

**MINUTES  
LAWTON ACCESS BOARD  
CITY HALL  
CITY ATTORNEY'S CONFERENCE ROOM  
212 SW 9<sup>th</sup> STREET  
OCTOBER 13, 2017**

Mike Jones called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. in the City Attorney's Conference Room. Notice of meeting and agenda were posted on the City Hall notice board as required by law.

**ROLL CALL:**

**PRESENT:** Joseph Harper; Mike Jones; Kay Love; Ray Polk.

**ABSENT:** Don Kesler.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Denise Ezell, City Clerk's Office; Rusty Whisenhunt, Sewer Rehab; Tony Mensah, Engineering; Sean Fortenbaugh, Ward 6.

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**BUSINESS ITEMS:**

Jones stated I would like to introduce Sean Fortenbaugh. He is the new Ward 6 Councilperson who will take office in January. We appreciate you being with us today. Is there anything you would like to bring before the board?

Fortenbaugh stated not in particular. If you don't use sidewalks you don't pay attention to them. I have started paying attention since Rocco pointed it out to me. The City of Lawton doesn't have a lot of sidewalks and the ones we have are very narrow. This is a huge problem and I'm hoping the city can start doing something to help.

Jones stated it has been a problem within the city for a very long time. The sidewalks in the older part of town need repaired. By today's standards they are not wide enough. There have been a lot of changes in the accessibility standards over the years. Everyone here would like to see the city be 100% accessible. That will probably be long after I'm gone. We are making good strides. The City of Lawton is limited by funds.

1. New Business

A. Review and discuss proposed sidewalk project along Gore Blvd. East of SW 52<sup>nd</sup> Street. Take action for reprioritization and approval if necessary.

Jones stated this is Tony Mensah from Engineering. He is here to propose a sidewalk project that will help fill in an existing gap.

Mensah stated I appreciate the opportunity to present this to you. We have a sewer line replacement project on Gore Boulevard between 51<sup>st</sup> and 52<sup>nd</sup> Street. When the project was designed they did not include the sidewalk. There is a Stripes on the corner and business to the east. You have kids walking in a parking lot and we decided this would be a good place to put a sidewalk. We would hate to have a child hit in the parking lot by someone backing out of a

parking space. We need some help to put the sidewalk in. What you have before you are estimates for the sidewalk. The estimates go from 51<sup>st</sup> Street all the way west to the driveway at Stripes. We did not include the 150' of concrete paving from the Stripes driveway to 52<sup>nd</sup> Street. We are asking for \$63,205 to put in a sidewalk.

Whisenhunt stated the street reconstruction along 52<sup>nd</sup> Street did include sidewalks. This is a utility relocate to support the 52<sup>nd</sup> Street project. The curb ramp was placed at 51<sup>st</sup> Street and goes to the Cameron property. The existing sidewalks were installed 3 years ago with a sewer rehab project and they are ADA compliant.

Mensah stated there are a couple of bus stops along that stretch with no accessibility. Part of this project provides a bus landing. We believe this provides another safety factor.

Love asked so you are requesting the Access Board spend their funds on this project.

Jones stated if we approve the expenditure this would be moved to our priority list.

Harper asked what happens to the Sheridan Road priority.

Jones stated they will continue to work on it. The design is complete on this project.

Mensah stated they are ready to put the sidewalk in once we have funding.

Whisenhunt stated as far as the current priorities the contractor for Priority I is T & E Construction. They will start construction next week from 26<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> on Lee Blvd. The contractor has been given a notice to proceed for the Phase II of east Gore.

Jones stated approving this project doesn't affect the other priorities. I think for the interest of the board this is a good project. It has the features we are looking for. It is on a main arterial, serves a school and it has a LATS stop.

Harper asked how long is the gap through there.

Mensah stated about 390'.

Love asked what is the expected completion date.

Mensah stated it shouldn't take more than a month to complete once they begin.

**Motion** by Harper, **Second** by Love, to approve funding for the proposed sidewalk project along Gore Blvd. East of SW 52<sup>nd</sup> Street. **Aye:** Love; Jones; Polk; Harper. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

Jones stated you have your sidewalk.

Mensah stated thank you.

B. Review and discuss annual ADA compliance report to council. Approve for action by city council.

Jones stated we are required to submit an annual report to Council. This is everything that has been done in the fiscal year 16/17. We are required to spend at least \$250,000 per year on ADA improvement in various ways. Of that \$250,000 the city must fund \$125,000. The front page is a summary of all those expenditures. The last 2 pages goes into details of the different projects. The projects in green are commercial projects with sidewalks and curb ramps, the yellow are residential projects and the blue is city funded.

Love stated in a past meeting we discussed you composing a letter to existing businesses encouraging them to create new sidewalks. One of the concerns was Sheridan Road.

Jones stated we will do that but remember we can't enforce it.

Rocco stated maybe do a campaign to get the businesses involved. There was a town in Iowa that encouraged businesses to put in sidewalks and was successful. Sidewalks promote riding bikes and walking. I would think a business would be interested in this type of campaign.

Jones stated do you know the name of the town.

Rocco stated I don't. I'll go back and see if I can find the information. Memorial Hospital had an Access Board and we had started that campaign until they got a new director and the board fell apart.

Jones stated I would like to know a little more about the campaign and their success.

Harper stated maybe if we could offer some kind of incentive.

Jones asked is there anything you would like to add to the report.

Whisenhunt stated this is our third report. In 3 years we are just under \$3,000,000 funded or facilitated to ADA compliance issues. To become totally compliant would cost millions. The cost is \$300,000 per mile if the right-of-way is donated and there is 400,000 miles of streets within the city limits. This fiscal year we have 45<sup>th</sup> Street and 52<sup>nd</sup> Street that both have sidewalks. 45<sup>th</sup> Street has 2 miles of 6' wide sidewalk and 52<sup>nd</sup> Street has half a mile. The voters approved \$53,000,000 in street reconstruction and sidewalks will be included in that. If we keep plugging away you will see some of the gaps starting to close.

Jones asked what is the timeline for 52<sup>nd</sup> and 45<sup>th</sup>.

Whisenhunt stated 45<sup>th</sup> has started construction and the contract is 8 months.

Harper stated my concern is Sheridan Road from Ferris to Smith.

Whisenhunt stated the problem in that area is the right-of-way. We will have to take some of the parking spaces from the commercial businesses and parking spaces are the life of a commercial business.

Harper stated some areas have sidewalks with no ramps.

Whisenhunt stated none of it is in compliance. You have cross slopes and offsets.

Harper stated at least it is serviceable.

Whisenhunt stated I agree. There are new sidewalks on Gore and Sheridan due to the Murphy Fuel facility. EZ-Go has plans to build a new facility at 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> that will include sidewalks. Plans have been submitted for the old PA Chevrolet and they will be required to put in sidewalks. Some of our priorities will be done by other people.

Jones stated there are also new sidewalks on the east side in front of Family Dollar.

**Motion** by Harper, **Second** by Polk, to recommend that Council accept the annual ADA compliance report. **Aye:** Love; Jones; Polk; Harper. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

2. Comments/Discussion

Harper stated LATS is doing away with their ADA passes. This is going to hurt a lot of individuals.

Jones stated that is unfortunate. I would like to thank Councilman Fortenbaugh for being here with us today.

3. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

**Motion** by Harper, **Second** by Polk, to adjourn. **Aye:** Jones; Polk; Harper; Love. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**