

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
LAWTON ENHANCEMENT TRUST AUTHORITY
3RD FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
CITY HALL - 212 SW 9TH STREET
LAWTON, OK 73501
WEDNESDAY MARCH 12, 2025– 3:00 P.M.

Chairman Ezerski called the meeting to order at 3:00 P.M. in the 3rd floor conference room of City Hall.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Charles Owens, Ted Symuleski, Barry Ezerski, Dwain Baxter, Addie Smith, Chris Rabon, Johnny Owens

ABSENT: Mary Ann Hankins (excused), Dwight Tanner (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 Services Division Director; Jason Poudrier, Arts & Humanities

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH OKLAHOMA OPEN MEETING ACT, 25 O.S. 301-314

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

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

1. Reports

- A. 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.

Dennis Totte, Bedrock Nursery, said we're doing a lot of tree trimming - we have about three or four sites left, and then we'll be totally done with tree trimming.

Totte said we've laid mulch down at the HC King Center and the Owens Center. He said they've gotten most of the main sites done, and they're working on the off sites now.

Totte said the work being done to the tree grates on 2nd Street is approximately 85% complete, so that project should be done within the next week or week and a half.

Totte said they will begin rehabilitating the two flowerbeds at the entrance to Elmer Thomas Park sometime this week.

Totte said they will start annual color changes on all the 2nd Street pots and all the bedding sites during the first part of May.

Chairman Ezerski asked Totte if any damage was incurred during the winter.

Totte said he's been looking around, and so far, everything looks good.

Totte said they are also working to reprogram sprinkler systems for the spring.

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

Charlotte Brown, Community Services Division Director, said for the month of February, we issued 669 violation notices, 140 work orders were issued and three D & D properties were torn down.

Brown said on Tuesday night, the City Council approved three contracts for abatement work orders – two of these are new contracts, and one is an extension.

Brown said they've hired two code enforcement officers that start working on Monday. She noted that the department needs at least eight more code enforcement officers.

Brown noted that 21 D & D properties will be taken to the City Council on April 8th to be declared dilapidated.

Chairman Ezerski asked Brown how often they see people making an effort to clean up their properties.

Brown said probably about 20% of them.

- C. Consider approving submitted materials for payment. – **STRICKEN**

- D. Consider approving the monthly Treasurer Report. – **STRICKEN**

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

Larry Parks, Parks and Recreation Director, said the new aquatics center is on target for July.

Parks said the park improvements at Skyline Park and Hunter Hills Park are complete. Parks said staff is currently working on park improvements to Willow Creek Park – this project is about 30% complete. Parks said deconstruction at Kid Zone should be wrapping up today. After this is done, Parks said his staff will begin leveling the surface, and then they'll get started with installing the equipment.

Chairman Ezerski asked Parks how long the park improvements at Kid Zone will take.

Parks said approximately 50-60 days – we’re looking to have it completed by June.

- F. Receive a report from the Community Services Division Director regarding ongoing LETA projects and take action as deemed necessary.

Brown said she’s been working with Susan and Tammy on the veteran’s brick project. Susan has provided the company with the information they’ve requested regarding setting up a stripe account, and we’re waiting to hear back. Once we hear back from them, we’ll be able to go live with the website and proceed with placing orders.

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

No updates were reported.

- H. 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 & Marketing Director, said we recently pushed out information regarding the upcoming Eye Candy Gala event that will be open to the public. Gatlin said tickets for the event are \$25, and the event will be held on April 11th.

Gatlin said we’re on track to start promoting yard of the month nominations.

Chairman Ezerski asked if the first month for the competition will be April.

Gatlin said yes.

2. Business

- A. Consider approving the minutes of the February 19, 2025, meeting.

A copy of the minutes from the February 19, 2025, meeting may be obtained from the City Clerk’s Office upon request.

Motion by Rabon, Second by Baxter, to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2025, meeting.
AYE: Ezerski, Symuleski, Rabon, Baxter, Smith, Charles Owens. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** Johnny Owens. ***MOTION PASSED.***

- B. Consider ratifying the action of the City Council by approving a contract with LimeLight Productions to provide entertainment and a fireworks display at the 2025 Freedom Festival and by authorizing payment of LimeLight Productions invoices in the total amount of \$145,000.

Jason Poudrier, Arts and Humanities, provided background information on this item. A copy of the contract with LimeLight Productions to provide entertainment and a fireworks display at the 2025 Freedom Festival may be obtained from the City Clerk’s Office upon request.

Poudrier said LETA gets a portion of hotel motel funds that goes towards the Freedom Festival. He noted that the Freedom Festival Committee will be raising as much private funds as possible to offset the hotel motel funds that are coming in. Poudrier noted that there are many different levels and ways that people can participate this year.

Chairman Ezerski asked if the Authority has this funding in their account.

Poudrier said the funding is in the account, and Susan is aware that the whole amount is not due now – only half is due now as a deposit. The other half will be due when the actual event occurs.

Chairman Ezerski asked for the dates of the Freedom Festival.

Poudrier said the Freedom Festival will be held on June 27th and 28th – we always do the event on the Saturday before the 4th of July.

Motion by Smith, Second by Johnny Owens, to approve the contract with LimeLight Productions and authorize payment of LimeLight Productions invoices in the total amount of \$145,000. **AYE:** Ezerski, Symuleski, Rabon, Baxter, Smith, Charles Owens, Johnny Owens. **NAY:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

- C. Select an award recipient to receive the Kids First Champion Award at the 2025 Eye Candy Gala.

Gatlin provided background information on this item. She provided Authority members with a list of nominees for the Kids First Champion Award. A copy of the list of nominees for the Kids First Champion Award may be obtained from the City Clerk's Office upon request.

Gatlin said we had a nomination form posted, but we didn't really get a lot of traction despite having the form posted on the website. She said staff also did a couple of interviews with the Breeze 99.5. Staff also reached out to anyone who's been involved in the Street Clean Saturdays in an effort to generate some interest in submitting nominations for the award.

Gatlin said she knows the most about Cam Huynh, only because he's also a City of Lawton employee.

Rabon asked Gatlin the name of the individual she recommended for this award during the last LETA meeting.

Gatlin said it was Tim and Dee McFarland. This couple was recently recognized by the City Council for their commitment to keeping Lawton clean.

Gatlin said the Kids First Champion Award will be presented at the Eye Candy Gala event on April 11th. We are still in the process of figuring out what type of award and gifts we want to give to award recipients. Gatlin noted that last year we gave award recipients really nice clocks with engraved plates on them, but unfortunately this clock company is no longer in business.

Johnny Owens asked for more information on Cam Huynh.

Gatlin said Cam Huynh works for the City of Lawton Stormwater Division, and he's the one who headed up the Street Clean Saturday events. He started doing this on his own time during the weekends. Gatlin said her department has made posts about these events in an effort to get more volunteers. Gatlin said Huynh shows up every Saturday regardless of how many volunteers there may be that day.

Chairman Ezerski said Huynh has also been involved with initiatives of the Homeless Task Force.

Motion by Johnny Owens, Second by Rabon, to select Cam Huynh as the award recipient of the Kids First Champion Award to be presented at the 2025 Eye Candy Gala. **AYE:** Ezerski, Symuleski, Rabon, Baxter, Smith, Charles Owens, Johnny Owens. **NAY:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

- D. Select an award recipient to receive the Yard of the Year Award at the 2025 Eye Candy Gala.

Gatlin provided background information on this item. She provided Authority members with photos of Yard of the Month winners for the months of April through September. A copy of the photos of Yard of the Month winners for the months of April through September may be obtained from the City Clerk's Office upon request.

Gatlin said once we have the Yard of the Year selected, we're going to finalize our invitations for the Eye Candy Gala, and you can expect to be receiving these invitations shortly. The back of the invitation will have a list of the award recipients.

Motion by Symuleski, Second by Charles Owens, to select the September 2024 Yard of the Month winner as the recipient of the Yard of the Year Award to be presented at the 2025 Eye Candy Gala. **AYE:** Ezerski, Symuleski, Rabon, Baxter, Smith, Charles Owens, Johnny Owens. **NAY:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

Chairman Ezerski asked Gatlin if they'll be contacting the winners.

Gatlin said yes, we will be contacting the winners. We've already reached out to Phil Kennedy, Rhonda Norrell and Dory Thomas to schedule their interviews.

Chairman Ezerski asked for an update on the upcoming Trash Off event.

Brown said as far as she is aware, everything is on track. The event is scheduled for April 5th at 8:00AM.

Gatlin said we're still looking for volunteers for Trash Off. We have the volunteer form posted on the website, and it's also on our Kids First page.

Symuleski asked what areas the volunteers will be working in.

Gatlin said volunteers are needed in all areas. They will have the option to choose what area they want to pick up trash in.

Brown said if there are Authority members that wish to serve, there will also be spots available for volunteering at McMahon, to include taking money during the event.

Symuleski said he will be there at 8:00AM to volunteer.

Charles Owens noted that there are trees growing out onto the roadway on Cache Road in front of Olive Garden.

Parks said he will send his staff to check this out and trim the trees again if needed. Parks said the Parks and Recreation Department has been tasked with beautifying Rogers Lane. Parks said the project kicked off today, and they'll be working with Dennis Totte to install Crepe Myrtles from I-44 to 82nd Street on Rogers Lane.

Chairman Ezerski asked if there is a sprinkler system installed.

Parks said there is not one installed currently, but staff is working to address this.

3. Adjournment

Motion by Johnny Owens, **Second** by Symuleski, to adjourn the March 12, 2025, meeting.

AYE: Ezerski, Symuleski, Rabon, Baxter, Smith, Charles Owens, Johnny Owens. **NAY:** None.

MOTION PASSED.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:29 P.M.