



## City of Lawton

### Lawton Enhancement Trust Authority

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

### Minutes

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Wednesday, May 14, 2025

3:00 PM

Lawton City Hall  
3rd Floor Conference Room

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#### Meeting Called to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Ezerski called the meeting to order at 3:22 P.M. in the 3rd floor conference room of City Hall.

#### ROLL CALL

**PRESENT:** Charles Owens, Ted Symuleski, Barry Ezerski, \*Dwain Baxter, Chris Rabon, Jeremy Lohman

**ABSENT:** Mary Ann Hankins (excused), Dwight Tanner (excused), Johnny Owens (excused), Addie Smith (excused)

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Caitlin Gatlin, Communications & Marketing; Neal Kirmer, Communications & Marketing; Tammy Branstetter, City Clerk's Office; Garrett Lam, City Attorney's Office; Larry Parks, Parks & Recreation Director; Charlotte Brown, Community Enrichment Deputy Director; Jason Poudrier, Arts & Humanities; Jonathan Jernigan, Department of Safe and Clean Neighborhood Services; Susan Schlecht, Financial Services; Dennis Totte, Bedrock Nursery; Matina Davis, Citizen of the Community; Daniel Jameson, Guest

\*Arrived at 3:22 P.M.

#### Statement of Compliance with Oklahoma Open Meeting Act, 25 O.S. 301-314

Chairman Ezerski confirmed with Branstetter that the meeting notice and agenda were posted by the City Clerk's Office as required by State Law.

#### Introduction of Guests

Chairman Ezerski thanked the Trustees for serving on the Authority.

Chairman Ezerski introduced Jeremy Lohman, newly appointed Trustee of the Authority, and he welcomed him to his first meeting.

Matina Davis, a citizen of the community, introduced herself.

## Reports

1. Receive a report from Dennis Totte with Bedrock Nursery regarding current landscaping and irrigation projects, provide direction to Mr. Totte on current projects and take action as deemed necessary.

Totte said he has an item on the agenda regarding the replacement of 59 tree rings on Lee Boulevard.

The Authority moved to business item #6.

Totte noted that they're doing color changes right now - the 2nd street pots have all been planted.

2. Receive a report from Neighborhood Services regarding monthly updates on departmental activities and take action as deemed necessary.

Jonathan Jernigan, Supervisor for the Department of Safe and Clean Neighborhood Services, gave an update regarding departmental activities.

Jernigan said for the month of April, we sent out 1,488 letters for non-compliance issues. At Council last night, 23 out of 24 properties were declared dilapidated. Jernigan said 313 abatement work orders were entered for the month of April, and there are currently nine securing work orders pending completion.

Chairman Ezerski asked if citations were suspended after the recent rainfall.

Jernigan said the violations have been halted from the Monday after the rainfall until today - the violations were halted so that staff could help assist with city cleanup.

Chairman Ezerski asked who mows Rogers Lane.

Brown said this is done by a contractor through the Parks and Recreation Department.

No action was taken on this item.

3. Receive a report from Parks and Recreation regarding departmental projects and monthly updates and take action as deemed necessary.

Charlotte Brown, Deputy Director of Community Enrichment, advised that Larry Parks could not be here today.

Brown said everything is on track at Greer Park - they're close to starting the construction of the Kid's Zone area.

Brown said there is a two-week delay on the new aquatics center due to the rain - they're now estimating opening on July 18th.

Brown noted that the Trash Off event will be held on Saturday morning at McMahon Auditorium.

4. Receive a report from the Deputy Director of Community Enrichment regarding ongoing LETA projects and take action as deemed necessary.

Brown noted that Branstetter sent out the link for the website for the Veteran's Brick Project. She asked authority members if they saw anything that needed to be changed.

Chairman Ezerski said he didn't see anything.

Brown said we will resend the link. Once everything is approved with the website, we'll go live. Brown said she's already talked to Caitlin about starting to market this, but we want to wait until we go live with the website. She said we will also put in the pending orders.

Chairman Ezerski asked how many previous orders we've had.

Brown said around 6-8 orders.

Chairman Ezerski asked what the potential is for this project.

Brown said she believes each square that we have placed right now will fit 100 bricks, and there are approximately four of five squares currently in place. She noted that we can always go back and place additional blockouts on the sidewalk.

5. Receive Monthly Ward Updates from Trustees and take action as deemed necessary.

No updates were given.

6. Receive a report from the Communications and Marketing Department regarding LETA's social media accounts and publicity projects, provide direction to staff on said projects and take action as deemed necessary.

Caitlin Gatlin, Communications and Marketing, said that DaLynna Wood, former multimedia specialist, has moved on and is no longer with us. She advised that Neal Kirmer will be taking over Wood's former duties.

Chairman Ezerski thanked Gaitlin for doing a great job with the Eye Candy Awards Banquet.

## **Business Items**

1. Consider approving the minutes of the April 9, 2025, meeting.

A copy of the draft minutes from the May 14, 2025, meeting was provided in the agenda packet. A copy of the draft minutes may be obtained from the City Clerk's Office upon request.

**Motion** by Symuleski, **Second** by Charles Owens, to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2025, meeting. **AYE:** Ezerski, Symuleski, Rabon, Baxter, Lohman, Charles Owens. **NAY:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

2. Consider approving the list of expenses and paid invoices for the period from April 9, 2025, to May 12, 2025.

A list of expenses and paid invoices for the period of April 9, 2025, to May 12, 2025, were provided in the agenda packet for the meeting. A copy of this list may be obtained from the City Clerk's Office upon request.

Susan Schlecht provided background information on this item. She noted that most of these expenses were for the Eye Candy Gala.

**Motion** by Baxter, **Second** by Lohman, to approve the list of expenses and paid invoices for the period of April 9, 2025, to May 12, 2025. **AYE:** Ezerski, Symuleski, Rabon, Baxter, Lohman, Charles Owens. **NAY:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

3. Consider approving the Treasurer's Report for the months of February and March 2025.

Schlecht presented the monthly Treasurer's Report for the months of February and March 2025. A copy of the Treasurer's Report for the months of February and March 2025 may be obtained from the City Clerk's Office upon request.

Schlecht noted that she reclassified an expense under Repairs, Maintenance and Replanting for the month of February. She said this happened after the agendas were sent out. The updated number is \$81,958.56 minus \$2,034.67. The reason that occurred is because we did still have cash in our Playground in the Park fund, and this change is a result of the Elmer Thomas Park flower gardens being redone, so our Playground in the Park fund had an increase in expenses in the amount of \$2,034.67.

Brown inquired about the \$1,400 remaining for the City Hall Lighting Project.

Schlecht said we do have this amount - there were some project savings, and we'll have to bring this back to the Authority to unrestrict these funds.

**Motion** by Charles Owens, **Second** by Baxter, to approve the Treasurer's Report for the months of February and March 2025. **AYE:** Ezerski, Symuleski, Rabon, Baxter, Lohman, Charles Owens. **NAY:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

4. Select a winner for the April 2025 Yard of the Month competition.

Neal Kirmer, Communications and Marketing, said the three homes that have been nominated for Yard of the Month can be found on page 29 of the agenda packet. Two of these homes are in Ward 5, and one is in Ward 7. Kirmer noted that Ward 5, House 2 received the most votes.

**Motion** by Symuleski, **Second** by Charles Owens, to select Ward 5, House 2 as the April 2025 Yard of the Month winner. **AYE:** Ezerski, Symuleski, Rabon, Baxter, Lohman, Charles Owens. **NAY:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

5. Consider approving an estimate from Bedrock Nursery in the amount of \$28,819.99 for the installation of an irrigation system along Rogers Lane and authorize payment of all applicable expenses incurred up to \$28,819.99.

This item was stricken.

6. Consider approving an estimate from Bedrock Nursery in the amount of \$8,850.00 for the replacement of rusted tree grates along Lee Boulevard and authorize payment of all applicable expenses incurred up to \$8,850.00.

Totte provided background information on this item. The estimate is for the replacement of 59 tree rings on Lee Boulevard. Totte said he has been looking at this for some time. He said there have been multiple car accidents, the mowing guys have torn them up from hitting them over the years, and most of the rings are rusted.

**Motion** by Rabon, **Second** by Lohman, to approve the estimate from Bedrock Nursery in the amount of \$8,850.00 and authorize payment of all applicable expenses incurred up to \$8,850.00. **AYE:** Ezerski, Symuleski, Rabon, Baxter, Lohman, Charles Owens. **NAY:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

7. Consider approving a request from the Cultural Preservation Committee to relocate "Ned Shepler" plaque to a new, more appropriate, location within Shepler Park.

Jason Poudrier, Arts & Humanities, provided background information on this item. Poudrier said as we were preparing for Arts for All, new ADA ramps were set up going in to Shelper Park. Poudrier said the current proposal is to put the plaque right at the top of the ramps where they split.

Chairman Ezerksi asked if there is any cost associated with this.

Poudrier said Arts and Humanities is working through the cost of it.

**Motion** by Rabon, **Second** by Lohman, to approve the request from the Cultural Preservation Committee to relocate the "Ned Shepler" plaque. **AYE:** Ezerski, Symuleski, Rabon, Baxter, Lohman, Charles Owens. **NAY:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

8. Discuss the "Lawton Art Walks" project and considering approving a funding request in the amount of \$1,000 for the installation of two highly visible, colorful, art-filled crosswalks at Hugh Bish Elementary School.

Poudrier provided background information on this item. Poudrier said the Streets Division came to him because Hugh Bish Elementary had reached out to them about putting in some speed tables. They did a traffic study that determined this doesn't warrant a speed table - there are other ways to get people to slow down around schools, and that's to make the crosswalks colorful.

Poudrier said we want to try this out as a pilot program. The McMahon Auditorium Authority has already approved to come in and partner with LPS to do this project along with the Streets Department, as city funding has been frozen through the end of the year. Poudrier said because this project goes towards the beautification of Lawton, we thought we'd ask \$1,000 from LETA to match \$1,000 from the McMahon Auditorium Authority, which would allow us to buy the paint. The Streets Division has said that they can do the work, and LPS would put forth the design. Poudrier said two crosswalks would be done. If this one is successful, then going into next year we'd take a look at how we could do this at other schools, to include getting kids involved.

Chairman Ezerski asked who is going to paint it this time.

Poudrier said this time it will be the Streets Division. Going into the next one, we'd work with the schools to see about getting kids involved.

Chairman Ezerski noted that it would be great if the kids could get involved.

**Motion** by Lohman, **Second** by Charles Owens, to approve the funding request in the amount of \$1,000 for the "Lawton Art Walks" project. **AYE:** Ezerski, Symuleski, Rabon, Baxter, Lohman, Charles Owens. **NAY:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

### **Adjournment**

**Motion** by Symuleski, **Second** by Lohman, to adjourn the May 14, 2025, meeting. **AYE:** Ezerski, Symuleski, Rabon, Baxter, Lohman, Charles Owens. **NAY:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:56 P.M.