

MINUTES
LAWTON ENHANCEMENT TRUST AUTHORITY
3rd FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM CITY HALL
212 SW 9th STREET
APRIL 8, 2015

Jay Burk, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. in the 3rd Floor Conference Room. Notice of meeting and agenda were posted on the City Hall notice board as required by law.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Burk, Jay; Ezerski, Barry (entered late); Hampton, Allan, Morford, Bob; Rogers, Kyle; Sweeney, Kerry; Tennis, Michael

ABSENT: Dismuke, Bob; Hankins, Mary Ann; Smith, Addie.

OTHER PRESENT: Denise Ezell, City Clerk's Office; Kristin Huntley, Finance; Richard Rogalski, Planning; Billie Whipp and Keith Neitzke Park and Recreation; Anthony Griffith, Neighborhood Services.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

Burk stated we have some new members. If you don't mind would you introduce yourself to the Authority and tell us a little bit about you.

Rogers stated my name is Kyle Rogers and I represent Ward 4. I'm a graduate of MacArthur and have lived on the east side all my life. I work with Fit Kids Southwest Oklahoma Coalition and the Health Department. I do a lot of quality of life improvements, physical activities, nutrition, and anything that applies to health. Being on the Authority allows me to benefit my job and my community.

Hampton stated my name is Allan Hampton and I represent Ward 5. I have lived in Lawton since 1963. I was at Flower Mound School, Central Junior High and MacArthur. I spent some time in the military and also ran a radio station. I am involved with Upward Bound and also some IT stuff for the Christian Center. After my son told me he thought Norman would be a better place to raise my grandson I decided I needed to get involved to make this a better place.

Burk stated welcome to both of you.

1. Reports

A. Receive Treasurer Report and take action if necessary.

Huntley stated looking at the first page you will notice you have more cash than last month. The second page shows you the income for the last month. We received the court collections for October, November, December and January, some Gala stuff, Freedom Festival received \$25,000 from Comanche Nation and vendors, Fresh Paint Days received checks from Walmart and HUD for \$11,000 and you also received your hotel/motel funds of \$29,092.08. All

your Gala expenses are covered in this report except 1 invoice. You had expenses for Freedom Festival flyers of \$329, Eye Candy Banquet for photos, names tags, letterhead and envelopes and for your 2014 tax return. The last page shows you how the Eye Candy Banquet compares to last year. You actually earned a little this year with the exception we haven't received Bedrocks sponsorship but it is included the numbers.

Totte stated I'm sorry I didn't realize you hadn't received it. I'll get it to you today.

Huntley stated we also have some silent auction money that is still outstanding. Are there any questions.

Burk stated are there any questions about the treasurer's report?

Motion by Sweeney, Second by Ezerski, to accept the treasurer's report. **Aye:** Ezerski; Hampton; Rogers; Sweeney; Tennis; Burk. **Motion Passed.**

B. Receive report from Dennis Totte and take action if necessary.

Totte stated we have started spring cleanup. We have mulched all the sites, tulip bulbs are blooming and we will pull those up once they are done flowering.

Burk stated they are absolutely beautiful.

Totte stated we will be checking the irrigation system and setting them to comply with the watering days. I need approved if there are breaks, broken heads or stolen timers that we can replace them and you will pay the replacement cost. Repairs were done with a backhoe on 11th Street across from the airport and damaged the watering system. I don't know what is involved but I'm certain it will need to be repaired. I don't know how you want to go about approving this project. At this time we are able to water twice a week and from what I hear we will be moving to once a week very soon. We did plan for this and grew some drought tolerant varieties that we will be planting on other sites. There is a lot of color included in your contract and before you have always planted additional color on Lee Blvd. and 2nd Street. We will be planting everything in periwinkles and rose moss. They like a once a week soaking and the hot dry weather. To place the extra on Lee Blvd. will be \$2520 and for 2nd Street \$2350.

Burk stated we have the drip system on 2nd Street but what is on Lee Blvd.

Totte stated misters.

Burk stated we need to be like everyone else and be conscious of our water situation. If we set it up for 1 day a week now that would save a lot of water.

Totte stated that will work for shrubbery. If we can get the flowers in early we can use twice a week to get the initial root and then cut back to once a week. Once a week is the recommended watering for these varieties.

Burk asked how long will it take to root.

Totte stated 3 to 4 weeks.

Burk stated so we would need to stay on twice a week until sometime in May. My direction to the city is when we are watering trees to start now with once a week.

Totte stated on sites with no color we can do that.

Burk stated I believe we need to water on Wednesday in case we have problems you can fix them on Thursday.

Sweeney asked will the periwinkles take the August heat.

Totte stated if you get them rooted and started off correctly they will. If worse comes to worse I have a water trailer we can use to get them by.

Burk stated we will need to do the repairs on 11th Street so find out what is needed there.

Totte stated the rest of the systems should just be general maintenance.

Burk stated if 11th Street is going to be more than \$1000 can you call me. I believe the color on 2nd Street makes a world of difference. It was amazing last year. My opinion is to plant them now and try the once a week watering.

Motion by Ezerski, Second by Tennis, to approve up to \$1000 for the repairs to the 11th Street irrigation system, \$2520 for color in the tree rings on Lee Blvd., and \$2350 for the color in the pots on 2nd Street. **Aye:** Ezerski; Hampton; Morford; Rogers; Sweeney; Tennis; Burk.
Motion Passed.

Burk stated the Lawton shrubbery on Hero Blvd. is absolutely amazing.

Totte stated we planted daffodils and they will come back every year. We will remove the tulips and next year plant more daffodils and tulips. Thank you.

C. Receive report from Parks and Recreation, and take action if necessary

Burk stated there were some areas of concern and I believe Whipp talked to you about those.

Neitzke stated they were supposed to do those yesterday.

Burk stated the Authority needs to be the extra eyes around town. We didn't get a good mowing on Flower Mound so I called and reported it. We need to make certain the job is done correctly. If you see an area that hasn't been mowed correctly call Whipp or Neitzke.

Ezerski asked are they in charge of mowing where Flower Mound and Rogers Lane meets in front of Shelter Creek.

Burk stated the city mows it and the contractor is to weed eat.

Neitzke stated that is one of those areas you have multiple management.

Burk stated keep your eyes open and report anything necessary.

D. Receive report from Public Relations Committee and take action if necessary.

Burk asked is there anything new.

Ezerski stated no.

Burk stated I saw the pictures of the Yard of the Year on the billboard and it looked great.

Ezerski asked we have lost our chairman so what do we need to do.

Burk asked is there anyone who would like to volunteer to be on this committee.

Rogers stated I will.

Hampton stated I will also.

Burk stated thank you.

E. Receive Monthly Ward Update and take action if necessary

Burk asked does anyone have anything we need to discuss.

Sweeney stated I was asked about watering gardens. They would like clarification on what stages they can water their gardens.

Rogalski stated in Stage 4 watering vegetables for personal consumption, not for resale, is exempted. In Stage 5 it is no longer exempted.

Rogers asked what about the old elementary school around the airport. It is horrible.

Burk stated that is Dunbar School and we need to sit down and have a conversation about it.

F. Receive report from Website Committee and take action if necessary.

Rogalski stated I'm having a little trouble getting information from Safi. She has set me up as the owner. We are going to meet next week and I was wondering if anyone on the committee wanted to meet with us. I'm not really an IT guy

Hampton asked who it is with.

Burk stated a company out of Oklahoma City.

Rogalski asked who is on the committee.

Sweeney stated I was but only for support and visual.

Hampton stated I know about websites and I'm willing to help but I don't want to be in charge.

Ezerski asked what is our domain.

Burk stated LETA.org.

Hampton stated you can buy as many domains as you want for \$10 a year.

Burk stated if you are willing to help that would be great.

Ezerski stated at this point we just need to get it out there.

Rogalski stated now that I have a users name and password I should be able to get in if I knew where to go.

Burk stated we should be able to contact Bryan White to get that information. If Rogalski and Hampton will get together I would appreciate it.

2. New Business

A. Consider approving invoices, requisitions, and other submitted materials for payment and take action if necessary.

Huntley stated I have one that needs to be retroactively approved to reimburse Keith Jackson for the Freedom Festival flyers and I need approval for Sign Dynamic for signs at the banquet, Sasseeen Reality for 2 months billboard rental and Comanche Home Center for Fresh Paint Days.

Motion by Ezerski, **Second** by Sweeney, to approve invoices, requisitions, and other submitted materials for payment. **Aye:** Hampton; Morford; Rogers; Sweeney; Tennis; Burk; Ezerski. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

B. Consider approving the minutes of March 11, 2015.

Motion by Tennis, Second by Rogers, to approve the minutes of March 11, 2015. **Aye:** Rogers; Sweeney; Tennis; Burk; Hampton. **Abstain:** Ezerski. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

C. Consider approving a request to fund an Eagle Scout Project by Marcos Bernier.

Bernier stated my Eagle Project consist of 6 flag poles to be placed behind the Lawton bushes located at 11th and Gore. I will be placing the United States, Oklahoma, US Army, Navy, Coast Guard and Air Force flags. I have set up a gofundme account and at this time I have contributions of \$2,100.

Sweeney asked what is the dollar amount you need to fund the project.

Bernier stated \$7,500. Anything extra will be used for replacement flags.

Burk asked who will maintain the project once it is completed.

Bernier stated we have spoke to veteran's organizations and they are going to help.

Ezerski stated it would be nice to have that in writing. The problem we have is once a project is complete there is no one to maintain them.

Burk asked have you started construction.

Bernier stated we are set to start on April 25th.

Tennis asked do you have enough money to get the flag poles in the ground.

Bernier stated the company we are ordering the poles from is going to allow us to pay for them after the funding is complete.

Sweeney stated if flags are lighted they can fly 24/7 so I wouldn't think there would be a lot of maintenance.

Burk stated it would be for replacement of the flags as needed. There needs to be a flag replacement fund so the city doesn't incur that cost.

Neitzke stated it will cost between \$1200 and \$1600 to replace the flags every 3 months. He came to talk with me and we have discussed all this. He is doing a great job in covering all his basis.

Hampton asked what are the poles made of.

Bernier stated aluminum.

Motion by Burk, Second by Sweeney, to approve \$4,500 to the Eagle Scout Project by Marcos Bernier. **Aye:** Morford; Rogers; Sweeney; Tennis; Burk; Ezerski; Hampton. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

D. Discuss future beautification and livability projects in the downtown area and take action as necessary.

Burk stated we have had individuals tell us how good we look in some areas and how bad we look in others. The City of Lawton is very spread out so we need something to tie it all together. All these individuals tell us we need a viable downtown. There are things we can do to beautify C Avenue such as medians and add outside tables and chairs for the eating establishments. These things are done all across the nation and C Avenue is perfect.

Rogalski stated C Avenue is Lawton's main street. We need to start working with the mall to make it look better. There hasn't been much done to downtown since the mall was built except for 2nd Street. They talked about there was an ocean of asphalt on C Avenue. 2nd Street is part of the revitalization plan and that plan comes to C Avenue. It will be a while before we finish that project due to funding. They told us to start with little thing to make it look like we care about downtown. I believe we have some great opportunities. Charlie Wright did a plan many years ago that showed building some islands with landscaping at the intersections. Just simple things to start with. We need to come up with a plan and do the plan in small chunks. Something that draws you to downtown is outdoor seating and we don't have that. We could take some of the parking spaced to build an area to provide public space in front of Burgess, Subway and Silver Spoon.

Burk stated we have a partial plan we like but I want LETA to come up with a plan. We need a vision for our next big project. We should be the leaders in redeveloping our downtown. I would like to see lighting in the middle of the road, plant trees, and to separate the mall for the other downtown stores. I would like to see a barrier of green so when you come out of the stores you don't see concrete. It was also recommended to block off the Courthouse with green.

Ezerski asked can we do anything to the south side with the wall around the parking lot.

Burk stated that is one of the things they talked about.

Rogalski stated one report states the corner of 5th & C is the bleakest corner they have ever seen. When you are looking at downtown you have a jail and a huge cement parking lot that has been fenced off. They believe we need to remove the fence because it separates the mall from downtown.

Burk stated I believe we need a 3 year plan. We would start at the corner of 2nd & C and work our way back west. We need to tear out the concrete medians at 6th & C and make it a landscaped median.

Rogalski stated I believe we need to keep the 4 way stops and then we won't need the left turn bays.

Tenis stated I like the circles in the middle of an intersection with no stop lights.

Rogalski stated we talked about a roundabout to create a different entrance to the mall. Since you won't need the left turn bays you could have a fat median all the way.

Rogers stated I would propose an open streets project. They are doing those across the nation. You close down the streets and have biking, walking, running, sidewalk art, shopping, and eating all at once. This would be a multipurpose kind of event. We hope to do one on C Avenue from 2nd to 5th. We would bring in temporary planters, trees, sod for chill zones, play zones, music and food trucks. I don't know what LETA's involvement wants to be but we are working on doing this in June.

Burk stated LETA is a spearhead for those projects. We don't have the manpower to put the project on so we have to invite other community leaders to help.

Hampton stated there is a lot of traffic downtown at lunch and then at 5:15 it is empty. We also need a living space. In Tulsa at the Philbrook there are benches everywhere to enjoy the beauty of what they have created.

Rogers stated if you don't do projects like Open Street and the medians to create an atmosphere you will never have living space down there. You have to start doing something.

Ezerski asked is there any way we could put a water feature down there.

Rogalski stated there is one in the plans for the park at 2nd & C and we would re-circulate the water. There isn't necessarily a huge waste of water if you re-circulate. That would help frame that end of the project.

Burk stated I would like to bring back more ideas but this is a start. It won't be cheap to put a median in but with the community help we can redo downtown.

Rogalski stated since you have a landscape architect under contract you might consider a change order for a concept for C Avenue.

Burk stated would you contact them because we need a plan.

Rogalski stated if congress issues transportation alternative funding we will have a chance at more funding from ODOT.

Burk stated we will bring this back.

E. Discuss the impending water restrictions associated with the five stages of the new water conservation ordinance and the possible need for LETA to obtain water from other sources to maintain their landscaping.

Rogalski stated first let me fill you in on the well at 2nd & Ferris. They put 100,000 pounds of force on the stem and it wouldn't budget. This well is a done deal. They will cap it and close it down. You will have \$5000 to \$6000 invested in attempting to clear the well. I did get quotes for drilling a new well. To drill a test well is \$42,000. That includes drilling, cleaning up, logging service and water quality testing. If the volume is good and you decide to put the well in the total cost is \$144,000. This is not a cheap venture.

Ezerski asked would we need several.

Rogalski stated we hope one well would supply enough water for the entire park.

Ezerski asked do we water the park now.

Burk stated no. Our goal is to keep the lake full and do streams in the park. If it produced potable water we have another dilemma.

Rogalski stated also if we were in Stage 5 we could fill a water truck to water the medians. LETA has a lot of money invested in landscaping and when we hit Stage 5 you would not be allowed to water. This could be a source of water.

Ezerski asked do they have any indication as to where to put the well.

Rogalski stated the coke well has a lot of history of producing and if we are in the same area we should be good. We would also see where the best location would be. If you are interested we can set up a contract. Putting a well in Elmer Thomas Park is a big deal and I believe we could get buy in from City Council.

Burk stated funding wise \$42,000 is a lot of money for us.

Rogalski stated the water is not at a treated level that it can be used for anything. It needs a high level of treatment in order to do that.

Ezerski stated so you are saying the water could potentially kill our plants.

Burk stated yes. That is the purpose of testing it.

Rogalski stated we would probably have to put in a small treatment center as part of the pump house.

Burk asked do we want to spend \$40,000.

Rogalski stated if you do the first step you will want to finish the process right away or you will have to start over from zero. A well won't stay open if you don't case it.

Burk stated we don't have \$144,000.

Rogalski stated you don't want to start unless you have \$144,000. You can wait on the pump but you have to put the casing in.

Burk stated we need to look at other funding sources. I'm willing to do a buy in but I can't see \$144,000.

Rogalski stated we need to look at partnering with the City. This is water production and a city park.

Burk stated it is expensive up front but it is a forever thing.

Neitzke stated also you won't be using potable water to water with.

Motion by Ezerski, Second by Tennis, to table this item. **Aye:** Rogers; Sweeney; Tennis; Burk; Ezerski; Hampton. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

F. Ratify the modification by the City Council to Amendment #3 of the Trust Indenture to allow an employee of the City of Lawton to serve as the LETA Director as long as their salary is not paid from hotel/motel funds.

Motion by Sweeney, Second by Rogers, to ratify the modification by the City Council to Amendment #3 of the Trust Indenture to allow an employee of the City of Lawton to serve as the LETA Director as long as their salary is not paid from hotel/motel funds. **Aye:** Sweeney; Tennis; Burk; Ezerski; Hampton; Rogers. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

G. Consider donating \$5,000 to "Mac'15 Project Graduation" as a pilot project to create an alcohol, drug and tobacco free high school graduation event.

Burk stated we received \$160,000 for becoming a tobacco free city. One of the requirements to receive this money is to hold an alcohol, drug and tobacco free school graduation event. MacArthur has agreed to be the hosting school but they need kick off money. It will be held at the YMCA and will begin around 11:00 p.m. the night of graduation. We are approaching LETA because they are the benefactor of the grant. This doesn't fall within the scope of our contributions but if we don't find a way to do this we will lose the \$160,000. Our goal is to raise \$10,000 so the \$5,000 would be very helpful. We need other donations so if you know of anyone that can help we would appreciate it. These are held all over Oklahoma. Mustang has done this for 20 years and they raise \$50,000 to sponsor it.

Motion by Rogers, Second by Tennis, to donate \$5,000 to "Mac'15 Project Graduation" as a pilot project to create an alcohol, drug and tobacco free high school graduation event. **Aye:** Sweeney; Tennis; Burk; Ezerski; Hampton; Rogers. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

H. Consider removing Jane Godlove and adding Richard Rogalski and Kerry Sweeney to the signature card at City National Bank.

Motion by Tennis, **Second** by Rogers, to remove Jane Godlove and adding Richard Rogalski and Kerry Sweeney to the signature card at City National Bank. **Aye:** Tennis; Burk; Ezerski; Hampton; Rogers; Sweeney. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

I. Discuss the projects associated with the Certified Healthy Communities Grant and take action as necessary.

Rogalski stated when I applied for the grant I had to state what the money would be used for. We are semi locked into what I placed in the grant. I placed \$147,000 in capital improvements to purchase bollard lighting for Elmer Thomas and Greer parks and construction of walking, jogging and cycling trails within the City of Lawton. I wasn't certain you would want to place bollard lights in Greer Park but since we are building a trail I thought it might be a good idea.

Burk stated I think it is a great idea with Kids Zone there.

Rogalski stated if we have anything left we could put it towards the connector with Fort Sill or at the 2nd & C Park. The other \$13,000 is for funding signage along walking, jogging and cycling trails with the City of Lawton. There isn't a long term on this money so we have to get it spent.

Burk stated to finish the bollard lighting in Elmer Thomas was \$55,000.

Rogalski stated the park connections was \$29,000 and Greer Park was \$14,000. This might not be the actual cost because we need an estimate from an electrician.

Burk asked didn't we installed the electrical ourselves.

Neitzke stated yes. We do the installation but a licensed electrician has to do the final hookup. The price I gave you was with us installing them.

Rogalski stated I believe it is important that the trail has a name. We talked about "Fit Kids Trail Way System" because the money actually came from Fit Kids. We received a certified healthy community because of all the work done through the Fit Kids Collation.

Burk stated I agree with that.

Rogers stated we are working on some designs.

J. Discuss potential LovingLawton.com community projects and take action as necessary.

Rogers stated we are waiting to kickoff the website. We want to give the power back to the community and let them have input on projects and the funds. I have done surveys and polls and have received big ideas of what they want in the community. We can't start off big so our thoughts are to start with some really small projects that would cost a couple of thousand to get

some really good success under our belts and then expand from there. Here are some pictures of “anmalympics” that could be placed at Elmer Thomas and Greer Park where kids could do these activities. Another would be to redo the benches in Shepler Park. They are falling apart. We also talked about the needs in the playgrounds and parks. This is a rope course and they start at a couple thousand and go all the way to \$15,000. You can add pieces as you go. These are some ideas but we are open to any other ideas. I really would like to get this up and running. I would like to see a splash park.

Burk stated we have money for a splash park to be built in Elmer Thomas in the CIP.

Rogalski stated LETA has a fund for a skate park that hasn’t gone anywhere in a while. That might be something Loving Lawton might want to take on.

Burk stated that is about a \$300,000 project to be done in Elmer Thomas Park.

Rogers stated that is a bigger project than what we wanted to start with.

Burk stated I love the concept of this and I say we try it.

Motion by Sweeney, **Second** by Ezerski, to appoint Kyle Rogers as the LoveLawton.com Chairman and to approve the 3 projects she has recommended. **Aye:** Burk; Ezerski; Hampton; Rogers; Sweeney; Tennis. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

3. Old Business
4. Announcements
5. Adjournment

There being nothing further the meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Motion by Sweeney, **Second** by Tennis, to adjourn. **Aye:** Ezerski; Hampton; Rogers; Sweeney; Tennis; Burk. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**