



**LAWTON YOUTH SPORTS TRUST AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2024 – 2:00PM
LAWTON CITY HALL – 3RD FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
212 SW 9TH STREET, LAWTON, OK 73501**

"Official action can be taken only on items which appear on the agenda. The Authority may approve, ratify, deny, defer, recommend, or continue any agenda item. The Authority may also propose and enact floor amendments to any matter presented before them. Under certain circumstances, items are deferred to a specific later date or stricken from the agenda entirely."

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Chairman Henry called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM in the 3rd floor conference room of Lawton City Hall. Notice of meeting and agenda were posted on the City of Lawton website as required by law.

PRESENT: Brian Henry, Albert Johnson Jr., Carey Monroe*, Mike Cowan, Randy Warren, Steve Coleman**

ABSENT: Krista Ratliff, Kelly Harris, Hossein Moini,

ALSO PRESENT: Kobe Humble, City Clerk's Office; Kim McConnell, Lawton Constitution; Larry Parks, Parks & Rec; Kristin Huntley, Finance; Christopher Turner, Turner & Associates; William Miller, Play Lawton; Brian Schmidt, ESM Regional GM

***Arrived at 2:02 P.M.**

****Left at 2:40 P.M.**

Chairman Henry announced that the meeting would begin with Item #5 to accommodate Mr. Turner, who will be presenting the Audit Report.

REPORTS:

- 1. Indoor Facilities Committee – Receive a report regarding the activities of the Indoor Facilities Committee.**

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Chairman Henry stated that in the last meeting, we approved a motion to leave any further amendments unexecuted on the 86 acres located on the south side of the river due to unresolved issues.

He stated that because of this, they immediately began exploring alternative sites. One of these has become a promising option for several reasons. Chairman Henry provided the Authority members a map which shows the areas of land that he is referring to. A copy of the map may be obtained from the City Clerk's Office upon request. He stated that there are three tracks of land—two on the north side and one on the south—totaling 39 acres. These tracks include city-owned property as well as land owned by the Lawton Public Schools Office of Land.

He mentioned that two of these tracks were previously exchanged between the city and the school system years ago. The remaining land includes a trailer park off Flower Mound Road and a tract near the Flats at MacArthur Apartment Complex.

While this site involves the Richards Trust, as did the south-side property, the issue there stemmed from an improperly transferred deed. However, this site appears less complicated. It remains under the control of the Frank Richards Trust, with Donna Richards as the primary trustee. She is currently having the abstracts prepared. If no similar deed transfer issues arise, there would be no obstacles to purchasing this property.

An appraisal, conducted at the same time as previous appraisals, values the property at \$248,000. Chairman Henry stated that he has spoken with Kevin Hime regarding the school land surrounding Eastside Park. He expressed strong confidence that his board would support a favorable lease agreement for the land's use, particularly for an indoor facility benefiting MacArthur.

Chairman Henry stated that Mr. Hime mentioned that their gyms are overwhelmed with activity, especially the smaller auxiliary gyms. The floors are in poor condition and barely suitable for practice. MacArthur also has archery programs using the gyms, creating additional demand for space. As a result, Hime sees this as a very attractive opportunity to swap services and better meet their needs.

Chairman Henry noted that they are actively exploring this option. If the land checks out, we could potentially acquire control of 128 acres, including the city-owned land, for \$248,000—a highly favorable outcome.

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Chairman Henry noted that there are some topography challenges that will need to be addressed. However, he has already discussed potential solutions with John Wack.

The Authority engaged in further discussion about the land and explored the various possibilities it presents.

2. Parks & Recreation – Receive a report from the City of Lawton Parks & Recreation Division.

No reports at this time.

3. Eastern Sports Management – Receive a report from Eastern Sports Management.

Chairman Henry introduced Brian Schmidt, the Regional General Manager of ESM.

Schmidt provided a detailed explanation of his role with ESM and shared some insights into his responsibilities.

Miller explained that last month, they were still awaiting final fall registration numbers, as registrations were still coming in. He noted that, as discussed previously, they lost all tackle football participants to a competing impact league, amounting to a loss of 332 players. This resulted in a 5% decrease in overall fall participation.

Miller highlighted a significant positive: despite losing those players, the overall participation only dropped slightly due to an 84% increase in youth baseball, softball, and volleyball registrations this fall. Miller expressed confidence that as they rebuild trust with the tackle football community and address the causes of the decline, even a partial return of tackle football participants would be impactful. He emphasized that the growth in other sports shows strong momentum for continued success.

Miller continued the discussion, providing further updates on current activities within Play Lawton and sharing ideas for future initiatives.

4. Finance Report – Consider approving the Treasurer's Report from Hatch, Croke, and Associates as well as corresponding financial statement(s) from Eastern Sports Management

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Chairman Henry presented the financial statement(s) from Hatch, Croke, & Associates for the period ending September 30, 2023, as well as the financial statement from Eastern Sports Management for September 2024. Copies of these statements are available upon request from the City Clerk's office.

Motion by Warren, **Second** by Cowan, to approve the Treasurer's Report from Hatch, Croke, and Associates as well as financial statement(s) from Eastern Sports Management. **AYE:** Henry, Johnson, Monroe, Cowan, Warren **NAY:** None. ***Motion Passed unanimously.***

BUSINESS ITEMS:

5. Consider approving the Annual Audit from Turner & Associates and take action as deemed necessary.

Turner presented the Annual Audit Report, which is filed in the City Clerk's Office and available upon request.

Motion by Johnson, **Second** by Monroe, to approve the Annual Audit from Turner & Associates. **AYE:** Johnson, Monroe, Cowan, Warren, Coleman, Henry **NAY:** None. ***Motion Passed unanimously.***

6. Consider approving an amended LYSA budget for fiscal year 2024-2025 and take action as deemed necessary.

Chairman Henry stated that during a meeting with the Mayor about the budget process, and initially, the Authority was allocated slightly less than what was requested. However, this amendment aims to increase our original budget.

Chairman Henry highlighted specific figures on the budget worksheet, which are available for review upon request at the City Clerk's Office.

Motion by Johnson, **Second** by Monroe, to approve the amended LYSA budget for fiscal year 2024-2025 and take action as deemed necessary. **AYE:** Monroe, Cowan, Warren, Henry, Johnson **NAY:** None. ***Motion Passed unanimously.***

7. Consider approving the First Amended Agreement for Funding and Limited Support Agreement and take action as deemed necessary.

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Chairman Henry explained that this amendment is directly tied to the budget, clarifying that it simply adjusts the funding amount while keeping the purpose unchanged.

Motion by Johnson, **Second** by Monroe, to approve First Amended Agreement for Funding and Limited Support Agreement and take action as deemed necessary. **AYE:** Monroe, Cowan, Warren, Henry, Johnson **NAY:** None. **Motion Passed unanimously.**

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Monroe, **Second** by Warren, to adjourn the November 14, 2024, meeting. **AYE:** Cowan, Warren, Henry, Johnson, Monroe **NAY:** None. **Motion Passed unanimously.**

There will be no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:53 P.M.