



City of Lawton

City Council

MINUTES

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

Wednesday, August 21, 2024

1:00 PM

**Lawton City Hall
Council Chambers/Auditorium**

SPECIAL MEETING

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

"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."

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mary Ann Hankins, Ward 1
Kelly Harris, Ward 2
Linda Chapman, Ward 3
George Gill, Ward 4
Allan Hampton, Ward 5
Dr. Bob Weger, Ward 6
Sherene L Williams, Ward 7
Randy Warren, Ward 8

ABSENT: NONE.

ALSO PRESENT: Stanley Booker, Mayor
John Ratliff, City Attorney

John Andrew, City Attorney

Donalynn Blazek-Scherler, City Clerk

PRESENTATION:

Employee Spotlight Award: Kristie Kimmel, Emergency Communications- STRICKEN

BUSINESS ITEMS:

1. Consider approving a request to adjust the traffic flow on Woodland Hills Drive in front of Woodland Hills Elementary by relocating the “No Parking” signs from the south side to the north side of NW Woodland Hills Drive and provide direction to staff to require the Lawton Police Department to support the Lawton Public Schools Police Department in implementing and enforcing this change. **24-1840**

Attachments: [Traffic Request #24-50 Woodland Hills Elementary School](#)

City of Lawton Special City Council Meeting Minutes - August 21, 2024

Mayor Stan Booker called the special meeting of the Lawton City Council to order.

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 Sherene L. Williams, Ward 7 Randy Warren, Ward 8

ALSO PRESENT: Stanley Booker, Mayor John Ratliff, City Manager John Andrew, City Attorney

Following roll call, Council Member Weger led the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The Employee Spotlight Award was delayed until the next council meeting.

BUSINESS ITEMS

ITEM 1: Traffic Flow Adjustment on Woodland Hills Drive

Chief Winham presented a request to adjust traffic flow on Woodland Hills Drive in front of Woodland Hills Elementary by relocating the no parking signs from the south side to the north side of Northwest Woodland Hills Drive. He explained that the current no parking signs are on the south side of Woodland Hills Drive, which is where vehicles need to be able to pull in to load and unload students.

The proposal would move the no parking signs from the south side to the north side, covering the area from 75th Street to 71st Street. Additionally, on 71st Street near Compass, no parking signs would be placed on both sides of the roadway to eliminate parking. Chief Winham noted that Lawton Public Schools has already agreed to this change and has altered their bus routes to go through the school to 68th Street for exit.

He explained that the school has an efficient system for parent pickup that takes about 15 minutes to get all parents through, but the issue is that parents begin lining up at 2:00 p.m. for the 3:45 p.m. dismissal. The proposed change would utilize existing sign poles from the south side of the road and relocate them to the north side in approximately the same locations.

Council Member Weger inquired about a previous traffic study conducted in the area regarding speeding concerns and whether moving the signs would increase traffic flow and potentially speeding. Chief Winham responded that the current loading/unloading pattern has been in use for some time, and the proposed change should not negatively affect traffic flow. He suggested that having parents line up in a straight shot to 68th Street might actually slow traffic in the area during pickup times. He added that additional speed bumps could be installed if needed to address speeding concerns.

City Manager Ratliff provided additional context, explaining that the issue came to the city's attention when a physician living in the area was unable to leave for surgery at Comanche County Hospital because someone in the car line had blocked his driveway, creating a public health and safety issue. He noted that they had tried to bring this issue before the Traffic Commission multiple times but could never get a quorum, and with the school year now started, immediate action was needed.

Council Member Harris asked for clarification on the second page of the presentation, which Chief Winham explained showed the proposed traffic flow (in green and blue) and areas of congestion (in red). The proposal aims to direct traffic through to 68th Street rather than back up Woodland Drive to Compass.

Mayor Booker noted that this recommendation came from the Police Department, which makes sense given their expertise on traffic issues.

Motion: Council Member Weger moved to approve a request to adjust traffic flow on Woodland Hills Drive in front of Woodland Hills Elementary by relocating the no parking signs from the south side to the north side of Northwest Woodland Hills Drive and provide direction to staff to require the Lawton Police Department to support the Lawton Public School Police Department in implementing and enforcing this change. Seconded by Council Member Warren.

Vote: Approved 8-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS:

Motion: Council Member Chapman moved to go into executive session. Seconded by Council Member Hankins.

Vote: Approved 8-0

The City Council remained in executive session from 1:13 PM to 1:36 PM. No action was taken in executive session.

Motion: Council Member Chapman moved to return from executive session. Seconded by Council Member Weger.

Vote: Approved 8-0.

in executive session to discuss the status of an ongoing investigation concerning pension calculations, and, if necessary, take appropriate action in open session.

Motion: Council Member Harris moved to:

1. Revoke the Council's action taken regarding this matter during Item 28 of its September 28, 2021 council meeting; and
2. With respect to the retirees for which the City has sufficient payroll information that have been identified in the ongoing investigation who have retired before March 23, 2022: A. Have Pension Attorney John Papaharonis of McAfee and Taft file a Voluntary Correction Program application with Internal Revenue Service requesting A. grandfathering of the benefit calculations used for retirees and approved by the Pension Board who have been determined to have been overpaid, and accordingly make no attempt to recover overpayments from retirees who have been overpaid; B. As for any retiree determined to have been underpaid, have their benefit corrected as set forth in the City Code to include utilizing the calendar year method in City Code for calculating final average monthly pay, and accordingly catch up any back payments owed to underpaid retirees; C. Going forward after IRS approval, underpaid retirees would be paid correct amounts in accordance with applicable City Code provisions; D. Address in the application any calculation issues the Pension Attorney deems appropriate to include but not limited to fractional month calculations; and E. Authorize the Mayor to execute the application. For purposes of this motion, "retirees" include any affected beneficiaries of said retirees.

Seconded by Council Member Gill.

Vote: Approved 8-0

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Council Member Gill moved to adjourn. Seconded by Council Member Hampton.

Vote: Approved 8-0.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:39 PM.

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."