



City of Lawton

City Council

MINUTES

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

Tuesday, November 7, 2023

2:00 PM

**Lawton City Hall
Council Chambers/Auditorium**

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

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER WITH INVOCATION BY COMANCHE CHAIRMAN
WOOMMAVOVAH.**

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mary Ann Hankins, Ward 1
Kelly Harris, Ward 2
Linda Chapman, Ward 3
George Gill, Ward 4
Allan Hampton, Ward 5
Bob Weger, Ward 6
Onreka Johnson, Ward 7
Randy Warren, Ward 8

ABSENT: NONE.

ALSO PRESENT: Stanley Booker, Mayor
Dewayne Burk, Deputy City Manager
Donalynn Blazek-Scherler, City Clerk
Timothy Wilson, Interim City Attorney

PRESENTATION:

Comanche Youth Presentation

PROCLAMATION:

Native American Heritage Month

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Week

Extra Mile Heroes Day- Stephen Wall

REPORTS: MAYOR/CITY COUNCIL

Johnson introduced some of the members of the City of Lawton Youth Council.

Weger thanked veterans for their service to our country.

Hampton provided an update on the Farmer's Market. He also thanked the Rotary for hosting Live2Lead.

Harris thanked the veterans in his family.

Hankins encouraged citizens to get involved and be a part of their city.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: Anyone having an item of business to present to the City Council that does not appear on the agenda please come forward at this time.

No one appeared to speak.

CONSENT AGENDA:

The following items are considered to be routine by the City Council and will be enacted with one motion. Should discussion be desired on an item, that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda prior to action and considered separately.

1. Consider adopting a resolution approving the joint petition settlement in the amount of \$29,000.00 and making payment in the workers' compensation claim of David Simmons. **23-984**

Attachments: [Simmons, David, WC-Resolution](#)

2. Consider approving an Agreement between the Lawton Economic Development Corporation (LEDC) and the City of Lawton, subject to approval by the LEDC, to fund activities designed to encourage, promote and foster economic/industrial development in the City of Lawton, and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the Agreement. **23-921**

Attachments: [LEDC with Attachments](#)

3. Consider approving the record plat for Hunt Addition. **23-943**

Attachments: [Hunt Addition](#)
[Ordinance No. 23-15](#)
[CPC Minutes 10 12 2023](#)

ODEQ approval proof (Hunt Addition)-2023-1019

4. Consider approving the Professional Service Agreement for community health classes between the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, on behalf of the Oklahoma Healthy Aging Initiative, and The City of Lawton, which is funded with a previously City Council approved National Network of Libraries in Medicine (NNLM) Healthy Information Outreach grant for the Lawton Public Library and authorizing the Mayor to sign **23-956**
Attachments: [LPL Professional Service Agreement.docx](#)
5. Consider extending contract RFPCL22-008 Banking Services with Liberty National Bank. **23-965**
Attachments: [City of Lawton - Contract Extension 10.17.23 - Banking Services RFPCL22-008](#)
[Dept. Extension Memo 2024](#)
[Award Letter + Contract](#)
6. Consider extending contract RFPCL22-012 Rental or Lease Work Clothing to UniFirst Corp. of Wichita Falls, TX. **23-972**
Attachments: RFPCL22-012 Dept. Recommendation 2024
LAWTON CITY OF RENEWAL UNIFORMS
RFPCL22-012 Award Letter + Extension
7. Consider accepting the donation of smoke detectors and fire extinguishers to Lawton Fire Department from Home Depot. **23-975**
Attachments: [Donation Proposal](#)
8. Consider and take action in approving the plans, specifications and authorize advertisement for the Industrial Water Main Extension Phase 1 Project PU2306 to extend the water line in the industrial park area to make way for the development of the new refinery for Westwin Elements, Inc. **23-979**
9. Consider accepting approximately 1 linear mile of two (2) inch schedule 40 PVC waterline located in statutory ROW that runs from Bishop to south side of Coombs Road along west side of 38th street and consider waiving the maintenance bond. **23-986**
Attachments: [Easement Drawing](#)
10. Consider accepting a 15-foot wide by 325-foot long access easement for public access located on the NW corner of the property west of SW 38th Street and south of SW Coombs Road and consider a request for a water meter to be provided to Mr. Benke in exchange for the easement. **23-987**
Attachments: [PUBLIC ACCESS ROAD EASEMENT](#)
[Easement Drawing](#)
11. Consider approving appointments to boards and commissions. **23-996**

Attachments: [Board Appointments- 11.07.23](#)

Motion by WARREN, Seconded by GILL, to approve the consent agenda as presented. AYE: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Gill, Hampton, Weger, Johnson, Warren. NAY: None. *Motion Passed*

BUSINESS ITEMS:

- 12.** Hold a public hearing and adopt a resolution declaring the structures located **23-973**
at, 505 SW H Avenue, 507 SW H Avenue, 622 SW H Avenue, 626 SW H
Avenue, 709 SW Summit Avenue, 711 SW Summit Avenue, 909 SW H
Avenue, 922 SW 6th Street, 1006 SW 6th Street, 1008 SW 6th Street, 1205
SW Georgia Avenue, 1405 NW Lawton Avenue, 1416 NW Dearborn
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.

Attachments: [Exhibit A](#)
[Pictures](#)
[Resolutions](#)

505 SW H Avenue

Jonathan Jernigan, Neighborhood Services Supervisor, reported the numerous violations of city code existing on the property which are documented on the Property Maintenance Evaluation Sheet. Jernigan presented photographs of the property. Inactive utilities since 2019.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED.

No one appeared to speak.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED.

Motion by HAMPTON, Second by GILL, to approve a resolution declaring the property a dilapidated public nuisance and authorize the abatement thereof as set forth in the resolution. AYE: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Gill, Hampton, Weger, Johnson, Warren. *Motion Passed*.

507 SW H Avenue

Jonathan Jernigan, Neighborhood Services Supervisor, reported the numerous violations of city code existing on the property which are documented on the Property Maintenance Evaluation Sheet. Jernigan presented photographs of the property. Inactive utilities since 2018.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED.

No one appeared to speak.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED.

Motion by HAMPTON, Second by WEGER, to approve a resolution declaring the property a dilapidated public nuisance and authorize the abatement thereof as set forth in the resolution. AYE: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Gill, Hampton, Weger, Johnson, Warren. *Motion Passed*.

622 SW H Avenue

Jonathan Jernigan, Neighborhood Services Supervisor, reported the numerous violations of city code existing on the property which are documented on the Property Maintenance Evaluation Sheet. Jernigan presented photographs of the property. No utility information was found.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED.

No one appeared to speak.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED.

Motion by HAMPTON, Second by GILL, to approve a resolution declaring the property a dilapidated public nuisance and authorize the abatement thereof as set forth in the resolution. AYE: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Gill, Hampton, Weger, Johnson, Warren. *Motion Passed.*

626 SW H Avenue

Jonathan Jernigan, Neighborhood Services Supervisor, reported the numerous violations of city code existing on the property which are documented on the Property Maintenance Evaluation Sheet. Jernigan presented photographs of the property. No utility information was found.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED.

No one appeared to speak.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED

Motion by HAMPTON, Second by GILL, to approve a resolution declaring the property a dilapidated public nuisance and authorize the abatement thereof as set forth in the resolution. AYE: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Gill, Hampton, Weger, Johnson, Warren. *Motion Passed.*

709 SW Summit Avenue

Jonathan Jernigan, Neighborhood Services Supervisor, reported the numerous violations of city code existing on the property which are documented on the Property Maintenance Evaluation Sheet. Jernigan presented photographs of the property. Inactive utilities since 2019.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED.

No one appeared to speak.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED.

Motion by HAMPTON, Second by GILL, to approve a resolution declaring the property a dilapidated public nuisance and authorize the abatement thereof as set forth in the resolution. AYE: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Gill, Hampton, Weger, Johnson, Warren. *Motion Passed.*

711 SW Summit Avenue

Jonathan Jernigan, Neighborhood Services Supervisor, reported the numerous violations of city code existing on the property which are documented on the Property Maintenance Evaluation Sheet. Jernigan presented photographs of the property. Inactive utilities since 2022.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED.

No one appeared to speak.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED.

Motion by HAMPTON, Second by GILL, to approve a resolution declaring the property a dilapidated public nuisance and authorize the abatement thereof as set forth in the resolution. AYE: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Gill, Hampton, Weger, Johnson, Warren. *Motion Passed.*

909 SW H Avenue

Jonathan Jernigan, Neighborhood Services Supervisor, reported the numerous violations of city code existing on the property which are documented on the Property Maintenance Evaluation Sheet. Jernigan presented photographs of the property. Inactive utilities since 2010.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED.

No one appeared to speak.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED.

Motion by HAMPTON, Second by WEGER, to approve a resolution declaring the property a dilapidated public nuisance and authorize the abatement thereof as set forth in the resolution. AYE: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Gill, Hampton, Weger, Johnson, Warren. *Motion Passed.*

922 SW 6th Street

Jonathan Jernigan, Neighborhood Services Supervisor, reported the numerous violations of city code existing on the property which are documented on the Property Maintenance Evaluation Sheet. Jernigan presented photographs of the property. This is a secondary structure.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED.

No one appeared to speak.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED.

Motion by HAMPTON, Second by JOHNSON, to approve a resolution declaring the property a dilapidated public nuisance and authorize the abatement thereof as set forth in the resolution. AYE: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Gill, Hampton, Weger, Johnson, Warren. *Motion Passed.*

1006 SW 6th Street

Jonathan Jernigan, Neighborhood Services Supervisor, reported the numerous violations of city code existing on the property which are documented on the Property Maintenance Evaluation Sheet. Jernigan presented photographs of the property. Inactive utilities since 2017.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED.

Justine Rodriguez stated the owner received a letter, and he is asking for a chance to fix the property.

Mayor Booker explained that if the property is declared dilapidated, the owner will have six weeks to pull a remodel permit and show progress every thirty days.

Rodriguez stated the ownership was changed on the property, and the new owner is only seeking a chance to fix the property.

Jernigan stated the notice was previously sent to Edwin and Melina Fabian. On November 7th, a quick claim deed was done.

Wilson asked who owns the property now.

Jernigan stated as of November 7th, it is Riveria.

Wilson stated he assumes the new owner received notice of the hearing. He then asked Rodriguez if the owner, who is present, received a letter.

Rodriguez stated the owner went to the property to clean and saw it posted on the house.

Jernigan stated it was posted on the property on October 25, 2023.

Mayor Booker stated it was posted and made public prior to the property changing hands. He asked if the new owner knew about this.

Rodriguez stated yes but the notice was not sent to him as the owner. He had paperwork notarized today to change ownership.

Wilson stated it appears proper notice was given. He asked Charlotte Brown if policy had changed on when ownership changes.

Brown stated it has not changed. She is working on a policy on if someone has a closing date. The deed for this property was filed today.

Wilson stated the notice was proper and the owner is here.

Gill asked how long the owner had the paperwork before he got it signed.

Rodriguez stated he had already bought the property, but the owners never notified him of anything.

Motion by HAMPTON, Second by WEGER, to continue the public hearing for 1006 SW 6th Street to December 5, 2023.

Gill stated he advises that the owner pull a permit as soon as possible. It may affect the outcome when it comes back before Council.

VOTE ON MOTION: AYE: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Gill, Hampton, Weger, Johnson, Warren.

NAY: None. *Motion Passed.*

1008 SW 6th Street

Jonathan Jernigan, Neighborhood Services Supervisor, reported the numerous violations of city code existing on the property which are documented on the Property Maintenance Evaluation Sheet. Jernigan presented photographs of the property. No information was available regarding utilities.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED.

No one appeared to speak.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED.

Motion by HAMPTON, Second by GILL, to approve a resolution declaring the property a dilapidated public nuisance and authorize the abatement thereof as set forth in the resolution. AYE: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Gill, Hampton, Weger, Johnson, Warren. *Motion Passed.*

1205 SW Georgia Avenue

Jonathan Jernigan, Neighborhood Services Supervisor, reported the numerous violations of city code existing on the property which are documented on the Property Maintenance Evaluation Sheet. Jernigan presented photographs of the property. Inactive utilities since 2018.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED.

No one appeared to speak.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED.

Motion by JOHNSON, Second by HAMPTON, to approve a resolution declaring the property a dilapidated public nuisance and authorize the abatement thereof as set forth in the resolution. AYE: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Gill, Hampton, Weger, Johnson, Warren. *Motion Passed.*

1405 NW Lawton Avenue

Jonathan Jernigan, Neighborhood Services Supervisor, reported the numerous violations of city code existing on the property which are documented on the Property Maintenance Evaluation Sheet. Jernigan presented photographs of the property. Inactive utilities since 2022.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED.

No one appeared to speak.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED.

Motion by HARRIS, Second by HANKINS, to approve a resolution declaring the property a dilapidated public nuisance and authorize the abatement thereof as set forth in the resolution. AYE: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Gill, Hampton, Weger, Johnson, Warren. *Motion Passed.*

1416 NW Dearborn Avenue

Jonathan Jernigan, Neighborhood Services Supervisor, reported the numerous violations of city code existing on the property which are documented on the Property Maintenance Evaluation Sheet. Jernigan presented photographs of the property. Inactive utilities since 2014 and a fire date of 08/26/2023.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED.

No one appeared to speak.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED.

Motion by HAMPTON, Second by CHAPMAN, to approve a resolution declaring the property a dilapidated public nuisance and authorize the abatement thereof as set forth in the resolution. AYE: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Gill, Hampton, Weger, Johnson, Warren. *Motion Passed.*

- 13.** Receive a report from EST on the status of bids for the “10 Wins for the Citizens, On Target On Time” project and take action as deemed necessary. **23-1004**

Attachments: [Top 10 Priority List for 10 Wins for the Citizens](#)

Chris Serrano, EST, stated on October 10, 2023, City Council approved 10 streets for the 10 Wins for the Citizens, On Target On Time. Serrano reviewed the facts of the bidding process. The low bidder was Ellsworth Construction with a price 25% below the engineer’s estimate. Serrano recommended moving forward with Ellsworth Construction.

Gill stated four bids were received, which is a good turnout. All bids were under the engineer’s estimate, which is really good. EST is working to get all the necessary documents ready, so this will be presented at the next Council meeting with the construction starting immediately and the project being completed within ninety days.

Painter confirmed that all paperwork should be ready by November 14th.

Johnson thanked the council and staff who have worked on this very aggressive street project.

Motion by GILL, Second by CHAPMAN, to direct staff to have a contract with Ellsworth Construction back to Council on November 14th. AYE: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Gill, Hampton, Weger, Johnson, Warren. NAY: None. *Motion Passed.*

- 14.** Subject to FISTA approving an amended budget and the proposed amended support agreement, consider approving the First Amendment to the Limited Services Agreement between Fires Innovation Science & Technology Accelerator Development Trust Authority (FISTA) and City of Lawton for FY 23-24, including any floor amendments that may be made thereto, to incorporate (a) \$36,620.02 for repairs to Central Mall (aka Central Plaza) for storm damage, (b) \$257,250.00 for Property Insurance Premiums for Central Plaza, and (c) \$1 million financial incentive to support a collaboration agreement between r4 Technologies, Inc. and the FISTA Innovation Park wherein artificial intelligence (“AI”) will be utilized for workforce and supply chain development, and to drive economic growth. **23-1002**

Attachments: [13. First Amend FISTA Limited Support Agmt FY23-24 w redlines](#)
[14. First Amend FISTA Limited Support Agmt FY23-24 wo redlines](#)

[1. FISTA Job Creation Agreement F 28 September 2023.docx](#)
[2. FISTA Lease r4 FF 28 September 2023.Signed by r4](#)
[3. FISTA PRESENCE AGREEMENT F 28 September 2023.docx](#)
[FISTA Amended Budget](#)

Wilson reviewed the changes to the support agreement with FISTA.

Motion by GILL, Second by HAMPTON, to approve an amended budget and the proposed amended support agreement, consider approving the First Amendment to the Limited Services Agreement between Fires Innovation Science & Technology Accelerator Development Trust Authority (FISTA) and City of Lawton for FY 23-24 to incorporate (a) \$36,620.02 for repairs to Central Mall (aka Central Plaza) for storm damage, (b) \$257,250.00 for Property Insurance Premiums for Central Plaza, and (c) \$1 million financial incentive to support a collaboration agreement between r4 Technologies, Inc. and the FISTA Innovation Park wherein artificial intelligence (“AI”) will be utilized for workforce and supply chain development, and to drive economic growth. AYE: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Gill, Hampton, Weger, Johnson, Warren. NAY: None. *Motion Passed.*

15. Discuss neighborhood watch programs in the City of Lawton and take action as deemed necessary. 23-969

Mayor Booker stated he brought this item to Council because he feels the neighborhood watch programs are very beneficial to the City. He feels like there are things to augment the success of neighborhood watch programs. Some ideas include providing one mass mailing a year, putting signage out, and providing training.

Warren stated he may have one neighborhood watch in his ward in Almor West, but he isn’t sure. He would like to encourage them by helping them get setup. He has some ideas, such as mobile speed limit signs, but we need buy in from the neighborhoods.

Chapman stated the Meadowbrook-Heinz Neighborhood Watch has been very successful. It was started by the citizens and a church in the neighborhood was gracious to provide a place to meet. They have stickers, officers, block captains, and very active social meeting.

Mayor Booker asked if the Meadowbrook-Heinz Neighborhood Watch started before or after Chapman was elected and how was it started.

Chapman explained it happened immediately after she was elected. Citizens in her ward contacted her to find out how to start a neighborhood watch, and she connected them with the police department.

Hampton stated he has two neighborhood watch programs in his ward. The Cleveland Neighborhood Watch has been active for a long time. The Mattie Beal Neighborhood Watch is newer and was started by the citizens. They keep each other informed via a group text. They deal with thieves, dogs, trash, and dilapidated properties. He stated the police department is actively involved with the Cleveland

Neighborhood Watch, and a representative from the police department shows up at every meeting.

Johnson stated Ward 7 has the Ranch Oak Neighborhood Watch program that is very active. They receive assistance from the police department and neighborhood services. There is also another in the Lawton View area that is being revived. They would like assistance with a mass mailing and training.

Hankins stated she is one of the few wards that does not have an active neighborhood watch. She would be happy to help set one up, but she needs citizen involvement and asked that anyone interested in doing this contact her. Ward one is very fragmented so it can be a little difficult.

Harris asked if city facilities could be used to host neighborhood watch meetings.

Wilson stated he would need to check policy to see if the facilities would have to be rented.

Mayor Booker stated if the policy says the buildings have to be rented, we'll change the policy. We won't charge neighborhood watch programs to use city buildings. If policy says that, please bring it back to Council to change it.

Harris stated he would like to have a neighborhood watch in Lawton Heights. The HC King Center would be a great place to have that.

Mayor Booker asked Police Chief James Smith if neighborhood watch programs are worthwhile to the police department.

Smith stated yes. They are very important, but they are only as good as their members; they have to be active and engaged, like Councilwoman Chapman's neighborhood watch chapter. They are also useful for things other than crime, like loose dogs, trash, abandoned cars, and bringing the neighborhood together. It also helps to involve city departments.

Hampton asked if Chief Williams has any information on the neighborhood watch signs.

Smith stated he will have to double check to see who pays for them.

Chapman stated her neighborhood watch paid for the signs, but the city made them and installed them.

Hampton stated he thought the police department paid for the Cleveland watch signs, and he would like for Chief Smith to look into that.

Cynthia Williams, Public Works Deputy Director, stated the streets department asks that the individual programs purchase their own signs, but the streets department will put them up.

Hampton stated he would like the city to consider paying for the signs.

Warren stated he vaguely remembers this being brought up before and there is a legal issue with the city paying for the signs. He believes if the city is paying for the pole and concrete to install the signs, the programs can pay for the signs.

Wilson stated he doesn't remember that, so it may have been before his time. He will look into it.

Mayor Booker stated he has a suggested motion to direct staff to put together a plan to augment neighborhood watch for existing and potential new, including training for captains, advertisement assistance, sign assistance, and any other ways the city can augment success, and bring back that plan by January 23rd.

Hampton stated he would like to add to the motion to check with the peer cities to see what they do.

Motion by GILL, second by Hampton, to direct staff to put together a plan to augment neighborhood watch for existing and potential new, including training for captains, advertisement assistance, sign assistance, and any other ways the city can augment success, check with the peer cities to see how they assist, and bring back that plan by January 23rd.

Gill stated if there are any questions on the motion, Mayor Booker will be available to provide answers.

VOTE ON MOTION: AYE: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Gill, Hampton, Weger, Johnson, Warren.
NAY: None. *Motion Passed.*

- 16.** Consider setting the date of December 12, 2023, to hold a public hearing to close a public access easement for the Elmer Thomas Connector bike route crossing Lawton Public Schools property located approximately at 753 NW Fort Sill Blvd, consider waiving the fee (\$1,000.00 application plus \$210.00 for the newspaper notice and \$6.00 per owner within 300 feet) for the easement closure, and select an alternate route for the Elmer Thomas Connector bike route. **23-985**

Attachments: [BIKE ROUTE MAP](#)
[Existing Bike Path](#)
[Proposed Route A](#)
[Proposed Route B](#)
[Easement B7061 P108](#)
[Easement B7061 P111](#)
[Easement B7061 P114](#)
[Easement B7061 P117](#)
[Street Mill and Overlay Priority List 2](#)

Cameron Good, Planning Department, presented the facts regarding the possibility of closing the public access easement. This presentation is available in the City Clerk's Office. Staff recommends Proposed

Route B, which changes Ferris Avenue to a three-lane road.

Chapman asked if the sidewalks are being widened for the bike trail.

Good stated that is correct; the required width is ten feet.

Chapman stated she got an email from a resident concerned about changing Ferris to three lanes because of the risk of the trash trucks blocking the bike lanes on trash pickup days. She asked again if the bike riders would be using the sidewalks.

Good stated bicycle riders would have a dedicated lane on the street.

Chapman reiterated that bike riders would have to go around the trash trucks when they are blocking the bike lane.

Harris stated the Chamber of Commerce worked with some architects to look at changing Ferris to three-lanes at one point. He would like to get with them to discuss their ideas. He is in support of changing Ferris to a three-lane road and believes the trash truck issue can be worked out. Harris suggested putting the bike path on the North side because there are fewer houses on that side.

Charlotte Brown, Planning, stated the Chamber's idea was to put an art district on the North side. She also stated that bike riders are required to follow traffic rules with an on-street bike path. That would require them to stop behind the trash truck instead of going around it.

Harris asked if there would be a sidewalk and a bike path.

Brown stated not right now. But if Council chooses, the bike path could be a part of the sidewalk.

Harris stated he would lean that direction if there is enough room. He asked if this area is already on a list for new sidewalks.

Brown stated not right now, but it could be.

Hampton stated he partially agrees with Harris. He asked if Ferris is on a list for a major road project.

Joe Painter, Engineering, stated it is an ad valorem project. There are several suggestions, including making Ferris a five-lane, that engineering needs to assess.

Hampton stated he is concerned about the heavy traffic from school. He asked Good to review Proposed Route A.

Good presented Proposed Route A.

Hampton stated until the ad valorem project is set, he doesn't think it's a good idea to change anything yet.

Painter stated he would like for the traffic engineer on staff to review this plan to check traffic flows. The ad valorem project will be a big change to Ferris.

Mayor Booker stated he is interested to see the outcome of a study because there are 11,000 cars. He doesn't see how a five lane can be justified.

Painter stated they were doing projections based on population counts that didn't come to fruition.

Mayor Booker stated we have some decisions on the road that can be put off for a while, but we do need to set a date for the public hearing to close the easement so Lawton Public Schools can secure their facilities.

Gill state the road may need to be discussed with the Street and Bridges Committee. He asked if these needs to be done before setting a hearing date for the easement.

Mayor Booker stated no, we need to set the date so LPS can secure their facility.

Brown stated an alternate bike path has to be set before closing the easement. With the easement closed, there will be a dead spot in the bike path.

Mayor Booker stated there will be a dead spot anyway while construction is going on. He reiterated the importance of getting the easement closed as soon as possible for LPS to secure their facilities.

Brown stated she has told LPS if they will submit plans short of closing the easement, the permit for the fence can be issued without a delay.

Mayor Booker stated what we need today is to set the hearing date. We can argue about the road and bike path later. We also need to waive the fees.

Motion by GILL, Second by HARRIS, to set the date of December 12, 2023, to hold a public hearing to close a public access easement for the Elmer Thomas Connector bike route crossing Lawton Public Schools property located approximately at 753 NW Fort Sill Blvd and waive the fee (\$1,000.00 application plus \$210.00 for the newspaper notice and \$6.00 per owner within 300 feet) for the easement closure.

Gill stated we need to have our act together before the public hearing.

Mayor Booker stated he hopes the Streets and Bridges Committee will have some meetings before then.

VOTE ON MOTION: AYE: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Gill, Hampton, Weger, Johnson, Warren.

NAY: None. *Motion Passed.*

Mayor Booker asked if the street should be sent to the Streets and Bridges Committee to be worked

through.

Warren stated he'll make that motion with the understanding that he will be a hard pass on putting a bike path on a major thoroughfare in Lawton, Oklahoma. We have a hard enough time not hitting people in cars.

Motion by WARREN, Second by GILL, to send the questions regarding the road and bike path to the Streets and Bridges Committee. AYE: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Gill, Hampton, Weger, Johnson, Warren. NAY: None. *Motion Passed.*

- 17.** Direct staff to review the details of the previous summer youth program and report any findings back to Council at the first city council meeting in December. **23-989**

Johnson stated this is in reference to the program that was started by the late Councilman Haywood. It's been several years since the program has been active, so she would like to find out how the program was run, how the kids were paid, and where the funding came from. She would like to bring the program back, but wants to include additional things, like providing training and following up with the youth after the program ends.

Motion by JOHNSON, Second by WARREN, to direct staff to review the details of the previous summer youth program and report any findings back to Council at the first city council meeting in December. AYE: Hankins, Chapman, Gill, Weger, Johnson, Warren. NAY: None. (NOTE: Harris and Hampton stepped away from the dais while this item was being discussed and did not participate in the vote). *Motion passed.*

- 18.** Discuss Council Policy 1-6 and take action as deemed necessary. **23-990**

Attachments: [Council Policy 1-6 Rules of Procedure](#)

Mayor Booker stated he receives a lot of calls after Council meetings about Councilmembers speaking for too long. This makes the Council meetings last a very long time. He also noted that Councilmembers are not following their own rules, such as waiting to be acknowledged before speaking. There is also a disregard of Robert's Rules of Order, specifically discussion following a motion that is not germane to the motion. Because of the complaints he receives for Councilmembers, he has asked Mayor Pro Tem Warren to help him with how to correct his issue.

Warren spoke to the Council about avoiding "pontification". He advised that members get to the point because "pontificating" can change votes, and it is irritating.

Mayor Booker explained that "pontificating" is expressing one's opinion in a way that is annoyingly pompous.

Warren stated it is important that we think about what we want to say and get the point out there. We also don't want to run for office from our seats. This group is pretty good about not doing that, but it annoys other Councilmembers and citizens at large. He believes if everyone can be short and serious in their comments, everyone will get along better.

Hankins stated we can be very redundant. Things only need to be said one time. We need to be as brief as we can. No one wants to serve on a Council that has to be in a meeting until 9:30PM.

Warren stated he would like to speed up the meetings and slow down on having very late meetings.

Mayor Booker stated it sounds like the Council wants him to enforce the rules, so he will start doing that. He will try to acknowledge Council members in the correct order, but he can't look both ways at the same time, so that may slip sometimes. He asked that the Councilmembers wait until they are acknowledged to speak and that they understand the rules.

- 19.** Consider approving an ordinance pertaining to Animals, amending Section 5-1-101, creating Section 5-1-105.1, amending Sections 5-1-106, 5-1-111, 5-1-118, 5-1-120, Article 5-1, Chapter 5, Lawton City Code 2015 and amending Section 5-5-501 and 5-5-508, Article 5-5, Chapter 5, Lawton City Code 2015 by defining service animal; establishing mandatory microchipping; clarifying that large reptiles may be unlawful; allowing for redemption periods to be extended; expanding on service animal allowances; correcting grammatical errors; renumbering as needed; providing for codification; providing for severability and establishing an effective date. **23-750**

Attachments: [CHAPTER 5 ORDINANCE](#)

STRICKEN.

- 20.** Contingent upon the passage of the ordinance incorporating mandatory microchipping, consider approving a resolution amending Appendix A, Chapter A-5, Article A-5-1, Schedule of Fees and Charges, Lawton City Code 2015, by adding a microchip deposit for animals released from impoundment at the Lawton Animal Shelter and establishing an effective date. **23-751**

Attachments: [Resolution No. 23-](#)

STRICKEN.

STAFF REPORTS:

- 21.** Provide City Council with an update on the FY 2022 and FY 2023 Audit Process. **23-991**

Joe Don Dunham, Finance Director, reported on the status of the audit. For FY 2022, nineteen of the forty-three funds have been closed. They are being closed at a rate of five a day. Once all accounts are closed, the trial balance can be turned over to the auditors. There is currently an obstacle with the

reconciliation of accounts receivable for utilities. That is currently not in balance. He stated the possible issue was in the GEMS conversion to Tyler. Kristen Huntley and Mardi Repasy are working to resolve this. Some staff is already working on the FY 2023 audit.

Mayor Booker stated he is unclear if the goal was December 15th or December 31st.

Dunham stated it was the 31st.

Mayor Booker asked Dunham how he feels about the odds of getting it completed by the 31st.

Dunham stated he is afraid we aren't going to meet that. It will be closer to mid-January.

Mayor Booker stated he appreciates people working on the FY 2023 audit, but asked if it would make more sense to have everyone working on the 2022 audit.

Dunham stated with too many people working on the same thing, it can get confusing on who is doing what. He believes the current process is the best and most efficient way to get the audit completed. Kristin and Mardi are in constant communication to get issues resolved. He prefers to keep the issue consolidated to two people to keep communication clear.

Mayor Booker asked if outside sources are still being used as much as possible.

Dunham stated yes. He understands that there are a lot of questions about why this isn't done yet. There were some things done incorrectly with the conversion, so it's taking time to make sure everything is balanced out correctly. As we fix things, they are being fixed permanently. He does still believe the 2023 will be completed by June.

Mayor Booker stated that date has also been pushed back, which is disappointing.

Weger asked if staff understands the urgency of the audit.

Dunham stated his staff does fully understand the urgency of the audit.

Weger stated constituents are sharing concerns. We spent a lot of money buying a system that is going to be "better". He is not impressed because the audits are still delayed. When it comes to deadlines, there are no extensions on these audits. We are operating like we have extensions, is that correct?

Dunham stated we understand the urgency, but there is also the importance of getting it right.

Weger stated he agrees one hundred percent.

Dunham stated that's what we are working towards. There was a lot that happened in 2022, including

switching software companies, and the communication between the software company and the finance department was little. Now we have to go back and fix things from that. To make it even worse, we switched banks. That means we have eighty-six accounts to reconcile on the day everything switched. There are things in the new system showing they posted to IBC but really, they were posted to Liberty. We are having to try to straighten all of that out. He is making sure everything is corrected in the right way, and he expects when he turns this over to the auditor, it will all be right.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by GILL, Second by WARREN, to adjourn the meeting of November 7, 2023. AYE: HANKINS, CHAPMAN, GILL, HAMPTON, WEGER, JOHNSON, WARREN. NAY: NONE. *Motion Passed.*

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:55PM.

The City of Lawton encourages participation from all of its citizens. If participation at any public meeting is not possible due to a disability, notification to the City Clerk at (580) 581-3305 at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting is encouraged to make the necessary accommodations. The City may waive the 48 hour rule if interpreters for the deaf (signing) is not the necessary accommodation."