



City of Lawton

City Council

MINUTES

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

Monday, January 13, 2025

9:00 AM

Lawton City Hall
Council Chambers/Auditorium

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY MAYOR STAN BOOKER, FOLLOWED BY
INVOCATION BY PASTOR JESSE MARSHALL FROM ONE IN THE SPIRIT CHRISTIAN
CHURCH AND THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

ABSENT: **NONE.**

ALSO PRESENT: Stanley Booker, Mayor
John Ratliff, City Manager
John Andrew, City Attorney
COL Derek Baird, Fort Sill Liaison
Donalynn Blazek-Scherler, City Clerk

1. Comments- Current Administration

Mayor Booker remarked that this has been the most aggressive council in recent times, noting their accomplishments in 2024. He mentioned he would give his New Year's address later in the meeting.

COL Baird expressed appreciation for working with the council over the past eight months and thanked Council Member Harris for his leadership, character, and vision for Lawton and Fort Sill.

Council Member Warren commented on how busy and productive the council has been, emphasizing the support from citizens, staff, and council that has enabled their accomplishments. He thanked Council Member Harris for his contributions and noted his deep roots in the community.

Council Member Williams shared her gratitude for being on the council during the past year and working with cooperative individuals. She recognized Council Member Harris for his compassion and work as chairperson of the Homeless Action Committee.

Council Member Weger expressed joy in serving on the council, noting the vision and momentum that has been built. He praised Council Member Harris for his wisdom, grace, and thoughtful approach to challenges.

Council Member Hampton reflected on the position of representation and the council's accomplishments under the mayor's leadership. He appreciated Council Member Harris's dedication and proactive approach, mentioning an example where Harris personally cut grass in his area.

Council Member Chapman acknowledged the honor of being part of the council and a citizen of Lawton. She appreciated Council Member Harris's thoughtful approach to issues presented to the council.

Council Member Hankins shared her experience working with Council Member Harris, citing his dedication to his constituents and smart approach to issues.

2. Presentation of Service Plaque to Exiting Members

Mayor Booker presented Council Member Harris with a plaque in recognition of his exemplary service delivered with passion.

Council Member Harris expressed gratitude to his family members present and various individuals:

- Thanked Colonel Baird and leadership at Fort Sill for their partnership
- Acknowledged each council member individually for their contributions and support
- Recognized the city manager, city attorney, and city clerk for their roles
- Gave special thanks to city employees for their dedication
- Acknowledged the Great Plains Ambucs who supported him when he first moved to Lawton
- Expressed that serving as a council member has been the biggest honor of his life

3. Declare Current Administration to Cease- Mayor Stanley Booker

The outgoing administration was declared concluded.

4. Administration of Constitutional, Statutory, and Municipal Oaths of Office- Municipal Court Judge Nathan Johnson

Judge Johnson administered the oath of office to:

- Council Member Smith, Ward 2 (newly elected)

- Council Member Hankins, Ward 1 (re-elected)
- Stanley Booker, Mayor (re-elected)

Oaths included both the city oath and the statutory oath.

5. Declare New Administration to Begin- Mayor Stanley Booker
Mayor Booker declared the new administration to begin.

6. Roll Call- New Administration

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mary Ann Hankins, Ward 1
RL Smith, 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

ABSENT: NONE.

7. Comments- New Administration

Council Member Hankins expressed appreciation for being re-elected and emphasized the council's teamwork, noting that even when they don't agree on everything, they come to a consensus for what's best for the city.

Council Member Smith thanked voters and shared his history with Lawton since 1977, including his 21 years with the Lawton Police Department. He expressed his love for Lawton and commitment to doing his best in his new role.

Council Member Chapman welcomed Council Member Hankins back for her third term and welcomed Council Member Smith, encouraging him to ask questions and be a good listener.

Council Member Gil welcomed Council Member Smith and expressed appreciation for the continuity with Mayor Booker and Council Member Hankins remaining on the council.

Council Member Hampton welcomed Council Member Smith and thanked Council Member Hankins for serving again. He also expressed appreciation for the mayor's leadership and vision.

Council Member Weger congratulated Council Member Hankins on her new term and welcomed Council Member Smith, whom he has known for many years. He thanked the mayor for his leadership and vision.

Council Member Williams welcomed Council Member Smith, advising him to listen to citizens and pace himself. She congratulated Council Member Hankins on her new term and thanked Mayor Booker for his professional leadership.

Council Member Warren welcomed Council Member Smith and expressed appreciation for continuing to serve with Council Member Hankins. He acknowledged the mayor's leadership and highlighted the "Kids First" initiative, emphasizing the importance of keeping children at the forefront of all decisions, alongside the True North philosophy.

Colonel Baird emphasized the importance of relationships and looked forward to continued teamwork and collaboration between Lawton and Fort Sill.

Mayor Booker expressed excitement about working with the council and emphasized that the city's vision is "a community of choice where families thrive." He noted that the Kids First initiative aligns with the True North statement and thanked the council and staff for their support.

8. 2025 New Year Address- Mayor Stanley Booker

Mayor Booker delivered the 2025 New Year's address with the theme "Throttle Up in '25," highlighting:

- A focus on neighborhood safety and cleanliness with a "Kids First" initiative to ensure every child lives in a safe, clean neighborhood
- A balanced approach to homelessness, supporting those ready to rebuild their lives while ensuring neighborhood safety
- Progress in crime reduction (nearly 30% decrease in FBI crime in Lawton)
- Plans to address development challenges, including a review of development requirements
- Goals to reduce building permit processing time to two weeks for residential permits
- Emphasis on building a stronger tax base to help fund schools
- Upcoming special meetings to discuss potential changes to the city charter
- A goal to complete 100 million dollar overlay projects in 2025
- Implementation of Propel 2040 projects including a new animal shelter, Youth Sports Complex, revitalized parks, and road infrastructure improvements

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Council Member Warren to adjourn the meeting. Second by Council Member Gill.

Vote: Approved 8-0.

There being no further business, to meeting adjourned at 10:30 AM.