28. AYE: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Weger, Williams, Warren. NAY: None. MOTION PASSED.

1. Consider adopting a resolution authorizing the City Attorney to settle the two (2) pending tort claims from the Lawton Family YMCA, said settlement to be in the total amount of $100,000.00, and authorizing the City Attorney to prepare and file said resolution and all appropriate settlement documents for the Court's approval.

2. Consider adopting a resolution approving the joint petition settlement in the amount of $10,368.00 and making payment in the workers' compensation claim of Austin Solenberg.

3. Consider approving a resolution amending Appendix A, Chapter A-1, Articles A-1-2A, Schedule of Fees and Charges, Lawton City Code, 2015, revising the current fee schedule pertaining to the Lawton Police Records Division by adjusting certain fees to be reflective of Oklahoma State Statute.

4. Consider approving modification to the agreement between the City of Lawton (City) and the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) Project Number TAP3-2988(004) TP, State Job Number 32988(04)(05), City of Lawton Project Number EN1604, Pedestrian Bridge on East Gore Blvd over I-44.

5. Consider and take action approving Amendment No. 3 to the Master Services Agreement with Garver, LLC for Professional Engineering Services updating the City of Lawton's Stormwater Master Plan in the amount not to exceed $750,000.00.

6. Consider approving professional services contract in the amount of $24,256.00 with C.H. Guernsey & Company for the initial services schematic design report phase of the Project PR2302 Renovation of National Guard Armory.

7. Consider approving professional services contract in the amount of

$18,648.00 with C.H. Guernsey & Company for the initial services schematic design report phase of the Project PR2306 Carnegie Library Restoration and Repair.

8. Consider approving a resolution giving written consent for the annexation of certain property owned by the City of Lawton located at the Southeast Quarter (SE ¼) of Section Thirty (30), Township One (1) North, Range Eleven (11) West, I.M.; setting a public hearing for February 27, 2024 to consider the annexation and directing notice of the proposed annexation and public hearing to be published and mailed as required by 11 O.S. Section 21-103(B).

9. Consider approving a request to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs (OBNDD) and the City of Lawton authorizing the utilization of the Lawton Police Department's Training Facility to train their new officers in the Council of Law Enforcement and Training's Basic Academy (CLEET) which has been authorized by formal board action.

10. Consider approving a request to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Jackson County Sheriff's Office and the City of Lawton authorizing the utilization of the Lawton Police Department's Training Facility to train their new officers in the Council of Law Enforcement and Training's Basic Academy (CLEET) which has been authorized by formal board action.

11. Consider approving a request to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Walters Police Department and the City of Lawton authorizing the utilization of the Lawton Police Department's Training Facility to train their new officers in the Council of Law Enforcement and Training's Basic Academy (CLEET) which has been authorized by formal board action.

12. Consider approving a request to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Comanche County Sheriff's Department and the City of Lawton authorizing the utilization of the Lawton Police Department's Training Facility to train their new officers in the Council of Law Enforcement and Training's Basic Academy (CLEET) which has been authorized by formal board action.

13. Consider extending contract (CL23-008) Fluorosilicic Acid with Univar Solutions USA, Inc

14. Consider accepting temporary construction easements and permanent utility and access easements from ARCP MD Lawton OK LLC, The Merry Widow Trust, Lawton LTC Land, LLC, and Rob Properties, LLC, for the Cache Road water main and sidewalk project, authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the documents, and payments for the same.

15. Consider accepting a grant up to $80,000.00 to the Library from The Priddy

Foundation to be designated for operational support and authorizing the
Mayor to sign the contract and any reporting paperwork required.

Warren expressed his concerns about this contract they were going to enter into but there is no mention of the contract or what it involves.

Ratliff explained that it is a grant and beyond that he doesn't know a lot of the particulars. The library director isn't present to help explain. He told Warren that they could have her do a presentation at a later date or table it for the next meeting because he doesn't know the specifics of the grant.

Warren expressed that if it isn't time sensitive that he would like to table it until the next meeting.

<u>Motion by **WARREN**, second by **WILLIAMS**</u>, to table to next meeting.

Ratliff wanted to say this is a grant we've entered into before. There is a fair assumption that a lot of the terms and conditions would be the same, but in the past the agreement was entered into Friends of the Library not the Library itself.

Mayor Booker said he noticed that it says if you're agreeable you need to have somebody sign it before the 17th so we are already late. He asked if Warren could amend his motion to be conditional that there aren't any requirements on us.

Warren stated that we could do that. He said we could say as along as long as the contract terms are equal to or less than what the previous contract was with Friends of the Library.

Mayor Booker explained we had an amended motion with a second on the floor

<u>Motion by **WARREN**, second by **HARRIS**</u>, to approve the contract as long as the terms are equal to or less than what the previous contract was with the Friends of the Library. AYE: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Gill, Hampton, Weger, Williams, Warren. NAY: None. MOTION PASSED

16. Consider and take action awarding a contract in the amount of $9,223,500.00
to Associated Environmental Industries, Corp. for the construction of the
Groundwater Supply Well Installation 2023 Project PU2301.

17. Consider accepting a temporary construction easement and permanent utility
and access easement from 38th Street Properties, LLC. for the Cache Road
water main and sidewalk project located at 7019 NW Cache Road and
authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the documents.

18. Consider approving professional services contract in the amount of
$45,400.00 with GH2 Architects, LLC for the initial services schematic
design report phase of Project PR2310 East Side Park and Lee West Park
Improvements.

19. Consider approving professional services contract in the amount of
$32,700.00 with GH2 Architects, LLC for the initial services schematic
design report phase of Project PR2311 Mattie Beal Park Improvements.

20. Consider approving professional services contract in the amount of $28,800.00 with GH2 Architects, LLC for the initial services schematic design report phase of Project PR2312 Wading Pool Improvements.

21. Consider approving the Record Plat for Lawton Marketplace - Phase II.

22. Consider approving the First Amendment to the Lawton Lakes Recreation Area Lease Agreement to allow boathouse space tenants at Lake Lawtonka the option to declare their premise as a short-term rental, allowing for any floor amendments, and authorizing the City Manager and City Clerk to execute the amendment.

23. Consider approving a resolution establishing a fee for boathouse space tenants at Lake Lawtonka that declare their premise as a short-term rental and increasing the administrative fee for boathouse sales and/or transfers, allowing for any floor amendments, and authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the resolution.

24. Consider approving a Project Funding Agreement with All About Understanding, subject to All About Understanding also approving the agreement, and once the agreement is approved by both parties, allocate to All About Understanding an amount up to $74,861.00 from the PROPEL CIP in accordance with the intent of Resolution 23-75, Section C.5 to provide funding for youth programs, as recommended by the Youth and Family Affairs Committee.

25. Consider approving a Project Funding Agreement with Teen Court, subject to Teen Court also approving the agreement, and once the agreement is approved by both parties, allocate to Teen Court an amount up to $45,000.00 from the PROPEL CIP in accordance with the intent of Resolution 23-75, Section C.5 to provide funding for youth programs, as recommended by the Youth and Family Affairs Committee.

26. Consider approving a Project Funding Agreement with Lawton Public Schools, subject to Lawton Public Schools also approving the agreement, and once the agreement is approved by both parties, allocate to Lawton Public Schools an amount up to $150,000.00 from the PROPEL CIP in accordance with the intent of Resolution 23-75, Section C.5 to provide funding for youth programs, as recommended by the Youth and Family Affairs Committee.

27. Consider approving a Project Funding Agreement with Marie Detty Youth and Family Service Center Gang Program, subject to Marie Detty also approving the agreement, and once the agreement is approved by both parties, allocate to Marie Detty Youth and Family Service Center Gang Program an amount up to $100,000.00 from the PROPEL CIP in accordance with the intent of Resolution 23-75, Section C.5 to provide funding for youth programs, as recommended by the Youth and Family Affairs Committee.

28. Consider approving an amended budget and First Amendment to the Funding

and Limited Support Agreement between the City of Lawton and the Lawton Youth Sports Trust Authority for FY 23-24, to expand the use of funding allowing for the lease and/or purchase of real property to be the site of the sports complex.

Warren stated that while today's approval isn't the final step, it provides the necessary funding to secure a permanent location for the Youth Sports facility. He personally thanked Chairman Henry and the entire authority for their hard work in making this progress possible. He also highlighted the efforts of Eastern Sports Management, noting that since being contracted to oversee both Youth and Adult sports, they have proactively stepped in without being asked, recognizing the need and taking action. He pointed out that participation in youth sports has increased by 51%. Warren stressed the urgency of building the complex, explaining that they are currently relying on churches, schools, or any available space to accommodate basketball games. He emphasized that the need for the facility is clear and critical.

Henry agreed with Councilman Warren, stating that he had hit the nail on the head with his previous comments. He then reiterated some of the key points Warren had made, including the importance of the new sports programs. Henry highlighted that adding sports like futsal has helped engage kids during the winter months, providing them with more opportunities to stay active. He emphasized once again the critical need for the complex, elaborating on why it is so important to get it built to meet the growing demand and provide a proper space for the community's youth sports programs. He stated that the budget currently before them was approved last April or May. He explained that the support agreement included terminology related to the design of the facility. Over the past months, they have explored several options for the property, including potential lease spaces, which would have made the current language unnecessary. However, those options have not worked out, and they are now in the final stages of negotiating the purchase of real property. He clarified that this new location would not only accommodate the indoor sports complex but also provide room for expanding the outdoor facilities, which are becoming increasingly needed. He pointed out that the change in the sports agreement reflects the addition of the terms "lease and/or purchase," acknowledging that circumstances can change. He also noted that the McMahon Foundation has supported the project with a $3 million grant, $500,000 of which will be allocated in this fiscal year, benefiting both their organization and the city. Furthermore, up to $350,000 of the $500,000 will go toward the purchase and closing costs of the property. He concluded by offering to answer any questions the Mayor or Council might have.

Motion by **HARRIS**, second by **WARREN**, to approve an amended budget and First Amendment to the Funding and Limited Support Agreement between the City of Lawton and the Lawton Youth Sports Trust Authority for FY 23-24, to expand the use of funding allowing for the lease and/or purchase of real property to be the site of the sports complex. AYE: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Weger, Williams, Warren. NAY: None. MOTION PASSED.

29. Consider accepting $35,800.00 in State Aid funds from the Oklahoma Department of Libraries to be designated for library materials and authorizing the Mayor to sign the contract and claim form.

30. Consider approving appointments to boards and commissions.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

31. Consider approving an Ordinance amending Section 22-2-1-202, Article

22-2-1, Division 22-2, Chapter 22, Utilities, Lawton City Code, 2015; by clarifying the language that every building and structure meant for human occupancy for more than one hour during the normal course of business or an existing residential dwelling, shall be connected to the public water and shall have an active water account, providing for severability, establishing an effective date and allowing for floor amendments.

Brown stated she brought a version of the city code change back on December 12th and there were some questions about the language. She stated this is the revised version. Instead of it saying "meant for human habitation" it says "meant for human occupancy for more than one hour during the normal course of business or an existing residential dwelling." Those places will be required to be connected to water, if they are within 200 feet then they will be required to have an active water account if occupied.

Mayor Booker stated if he remembers right, Gill was the one concerned about that. He asked Brown if she has gone over that with him.

Brown stated that she had sent the document to him after drafting it but had not received a response, so she forwarded it to both him and Councilman Warren to see if they wanted to meet with the oversight committee regarding it.

Warren clarified that, as he understood it, the purpose of the document was to address his concern, specifically ensuring that a warehouse wouldn't be required to have running water.

Williams then asked whether the document also addressed the issue of squatters.

Brown confirmed that the document does address squatters, stating that if a house does not have active water, it is not considered habitable, meaning squatters cannot legally reside there.

Harris then asked whether this would empower the police to evict the squatters and press charges, or if it would only allow them to remove the individuals from the property.

Brown responded that the document would allow the police to remove the squatters from the facility, but she believed that pressing charges would need to come from the property owner.

Harris restated the language regarding "meant for human occupancy," expressing that the term doesn't quite fit his own experience. He explained that when he's at his warehouse, he often spends 3 to 4 hours working on various tasks, and he does have an active water account. However, for others who store their RVs or work on their projects for just an hour or so, he doesn't feel that this qualifies as "occupancy." He mentioned that the word "occupancy" feels unclear to him, and he wasn't sure if there might be a better term to use.

Harris motioned to approve the ordinance with the change from one hour to three hours.

Motion by **HARRIS**, second by **WILLIAMS**, to approve an Ordinance amending Section 22-2-1-202, Article 22-2-1, Division 22-2, Chapter 22, Utilities, Lawton City Code, 2015; by clarifying the language that every building and structure meant for human occupancy for more than three hours during the normal course of business or an existing residential dwelling, shall be connected to the public water and shall have an active water account, providing for severability, establishing an effective date and allowing for floor amendments. AYE: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Weger, Williams, Warren. NAY: None.

MOTION PASSED.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

32. Receive a report from Traffic Engineering Consultants (TEC) regarding funding needs for a comprehensive upgrade of the city's traffic signal control system. **STRICKEN**

33. Hold a public hearing and consider approving an Ordinance that amends Section 21-1-107, Article 21-1, and Section 21-8-804, Article 21-8 of Chapter 21, Lawton City Code, 2015, by modifying the definition of knuckle and modifying figure 4.1, providing for severability, establishing an effective date and allowing floor amendments.

Kameron Good, Senior Planner, explained that this item is being brought before the Council due to a developer who wanted to proceed with Phase 2 of their subdivision. When submitting the plat for this phase, the Public Utilities Department discovered that Figure 4.1, which outlines the knuckle dimensions, didn't comply. He clarified that a knuckle refers to a cul-de-sac with two openings between 80 and 120 degrees. The modification proposed is to adjust the radius from the centerline where the two streets meet. Currently, the code requires a 54-foot radius from the property line and a 42-foot radius from the centerline of the street curb. The proposal is to reduce these measurements to 50 feet and 40 feet, respectively.
Good emphasized that this adjustment aligns with the city's "True North" culture statement, which prioritizes openness and business-friendly practices. The proposed change was reviewed by the Public Utilities Department, Public Works, and the Fire Marshals, all of whom have confirmed their approval. This adjustment will allow the developer to proceed as planned.
He also noted that, upon receiving the review comments, the developer pointed out that Phase 1 of the subdivision was developed using these same dimensions. As a result, the city revisited the code to understand why the original submission had been different. The discrepancy was found to be due to the Fire Marshal's requirements for truck turn raises.. Good confirmed that the Fire Marshals are comfortable with the proposed reduction in radius, as all fire trucks can still operate effectively with these dimensions. Furthermore, other subdivisions in the city have already been developed with the same measurements. This change is specifically to modify Figure 4.1 and adjust the definition to allow for the offset of the centerline.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED. No one appeared to speak and the public hearing was closed.

<u>Motion by **HARRIS**, second by **CHAPMAN**</u>, to approve approving an Ordinance that amends Section 21-1-107, Article 21-1, and Section 21-8-804, Article 21-8 of Chapter 21, Lawton City Code, 2015, by modifying the definition of knuckle and modifying figure 4.1, providing for severability, establishing an effective date and allowing floor amendments.
AYE: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Weger, Williams, Warren. NAY: None. MOTION PASSED.

34. Hold a public hearing and adopt a resolution declaring the structures located at 204 SW Park Avenue, 1007 SW Monroe Avenue, 1107 SW New York Avenue, 1308 NW Lincoln Avenue, 1401 SW 8th Street, 1410 SW 20th

Street, 1722 SW Washington Avenue, 1738 SW 12th Street, 2011 SW McKinley Avenue, 2601 NW 19th Street, 2809 SW J Avenue, to be dilapidated pursuant to Section 6-5-1 Lawton City Code, ordering the owner to abate the nuisance, authorizing summary abatement, and authorizing the City Attorney to commence legal action in District Court to abate the nuisance.

204 SW Park Avenue

Joshua White, Neighborhood Services Supervisor, presented information on the property. He stated it has had inactive utilities since 2017, there's a hole in the roof above the porch, side damage, several holes, siding damage. He stated as of today no permits have been pulled on this property.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED. No one appeared to speak and the public hearing was closed.

Motion by **HARRIS**, second by **CHAPMAN**, to approve a Resolution declaring the structure/s on the property dilapidated public nuisance and authorize the abatement thereof as set forth in the resolution. AYE: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Weger, Williams, Warren. NAY: None. MOTION PASSED.

1007 SW Monroe Avenue

White reported utilities inactive since 2019, with a fire date of 07-31-2023.White presented photos of the property that shows extensive damage. As of today no permits have been pulled.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED. No one appeared to speak and the public hearing was closed.

Motion by **HARRIS**, second by **CHAPMAN**, to approve a Resolution declaring the structure/s on the property dilapidated public nuisance and authorize the abatement thereof as set forth in the resolution. AYE: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Weger, Williams, Warren. NAY: None. MOTION PASSED.

1107 SW New York Avenue

White reported utilities inactive since 2021, with a fire date of 05-31-2023. White presented photos of the property that shows the extensive damage with holes the in roof. As of today no permit has been pulled.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED.

Dr. Cornell Wardy, Vice Chairman of Comanche Nation, asked if the home was tribal.

White stated he doesn't remember seeing that it was tribal and he would have to look into that.

Mayor Booker stated that normally it's property of a sovereign nation, we give them a heads up, out of curtesy.

Wardy said okay and thank you.

Mayor Booker said that doesn't mean they couldn't miss it and that it certainly wasn't intentional if they did. He said the tribes normally move on these faster and this one has been there for a while.

Wardy stated there are number of tribes here besides Comanche and that he was curious. He then thanked them and exited the stand.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED.

Motion by **WILLIAMS**, second by **WARREN**, to approve a Resolution declaring the structure/s on the property dilapidated public nuisance and authorize the abatement thereof as set forth in the resolution.
AYE: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Weger, Williams, Warren. NAY: None. MOTION PASSED.

1308 NW Lincoln Avenue

White reported no active utilities since 2022, with a fire date of 10/27/2023.As of today no permits have been pulled on this property. He presented photos of the property that shows fire damage, with roof damage, and severe inside damage.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED. No one appeared to speak and the public hearing was closed.

Motion by **HARRIS**, second by **CHAPMAN**, to approve a Resolution declaring the structure/s on the property dilapidated public nuisance and authorize the abatement thereof as set forth in the resolution.
AYE: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Weger, Williams, Warren. NAY: None. MOTION PASSED.

1401 SW 8th Street

White reported that there was no account found on this property. He presented photos that showed skirt damage, siding damage, trim damage and the second structure with the same damage. As of today no permits have been pulled for this property(s).

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED. No one appeared to speak and the public hearing was closed.

Motion by **WILLIAMS**, second by **CHAPMAN**, to approve a Resolution declaring the structure/s on the property dilapidated public nuisance and authorize the abatement thereof as set forth in the resolution.
AYE: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Weger, Williams, Warren. NAY: None. MOTION PASSED.

1410 SW 20th Street

White reported that the utilities have been inactive since 2018 with a fire date of 06/30/2021. He presented photos that showed severe fire damage on the front of the house, the roof and inside. As of today no permits have been pulled for this property.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED.

Leann Anderly, 316 NW 32nd St, she asked why we can't move faster on the homes that have had fires? She stated they are all over town. She asked who pays for the demolition?

Mayor Booker stated that in 2019 in January or February that citizens voted for $3.75 million to be put in a fund to clean the city up of D&D properties. He stated we are going to work on getting to them faster. The biggest challenge is, is getting contractors to do them.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED.

Motion by **WILLIAMS**, second by **WARREN**, to approve a Resolution declaring the structure/s on the property dilapidated public nuisance and authorize the abatement thereof as set forth in the resolution.
AYE: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Weger, Williams, Warren. NAY: None. MOTION PASSED.

1722 SW Washington Avenue

White reported no utilities active since 2014. He presented photos of roof damage, carport damage and siding damage. As of today no permits have been pulled.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED. No one appeared to speak and the public hearing was closed.

Motion by **WILLIAMS**, second by **WARREN**, to approve a Resolution declaring the structure/s on the property dilapidated public nuisance and authorize the abatement thereof as set forth in the resolution.
AYE: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Weger, Williams, Warren. NAY: None. MOTION PASSED.

1738 SW 12th Street

White reported no utilities active since 2022 with fire date of 08/12/2023. He presented photos of sever fire damage with portions of the roof missing and siding damage. As of today no permits have been pulled on this property.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED. No one appeared to speak and the public hearing was closed.

Motion by **WILLIAMS**, second by **CHAPMAN**, to approve a Resolution declaring the structure/s on the property dilapidated public nuisance and authorize the abatement thereof as set forth in the resolution.
AYE: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Weger, Williams, Warren. NAY: None. MOTION PASSED.

2011 SW McKinley Avenue

White reported no utilities active since 2023 with fire date 04/26/2023. As of today no permits have been pulled on this property. He presented photos with siding damage and fire damage.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED. No one appeared to speak and the public hearing was closed.

Motion by **WILLIAMS**, second by **WARREN**, to approve a Resolution declaring the structure/s on the property dilapidated public nuisance and authorize the abatement thereof as set forth in the resolution.
AYE: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Weger, Williams, Warren. NAY: None. MOTION PASSED.

2601 NW 19th Street

White reported that no active utilities since 2022. He presented photos with boarded windows, pillar damage, siding damage. As of today no permits have been pulled.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED. No one appeared to speak and the public hearing was closed.

Motion by **HARRIS**, second by **CHAPMAN**, to approve a Resolution declaring the structure/s on the property dilapidated public nuisance and authorize the abatement thereof as set forth in the resolution. AYE: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Weger, Williams, Warren. NAY: None. MOTION PASSED.

2809 SW J Avenue

White reported he couldn't find a water account for this residence. He presented photos of the roof being caved in, with trim damage, holes in the siding. As of today no permits have been pulled on this property.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED.

Brandon Hardagree, 2011 SW J Avenue & 2815 SW J Avenue, He stated that since these pictures were taken he's had a lot of work and assessment done. He passed out pictures to show the progress.

Harris asked if he has got a permit yet.

Hardagree stated he will start that soon.

Mayor Booker explained that if the council proceeds with the D&D list that he has 6 weeks to pull a permit. He stated it would be a

Hardagree asked what permit does he want.

Mayor Booker said a remodel permit.

Hardagree stated he didn't see a roof permit and that's what he is currently working on.

Mayor Booker brought up the property have no account for water.

Hardagree stated he believes in 2021

Mayor Booker asked again about the no water account to White

White stated he couldn't find an account for it.

Hardagree stated he wanted to save it.

Harris asked how long he's owned it

Hardagree stated since he was 25 and he's now 39
Harris asked how long has it been inhabitable

Hardagree stated he got sick about 2 ½ years ago and that's when he moved out because of his sickness

Kasa Whitley, 7902 NW Echo, she asked how they have the properties on the list and why it seem like we are fast tracking permits for them but not people who are actually putting money into it.

Mayor Booker said he didn't understand the question. He told her we take complaints from the public as well as drive around ourselves and compile a list as many per month as we can. He then stgated he didn't understand her comment about fast tracking.

Whitley said it seems like all of the properties so far has been pushed through but when he was having actual concerns, we are still pushing to put it on the list and giving him 6 weeks.

Mayor Booker stated he's pretty sure we haven't had people come and ask more questions, they would have gotten more time.

Whitley said that's not what she's asking. She said why is it he's only given 6 weeks and that we are still pushing it to be on the list.

Mayor Booker stated the rules apply to everybody, evenly. There's no favoritism.

Whitley explained it's not about favoritism, it's about the fact we are taking his property and putting it on a list that is going to give it to the city.

Mayor Booker said no, the city doesn't end up with it. The City isn't taking ownership of anybody's property. We are protecting the public health and safety.

Whitley said she was confused about the D&D list.

Mayor Booker said we need to get her with an attorney to explain to her what it is.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED.

Motion by **HARRIS**, second by **WILLIAMS**, to table to the second meeting in March. AYE: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Weger, Williams, Warren. NAY: None. MOTION PASSED.

35. Consider approving a resolution amending the City of Lawton FY 23-24 budget, as amended, by appropriating One Million and 00/100 Dollars ($1,000,000.00) from Hotel Tax fund to FISTA for an economic development incentive to R4 Technologies, and One Million One Hundred Three Thousand One Hundred Twenty-Eight and 73/100 Dollars ($1,103,128.73) for FISTA operations and insurance, One Million Five Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand and Three Hundred Fifty 00/100 Dollars ($1,525,350.00) to the Parks CIP Project for the purpose of Parks improvements as approved during the November 14, 2023 City Council

Meeting, One Million 00/100 Dollars (1,000,000.00) to pay industrial development incentive from the Economic Development Project of the CIP Fund, and Two Hundred Thirty-Five Thousand Five Hundred One and 00/100 Dollars ($235,501.00) for youth programs recommended by the Youth and Family Affairs Committee.

Dunham explained that these are projects either previously approved by the City Council or at least discussed in earlier meetings, describing the budget amendment as a routine matter.

Mayor Booker inquired about the rationale for listing one million dollars twice in the amendment. Dunham clarified that the second million dollars is allocated contingent upon a future vote by the Council.

In response, Mayor Booker indicated that he understood the source of the funding.

Willaims asked if this was money already in the budget.

Dunham explained that it wasn't, they are allocating this money to the budget so that it can be paid.

Williams then questioned "so, it's not money coming from the tax payers here?"

Dunham clarified and said no.

Motion by **WARREN**, second by **CHAPMAN**, to approve a resolution amending the City of Lawton FY 23-24 budget, as amended, by appropriating One Million and 00/100 Dollars ($1,000,000.00) from Hotel Tax fund to FISTA for an economic development incentive to R4 Technologies, and One Million One Hundred Three Thousand One Hundred Twenty-Eight and 73/100 Dollars ($1,103,128.73) for FISTA operations and insurance, One Million Five Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand and Three Hundred Fifty 00/100 Dollars ($1,525,350.00) to the Parks CIP Project for the purpose of Parks improvements as approved during the November 14, 2023 City Council Meeting, One Million 00/100 Dollars (1,000,000.00) to pay industrial development incentive from the Economic Development Project of the CIP Fund, and Two Hundred Thirty-Five Thousand Five Hundred One and 00/100 Dollars ($235,501.00) for youth programs recommended by the Youth and Family Affairs Committee.
AYE: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Weger, Williams, Warren. NAY: None. MOTION PASSED.

36. Receive a report from the Animal Welfare Division regarding departmental operations and take action as deemed necessary.

Roy Roderick gave a report on behalf of the Animal Welfare Division. (Presentation is available upon request in the City Clerk's Office)

Harris asked what is a rescue pull.

Roderick stated it's like the humane society, they are no kill. They have fosters that take care of the animals, they will come to the shelter and will pull an animal from Lawton Animal Welfare or any other shelter and it goes to this rescue, Southwest Oklahoma Animal Network. He state there are rescues for every bread.

Harris asked if they find good homes for them.

Roderick stated they keep them until they find them a home, then they can come back and get some more from us.

Harris asked if there is a level for the fee that we charge for drop-offs, that if we stop two blocks south and drop the dog off.

Roderick said that is a possibility.

Harris asked what he was wanting to raise the fee to.

Roderick explained that in order to make the situation more manageable for the city, he would need to review the financial details carefully. He mentioned that even a $100 fee wouldn't be sufficient to cover the costs associated with adopting out an animal. He went on to clarify that the approach to each animal depends on its adoptability. If the animal is adoptable, efforts will be made to find it a home; however, if the animal is not deemed adoptable, it will not be put up for adoption and may unfortunately be euthanized.

Ratliff explained to Harris that Roy discovered through his research that many communities use a surrender fee as a deterrent for owners considering giving up their animals. He pointed out that a $24 fee is not substantial enough to discourage this behavior. Ratliff also noted that having a relinquishment list is a sensible approach, as it allows for some time before taking in an animal. When it comes to owner surrenders, individuals are given a bit of time, and the animal is not taken immediately. Roy found that in Norman, people are placed on a relinquishment list, and when space becomes available, they are often contacted. By that time, the owners have already made other arrangements for the animal, such as finding it a new home. Given the overcrowding situation, Ratliff believes this approach makes a lot of sense for their community.

Harris asked Roderick if he was confident that he had a solid plan moving forward.

Roderick responded that he was confident.

Harris then inquired if Roderick would provide a report on the fee once he had worked out the details.

Roderick said he would do that.

Mayor Booker asked what the City License letters are.

Roderick explained that license is good for the length of the rabies vaccination. The letter is to notify people that their licenses is expired.

Mayor Booker then asked how the license requirement compared to our peer cities.

Roderick stated that Norman, OKC, Edmond and Moore doesn't have one. He said there are a lot that don't.

Mayor Booker asked "none of them have license requirement?" Then he asked Roderick to go back a few slides. He said he doesn't know if he agrees about the assessment with Moore. He said he wasn't sure if we are trying to solve the right problem. He asked Roderick what is the problem he is trying to solve?

Roderick stated why are we getting so many more than everybody else.

Mayor Booker asked if he thinks these things are going to change that.

Roderick stated he thinks this could be the first step in the right direction.
Mayor Booker expressed his willingness to give the plan a try and thanked Roderick for thoroughly reviewing it. However, he voiced concerns about the large numbers associated with Lawton, feeling that something might be off. He asked whether the city had compared its ordinances with those of other cities.
Ratliff responded that a model comparison had indeed been done. He explained that the Oklahoma Municipal League (OML) had provided a model animal code, and the city had amended its entire chapter to align with the code sent out by OML.

Mayor Booker asked how Lawton's intake numbers compare to those of cities with significantly fewer intakes. He also inquired whether those cities use the model code.

Ratliff replied that they were unsure about the specifics for each city. However, they found that their peer cities have different intake standards. For example, Norman does not accept any more animals once their shelter is full, and any additional animals they take in are euthanized. Ratliff expressed his support for Roderick's initiative, which involves proposing changes to the city's ordinances to amend intake procedures. He believes that addressing these procedures is key to resolving the overcrowding issue they are facing.

Mayor Booker acknowledged that there may not be a simple solution, though he agreed that the proposed changes could make a difference. He questioned whether it would be the most significant factor in addressing the issue. He also asked what would happen if someone comes in with an animal and the shelter is full—would the city refuse to take the dog?

Roderick explained that in such cases, the person would be placed on a list, and once space becomes available, they would be contacted to bring the dog in.

Mayor Booker said that probably prevents what Harris had mentioned earlier, to them going to the drop them off two blocks down. He did state that he's willing to try anything. He asked when he was coming back with a report.

Roderick stated that he would try to be back by the next meeting.

Ratliff explained that we could bring back an ordinance at the next meeting. However, before they can report it's going to be 30 days before it's effective. Therefore a few months before they have any data.

Mayor Booker said so 120 days, it would give 90 days of tracking. He then told Donalynn, City Clerk, to put it on the agenda for 120 days from the next meeting.

Warren stated that the core issue is the large number of animals that lack loving homes. He pointed out that many people have fences that are broken or gates that don't close properly, contributing to the problem. He emphasized that the solution is multifaceted, and no single approach will resolve it. However, if the city addresses multiple factors simultaneously—such as improving fencing and involving neighborhood services to handle these issues—it could make a significant impact. He suggested that pet owners should be responsible for maintaining their fences. Warren believes the focus shouldn't be concentrated in just one area; instead, the city should consider tackling three or four key issues at once to make more substantial progress.

Ratliff agreed that the issue is multifaceted, but he emphasized that, after extensive review, the intake process is the most critical aspect to address at this time. He believes that focusing on improving intake procedures is key to making the biggest impact in addressing the current challenges.

Mayor Booker also supported Warren's suggestion about improving fences, noting that it's not just about keeping dogs in, but also about enhancing the overall appearance of the city. He emphasized that well-maintained fences contribute to a cleaner, more attractive environment for everyone.

Motion by **WARREN**, second by **WILLIAMS**, to move forward with staff's recommendation
AYE: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Weger, Williams, Warren. NAY: None. MOTION PASSED.

37. Consider approving an ordinance, including any floor amendments, pertaining to General Provisions, amending Section 1-1-120, Article 1-1, Chapter 1, Lawton City Code, 2015 by retitling the section to include City logos and establishing that City of Lawton trademarked images require approval for external use, providing for severability and establishing an effective date.

Caitlin Gatlin, Communication & Marketing Manager, provided an in-depth explanation about the City of Lawton's logos and the process for obtaining approval to use trademarked images externally.

Warren asked if the city seal was included in this policy.

Ratliff responded that they had attempted to include it, but since the municipal seal falls under a specific class of exemption, it is not subject to trademark restrictions.

Warren expressed his appreciation.

Council went into further discussion regarding this topic.

Motion by **WARREN**, second by **HANKINS**, to approve an ordinance, including any floor amendments, pertaining to General Provisions, amending Section 1-1-120, Article 1-1, Chapter 1, Lawton City Code, 2015 by retitling the section to include City logos and establishing that City of Lawton trademarked images require approval for external use, providing for severability and establishing an effective date. AYE: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Weger, Williams, Warren. NAY: None. MOTION PASSED.

38. Per the recommendation of the Streets and Bridges Committee, consider amending the "On Target, On Time" milling and overlaying project on

Highway 62 to go from NW 79th Street to the ODOT Maintenance
Transition spot.

Chris Serrano, Brent Frank, and Sneha Dongre reported on this agenda item.

Motion by **HARRIS**, second by **WEGER**, to approve amending the "On Target, On Time" milling and overlaying project on Highway 62 to go from NW 79th Street to the ODOT Maintenance Transition spot. AYE: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Weger, Williams, Warren. NAY: None. MOTION PASSED.

39. Per the recommendation of the Streets and Bridges Committee, consider directing staff to initiate the bidding process for King Road and items 11 through 40 on the "On Target, On Time" street project list.

Chris Serrano, Brent Frank, and Sneha Dongre reported on this agenda item.

Mayor Booker inquired if the city was still waiting on King Road.

Ratliff confirmed that they were.

Mayor Booker then asked about 25th Street.

Ratliff explained that 25th Street was discussed at the Streets and Bridges Committee meeting last week, where the committee voted unanimously (3-0) to add it to the list.

Mayor Booker raised the issue that 25th Street was not on the current agenda and asked how they should proceed. He questioned whether it would qualify under the official disclaimer on the first page of the agenda.

Ratliff stated that she believed 25th Street did qualify under the disclaimer.

Mayor Booker asked if that meant it just needed to be added to the list.

Ratliff confirmed that it did.

The Mayor and City Council then engaged in further discussion on the matter.

Motion by **HARRIS**, second by **HANKINS**, to solicited bids for the final 30 projects for the "On Target, On Time" plan to improve the cities infrastructure bringing the total wins for the citizens 40. AYE: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Weger, Williams, Warren. NAY: None. MOTION PASSED.

STAFF REPORTS:

40. Provide City Council with an update on the FY 2022 & FY 2023 Audit Process

Joe Don Dunham, Finance Director, updated the council on the status of the FY 2022 & FY 2023 Audit.

Target dates for FY 22 is March 31st, FY 23 June 30th and FY 24 December 31st.

41. Receive a report from Neighborhood Services, Parks and Recreation, and Public Works, regarding mowing improvements and direct staff as deemed appropriate.

Larry Parks, Parks and Recreation Director, gave a report regarding mowing improvements along with Joshua White, Neighborhood Services Supervisor, Cynthia Williams, Deputy Director of Public Works and Jose Ramirez, Drainage Maintenance Superintendent.

The Mayor and City Council then engaged in further discussion on the matter.

NO ACTION

42. Receive a presentation from ITS regarding the Interactive Citizen Capital Improvement Project Portal.

Judy Franco, IT Director; Mary Elizabeth and Bryce gave a presentation regarding the Interactive Citizen Capital Improvement Project Portal.

The Mayor and City Council then engaged in further discussion on the matter.

NO ACTION

43. Receive an update from staff on aquatics program.

Mitchell Dooley, Parks and Recreation Deputy Director, gave an update on the aquatic program.

The Mayor and City Council then engaged in further discussion on the matter.

NO ACTION

The Mayor and Council convened in executive session at 4:50 p.m. and reconvened in regular, open session at 5:20 p.m. Roll call reflected Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Weger, Williams, and Warren.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS:

44. Pursuant to Section 307B.4, Title 25, Oklahoma Statutes, consider convening in executive session to discuss a pending claim/action for breach of contract by the City of Lawton against Alfred Espinoza d/b/a/ A.E. Construction Co. ("AEC") as it relates to a settlement agreement dated June 17th, 2019, and if necessary, take appropriate action in open session.

Wilson read the title of item #44. No action was taken.

45. Pursuant to Section 307B.4, Title 25, Oklahoma Statutes, consider convening in executive session to discuss the pending damage claim of Jose Arciniega

and Dante Guzman and, if necessary, take appropriate action in open session.

Wilson read the title of item #45. No action was taken.

46. Pursuant to Section 307B.4, Title 25, Oklahoma Statutes, consider convening in executive session to discuss the pending damage claim of Jodyann Williams and, if necessary, take appropriate action in open session.

Wilson read the title of item #46. No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT 5:22 PM

Motion by **HARRIS**, second by **WARREN**, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING OF January 23rd, 2024.
AYE: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Weger, Williams, Warren. NAY: None. MOTION PASSED.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:22PM.