

MINUTES
LAWTON ENHANCEMENT TRUST AUTHORITY
3rd FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM CITY HALL
212 SW 9th STREET
SEPTEMBER 11, 2019

Mary Ann Hankins, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. in the 3rd Floor Conference Room. Notice of meeting and agenda was posted on the City Hall notice board as required by law.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Burk Jay (entered late); Ezerski, Barry; Hampton, Allen; Hankins, Mary Ann; McConnell, Lou; Sweeney, Kerry; Symuleski, Ted; Tennis, Michael.

ABSENT: Coody, Joshua; Morford, Robert; Smith, Addie.

OTHER PRESENT: Richard Rogalski and Charlotte Brown, Planning; Jack Hanna, Parks and Recreation; Will Hines, Neighborhood Services; Kristin Huntley, Finance Department; Denise Ezell, City Clerk's Office.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

1. Reports

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

Unavailable.

B. Receive a report from Children United and take action if necessary.

Ezerski stated they will be hosting an update on October 8 from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. in the Summit Room at the Apache Casino. They have received word from Heather Heart that the playground equipment will be on sale the month of October for 50% off. The cost of the equipment was to run \$259,700 plus freight and this would lower the price to \$143,000. At this time, they have around \$95,000 in their account. Jeanette Cline is working with Arvest and a couple of others to see if we could possibly get a short-term loan. Purchasing the equipment now would knock over a \$100,000 off the project.

Rogalski asked do we have a place to store it.

Hanna stated yes, the armory.

Ezerski stated We hope to find a way to raise the funds. They will be hosting a silent auction at their October event. They about have all their dancers for the next Dancing With The Stars and the event should be as successful as the first one.

C. Consider approving invoices, requisitions, and all other submitted materials for payment.

Huntley stated these need to be retroactively approved. One to Sasseen Reality for \$300, Bedrock Nursery for maintenance at the splash park, butterfly garden and City Hall and three to Bedrock Irrigation for \$96.80, \$214.52 and \$467.40 for sprinkler repairs.

Motion by Tennis, **Second** by Sweeney, to approve invoices, requisitions, and all other submitted materials for payment. **Aye:** Ezerski; Hampton; Hankins; McConnell; Sweeney; Symuleski; Tennis. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

D. Receive Treasurer Report and take action if necessary.

Huntley stated at the end of August you had \$341,136.92 in the bank and the custodial accounts had \$226,722.65. Under Other Current Assets you see landfill fees and municipal fines receivable. Those were received in September and will fall off this month. On the next page you see we didn't have a lot of activity this month. The miscellaneous donation of \$185 was from Facebook.

Burk stated that was a fund raiser I did on my birthday.

Huntley stated under expenses the \$2100 for advertising and promotion was the billboard for February through August. Repairs, maintenance and replanting was \$3100 for flowerbed maintenance and tree removal at 6th and Cache Road. Total net income for August was negative \$5,015.00. On the Income and Expense Tracker you see we haven't received much revenue. I'm making a claim for hotel/motel taxes at the end of the month. Municipal fines for July and August interest will hit the bank in September so there is nothing to report there. Year to date expenses is \$9,544.57 and we have \$53,560 pending to include the C Avenue Lighting project and the bulb planting. Are there any questions.

Rogalski stated we need to change the C Avenue Lighting project from 5th to 6th and we will be cutting the cost down. I'll get you the numbers.

Ezerski asked what is the timeline on the lights.

Rogalski stated it has to go to Council first to accept the poles.

Burk stated I have an idea of using hooks on the buildings and then across to the poles. There was concern about the amount of light on the sidewalks and this might be something we want to consider.

Ezerski asked are the buildings high enough.

Rogalski stated I believe so. You are only going as high as a single pole. It might be difficult to get the anchors in a good spot.

Burk stated this might save us some money and eliminate the thought of there not being enough light.

Rogalski stated I bet it cost more. The poles are easy to connect too and you will have to get permission from the owners to put hooks on their buildings.

Burk stated we would remove the poles on that side of the street and paint the poles on the other side. We need to complete block one (1) before moving to block two (2). I believe the cost will drop from \$23,000 to \$15,000 or \$17,000.

Rogalski asked are you using a different contractor.

Burk stated yes. I don't believe we need an electrician to hang the lights. Also, the company contacted me and are willing to make us a deal if we buy directly from them. We will only need an electrician at the connection point.

Rogalski stated I'll write the commentary subject to a Notice To Proceed. We don't want PSO to turn the lights off until we give them notice.

Burk stated we need to get this to Council soon. There are businesses that want to donate but they want to see that the City has okayed it before donating. I talked with the City Manager about the tipping fees. We know the number is not right and we believe the problem is the way the landfill reports it to finance. I also talked with the Judge about the municipal fines fee. The judge has been receiving .50¢ from the \$5.00 fee and he has never used it. He had agreed to give the .50¢ and all the accumulated monies to LETA. He felt since they were getting a new building he would not need the funds.

Rogalski asked do we have a dollar amount.

Huntley stated around \$55,000.

Burk stated we need to take it back to Council for them to approve LETA to receive the full \$5.00 and the accumulated amount. Are there any questions on the treasurer's report?

Motion by Tennis, **Second** by Ezerski, to accept the treasurer's report. **Aye:** Ezerski; Hampton; Hankins; McConnell; Sweeney; Symuleski; Tennis; Burk. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

Ezerski stated Burk, before you entered the room, I was telling the members that Children United received notification that their equipment would be 50% off next month. If we take advantage of this saving the cost will be a little over \$140,000 instead of \$260,000 plus. We have \$95,000 at this time and are looking to take a short-term loan to purchase the equipment.

Burk asked have they talked with McMahon Foundation.

Ezerski stated Madigan is on the foundation and he is aware of the situation.

E. Receive report from Cultural Preservation Committee and take action if necessary.

Brown stated they did not meet in August.

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

Hanna stated there have been multiple issues with the irrigation on Cache Road. In the last four and a half (4 ½) years we have replaced 100 sprinkler heads. When the irrigation was installed, they did not take into consideration the growth of the trees. The pipe is being pushed up and when we mow we hit the heads.

Burk stated let's get Bedrock to look at it. There are trees that are in distress.

Hanna stated we are watering by hand.

Burk stated that area and Railroad to 2nd Street needs to be included in the maintenance contract. When are we going to mow the wildflower areas? They are full of trash.

Hanna stated the end of October or first of November.

Burk stated the State has mowed their areas. I believe the wildflowers made progress this year but would like to ask the State if it is time to reseed. We need to look into this.

Rogalski stated we will call the State.

Hanna stated the fountain wasn't working on Saturday. We had a power surge and we had to reset it.

Burk asked when does your new liter person go to work.

Hanna stated we have two (2) applications and one is internal. I'll pull the applications on Friday to start the interviewing process. I'm in the process of trying to find a vehicle.

Burk stated I promise I will get him a vehicle. You have Council members here and we will raise a stink. I spoke with the City Manager about the grass growing in the streets. I hoping your new person will have a crew to weed eat curb lines. He stated that once the grass was cut, they were going to start putting tar in the cracks.

Hankins asked is there still a dilemma of who is responsible for the weeds coming up in the streets?

Hanna stated I'm not touching the streets. I don't have enough manpower to do the streets and my operations. My focus and responsibility is the curb lines, joints and curbs.

Burk stated the new crew will be free labor. I know you don't have enough people, but please help when you can. In the new contract I want it to state all trash must be picked up and not mowed over.

Hanna stated that is in the contract now. If you see where they have mowed over it let me know.

Ezerski stated I saw a shredded box they mowed over.

Hanna stated they know better. They are supposed to pick it up. We have a great discussion at the CIP meeting last Thursday. Also, the Chamber is paying for electricity to be place at the stage in Elmer Thomas Park. We hope to start that project soon. The cost will run around \$48,000.

Burk stated this is great news. Thank you.

G. Receive report from Public Relations, Website and Facebook Committees, and take action if necessary.

Vrska stated we just posted last month's Yard of The Month and they had never heard of LETA. They were very excited. Our post reach is up, our post engagement is up and our page reviews are up. We are doing good online. Brown has the photos and videos ready for the annual report which will go to Council soon. We have installed smart TV's around City Hall and LETA has a couple of slides. One thanking the McMahon Foundation and the other Yard of The Month.

Rogalski stated the Skate Park Funding Committee has come up with a couple of events. The first one will be at the International Festival. We will open the splash pad on Saturday of the event and sell sponsorship.

Vrska stated basically they will be paying for advertising. There are four (4) different areas of advertisement. We will make a banner with all the logos to place on the fence around the splash pad. The banner will be displayed for all three (3) days of the event. The splash pad will be opened for six (6) hours on Saturday. For \$250 your logo will be placed on the banner. For \$500 you will be on the banner and mentioned online. For \$1000 you get both of those plus media mention and a larger banner.

Rogalski stated the other event was a casino night and we probably won't do this event until after the holidays.

Burk stated we have talked about several ideas. We felt using the splash pad was the best but we will need help manning it on Saturday. I believe if McMahon see we are trying to raise funds they will help us out.

Vrska stated it will cost \$300 for two (2) staffers and a lifeguard. We want to have the larger platforms available so we can show others what it will look like. With the LETA volunteers we hope to sell the idea.

Sweeney asked are you raising the money before the event.

Rogalski stated yes. We will accept donations at the location if someone wanted to give. If all we raise is enough to pay for the staff it that makes it successful. We have raised a little money and a lot of awareness.

Sweeney stated it would be good for the board to support this and approach people we know for sponsorships.

Brown stated there is also a signup sheet for volunteers.

Motion by Sweeney, **Second** by Hankins, to approve the fund raising event for the Skatepark during the International Festival. **Aye:** Hampton; Hankins; McConnell; Sweeney; Symuleski; Tennis; Burk; Ezerski. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

Ezerski stated may I interrupt for just a moment. I just received a text from Cline in regards to the loan. They are asking if this needs LETA's approval.

Burk asked how much do they need.

Ezerski stated they would like to keep \$20,000 in their account for next year's event. The cost of the equipment is \$143,000 and they have \$95,000 less the \$20,000. They would need around \$70,000. McMahon said they would match once they raised \$240,000. Madigan has said they can probably work out a short term note but they are worried about the legalities of the loan.

Rogalski asked who is buying the equipment.

Burk stated LETA.

Rogalski stated they could get a loan and deposit the funds into LETA's account and LETA would not have to be a part of the loan. If they want the loan to be secured then LETA would have to be a part of it.

Burk stated we will need to speak with Madigan about those details. Another thought is LETA could loan them the money. We were just given \$55,000 that we weren't expecting and they could pay us back after their next dancing event. They would not have to pay any interest or loan processing fees. This would be a big help. What are the thoughts of the board?

Ezerski stated that would be huge.

Symuleski asked will the City of Lawton or LETA be purchasing the equipment.

Burk stated LETA.

Hampton asked do we have a date of when we will be paid back.

Burk stated sometime after their event in April. Does this need to be done by October 1.

Ezerski stated the board could make the decision at their next meeting. The purchase has to be made by the 21st of October.

Burk stated we have the funds and I hate to see them take out a loan for something they are trying to raise funding for. We can approve loaning them the funds at the next meeting. Let them know we will approve this item next month.

H. Receive Monthly Ward Update and take action if necessary.

Hampton stated Open Streets was a success. The only problem was the heat. It was so hot they deflated the blowups.

I. Receive report from Neighborhood Services.

Hines stated I'm Will Hines and after 30 years at the police department I have made a career change. This is a new experience and I'm learning as I go. Our contractors are about six (6) to seven (7) weeks behind. We are working hard trying to get caught up. If you need anything call me.

J. Receive a report from the Planning Division regarding ongoing LETA projects and take action if necessary.

Brown stated the tree trimming is complete and the grass was mowed yesterday. There is some grass on the hill that maybe Parks and Recreation could weed eat.

Burk stated I have a complaint with drainage maintenance. They don't finish the ditch. They only do part of the drain and it looks bad. We need to finish the job. Could someone call them and send them back to the armory and MacArthur High School.

Brown stated I'll email them.

2. Old Business

None

3. New Business

A. Approve minutes of July 10, 2019.

Motion by Hampton, Second by McConnell, to approve the minutes of July 10, 2019.
Aye: McConnell; Sweeney; Symuleski; Burk; Hampton. **Abstain:** Hankins; Tennis. **Nay:** None.
Motion Passed.

B. Discuss the landscaping of local businesses and take action if necessary. – Rosemary Bellino.

Bellino stated I'm here to make all of you mad because I'm mad. To be honest I consider this board to be a foofoo committee sitting on your hands. Two (2) weeks ago a local businessman approached me and said he had asked a wealthy client from Duncan if he ever came to Lawton. He stated no he goes to Norman. Lawton looks tired and dismal. The intersections are faded just like the city. I ran into an old patient who works for a tech company and her boss was talking with another tech company trying to bring them here. The CEO made a visit and decided not to come to Lawton. When they asked why he stated he didn't believe he could attract people to come and live in Lawton. This affects all of us. We haven't grown in the last ten (10) years. I'm hearing today the same thing I heard ten (10) years ago. This affects our pocket books. We have the most equity in our homes and we can't sell them for what we purchased them for. I had Bill Shoemate come to me and stated he called Neighborhood Services about these trailers. He stated they were located at 14th and Park and J and something. He was told if he didn't have an exact address, they couldn't help him. Since we have a new supervisor here, I'll give you the two (2) pictures he was referring to and their addresses. I took these pictures today and there are some really bad areas over there. I have always said that beautification was an economic issue and nobody believes me. Not even the Economic Development Committee. You can put in all the fiber optic and infrastructure you want, which every other city in this state has also, and if they make a site visit, they aren't coming here. You can't attract people here. I have been vindicated. This is a MIT study that says the most important thing in a community is beautification and the amenities you offer. You have done a wonderful job on Elmer Thomas Park but you have forgotten the rest of the city. The study says that beautiful cities attract highly educated individual and experience faster housing price appreciation. It says city beautification and the provisions of amenities are complimentary to leisure and certainly not new ideas. Unless science has left the room, you can believe fifty-seven (57) pages that beautification is the number one issue. If it were my place, I would not give a penny to economic development. I would give it all to this committee because you are the most important committee in this city. This study mentions Oklahoma City. We are all aware of what Oklahoma City did. In 1980 United Airlines was going to put in a big maintenance facility. Every city put in a big incentive package and United picked Indianapolis. The Mayor called the CEO to ask why they didn't pick Oklahoma City. The CEO responded by saying he didn't have the heart to bring his people to such a dismal city. Light bulb! Oklahoma City reinvented themselves. I don't care how much fiber optic and infrastructure you have you are not going anywhere until people in this community understand the importance of beautification. There are some simple things you can do. Did you notice the grass at Walgreens on Lee? I took a picture and put it on Facebook and they cut the grass. I'm still after Jack In The Box. I put them on Facebook and reminded them of an incident in 1993 when they had an E coli epidemic where four (4) kids died and six hundred (600) got sick. I stated I hoped their kitchen didn't look like their landscaping. They did cut it but it still is not where it needs to be. These are pictures of our local post office. Look at the dead trees. Come on guys. Get over there and cut them down. You can do that.

Symuleski stated I complained about the parking lot striping and they stated they didn't have the funds to strip them.

Bellino stated LETA has the money. You need to just go do it. This is a picture of the City of Lawton's Animal Welfare Department. Come on guys. Get over there and spray that. Here are some other pictures that I took. Look at this mess. For a year now I have had a water

leak. Three (3) times the city has come out and it is still leaking. I called my Council person and never got a response. I emailed the City Manager and as of yesterday it was still leaking. This is a real issue. My plumber says it is on the city's side.

Burk stated someone will be there by morning.

Bellino this is a flower shop on Cache Road.

Burk stated I approached the owner about three (3) days ago and we helped her clean out the weeds. Her business isn't doing well.

Bellino stated you guys have to have some balls. Why don't you have "Bad Business of the Month" in addition to "Yard of the Month".

Hankins stated I would love to.

Bellino stated just do it. What can LETA do with your money? Let's start with getting the intersections painted. Are they planning on painting them?

Burk stated yes.

Bellino stated partner with them.

Symuleski stated I complained about Gore and Sheridan and I was told they were going to take care of it. All they did was paint the straight lines and those weren't straight.

Hankins stated that's true.

Burk stated we know. I'm not taking up for us but we haven't had a painting machine in 119 years. We have a new one and now they are painting on a daily basis. They are painting curbs. They have gone down Sheridan and it looks 100% better. They are doing more than just painting a stripped line. They messed up and got off the dotted lines and when I questioned them, they stated the operator had not been trained as well as he should have. I asked them to stop. I agree some of the lines weren't straight. They tell me they have hired another person to help and he ran the old machine. It is my understating there are three (3) people on this crew. The City Manager has promised they will get them painted and to get weeds out of the cracks. For the first time in forever I believe they have a plan.

Bellino stated why don't you place this item back on your agenda in three (3) months and see where they are at.

Symuleski stated what is missing from the intersections is the crosswalks. They are worried about the lines and I'm worried about the crosswalks.

Bellino stated 38th Street is a four (4) lane road and there are not stripes. This makes our city look tired and dismal and that is all your fault.

Burk stated if you put them on crosswalks then they can't do the lanes. It is a double edge sword.

Hampton stated the double edge sword is what he is talking about. The stop sign is to be located where the line is and you are supposed to stop where the stop sign is. That is where the bold wide line is suppose to be.

Hankins stated that is not just paint.

Burk stated the process is much more intense than what I thought.

Bellino stated hire an outside company then.

Burk stated I agree. I have asked for a dollar amount to do a certain number of roads, crosswalks and turn lanes. Staff is working hard but there is just a ton to be done. We are so far behind.

Hankins asked how can we get it done quicker.

Burk stated hire a contractor. We don't have the people or equipment. We can hold a contractor accountable and we can't do that with city staff unless we fire them.

Bellino stated when I went to take photos of the trailer, I saw this and then I got really upset. Why can't City staff pick this up when they drive pass it.

Burk stated I have asked that same questions.

Symuleski stated I was told you have to have an active water account for it to be picked up.

Hankins stated your Council person can call to have it picked up. We have a budget for those that are bad enough and we don't have to have the homeowner's permission.

Bellino stated any of us can pick this stuff up.

Burk stated please turn these into Neighborhood Services.

Rogalski stated remember we have the iHelp Lawton portal. You can upload pictures and send them to Neighborhood Services.

Bellino asked is anyone here a member of the Young Professionals Group. I was wondering what in the world do they do. I also have issues with Rogalski about rock. I have had the opportunity to drive through a lot of communities the past two (2) or three (3) years and I take a lot of pictures of rocks. Here is a picture of Colorado School of Mines and this is an engineering school. It seems like a lot of communities are doing rock.

Rogalski stated of course they are going to have rocks.

Burk stated the problem isn't the rock it is they don't take care of the rock.

Bellino stated you have to spray the rock with Durazone.

Hankins stated Jack In The Box should go back to rock.

Bellino stated exactly.

Burk stated the rocks at Jack In The Box was getting in the street and being thrown at people and cars. Golden Chick has the mars rocks and there is nothing left but the plastic with a few rocks holding it down. Starbucks has pulled up all their landscaping and put down rocks and the grass is already growing out by the curb.

Bellino stated spray with Durazone.

Burk stated I can't make them spray.

Bellino stated yes you can. This is Pat's Washtub and it is the neatest place on Lee. This is JP Richards and it looks nice.

Hankins stated quit going there.

Burk stated Pat keeps up with their landscaping and I don't know how you make someone do that. It is private property. I'm not against rock but the issue is how do you make them take care of their property.

Hampton stated enforcing policy is really hard.

Burk stated the city can not go on someone's private property and do anything without their consent.

Symuleski asked what about LETA. What can LETA do.

Burk stated nothing. If we touch their property and they didn't like what we did they could sue the city and LETA. I have been to legal about this issue and we can't touch their property. We got lucky with the tree we removed by Cameron. The trees at the post office is not city property and we can't touch them unless they agree.

Hankins stated that is federal property.

Burk stated if it is in an easement, we can make them keep it cut. When you start talking about private property you are getting into legal issues.

Bellino asked whose property is between the sidewalk and the street. Most of this is between the street and sidewalk.

Rogalski stated that is right-of-way.

Burk stated they are responsible for maintaining it and we are responsible to make certain they do.

Bellino stated but they don't.

Rogalski stated we don't own every right-of-way. We have the right to access and maintain our utilities and sidewalk but we try not to do that.

Burk stated I'm responsible for the grass by the sidewalk in front of my house.

Bellino stated correct and since it is part of the city's property you can do stuff on it. You could have Rid-A-Weed spray.

Rogalski stated we can spray right-of-way by saying we needed to maintain our utilities but it's iffy.

Burk stated this is a slippery area. Legal says you have to get approval from the homeowner before doing anything to their property. Go to Starbucks today and look at the job they finished last week. It will look the same as all the rest.

Rogalski stated if you do anything cheap it is going to be bad. You have to do it right.

Burk stated just like Jack In The Box. They did a cheap job with the rocks. If they had been smart, they would have sprayed immediately and killed the weeds. They didn't put the edging up high enough and the rocks were getting into the street. Drivers complained to the City and we had to notify them. We have an ordinance for all new businesses but we need to strengthen the policies.

Bellino stated the problem you get with planting trees and grass is they don't water. Seventy percent of the water in this city goes to landscaping and it is expensive. Then you have to pre-emergent, fertilize and mow. It is expense so people quit taking care of it. This is an issue. To me the answer is rock and Durazone. These pictures look great.

Burk stated those people care.

Bellino stated if they don't care about rock they don't care about grass.

Burk stated that is what I'm saying. They don't care. Look at their buildings and landscaping.

Rogalski stated to me this is a social cultural issue. When I first moved here, we went to a restaurant and I couldn't believe how poor the building looked. Everything looked dirty and greasy but it was packed. You get what you pay for. As long as we the public frequent crappy places we are going to get crappy places. This is all anyone is ever going to give us because we are saying this is what we want. I don't think it is a rock versus grass issue. We can show pictures of both that look great. It is the action of demanding more. It has to do with every aspect from the paint on the streets to the buildings. If the public expects and demands more they will get more.

Burk stated I agree. We are working on an updated version of the landscape ordinance to include business remodels. We need more teeth in the ordinance. Currently we have people under the ordinance that don't apply by the rules. The theatre is a perfect example. The grass is high and the theatre is filthy.

Bellino stated it took me one (1) week to get that grass mowed. You have been trying for how long? They were dishing the community. Put it on Facebook. You have to have some guts.

Burk stated I don't want to be the guy that puts it on the LETA Facebook. We agree with you 110%. We have had these thoughts month after month about how upset we are with these companies. Look at CVS. We have sent letters multiple times.

Bellino stated don't send a letter. Take a picture and post it to Facebook.

Hankins stated I did that with Jack In The Box and they removed it as soon as I put it up. When you try to call them, you can't.

Bellino stated repost it. The name of the game is social media. They don't like looking bad. I have 20,000 square feet of office space and 9,000 I can't rent because of what is happening to our community.

Symuleski stated it is dying.

Bellino stated it is dying and nobody wants to face it. I wouldn't give all that money that you are giving to economic development. It needs to go to a committee like this. When people make site visits and they see what this city looks like they are not coming here.

Burk stated if we had the money to spray and fill all the cracks in the streets, we would have already done it.

Hankins stated I thought about spraying the overpass.

Burk stated the overpass angers me. I'm afraid to get out there because it is so dangerous. We have purchased a street sweeper and I think the City Manager is on point. Before we had no focus and I believe Cleghorn is focused. He is totally committed to making Lawton look better.

Hankins stated he is military and he likes things organized and clean. It just can't happen quick enough.

Bellino stated those trailers have to go.

Hines stated I'm working on it right now.

Rogalski stated how much are you going to spend on picking up litter before people stop littering. If they respect their community, they won't throw it down.

Bellino stated make your police understand that this is their city and they need to be proud of it. If they want larger salaries, they need more people in the community for a bigger tax base. Then there is the fine. I know when they are sitting waiting on someone to speed, they see the occasional litter. Go after them. Once the community knows that the police will ticket you for littering it will make a difference. You have to do those things. It is the little things that will make a difference. If you look at the educational level of our community compared to the rest of the state with a bachelor degree Lawton is 24% and other places are 70%. You have to understand the level of education in our community.

Symuleski stated once they get their education they leave here.

Bellino stated if you want them to stay you have to give them a reason to stay.

Burk stated trust me we have had the same heartaches over grass and weeds. I believe we have a City Manager that is going to help with some resolutions. I don't know how you change people. Lawton has lost a lot of water accounts and I believe it is because people are moving to smaller communities. Oklahoma City has blight issues just like we do. People don't want to live in larger school districts. They still work and shop there but don't want to live there. I don't know how we fix it. People say there is nothing to do here but we have a million events. Most of the event are for older people and the youth doesn't like to attend those. They have their own ideas.

Hankins stated kids don't want you to create activities for them.

Burk stated one thing about the Young Professionals is they do listen to what the younger community wants. They have some great ideas about Lawton but to keep them energized and motivated has been difficult. My neighbors have \$400 to \$500,000 homes and some of them don't mow. That is unbelievable to me and they are hurting my property value.

Hankins stated that is right and we have them to.

Burk stated in our neighborhood we shame them by putting a note on their mailbox. Usually in a few days the complaint goes away.

Hankins stated so many in part of Ward 1 don't care about their neighbor. They don't want to do a we care. They don't want their neighbor to know about them or who they are. They want their privacy.

Rogalski stated that is the problem. We have lost that sense of community. That is the culture we were talking about.

Hankins stated it is. It is sad but we can't give up.

Burk stated we have to keep fighting.

Rogalski stated you do it by neighborhood. The "We Care" movement that is going on is a way to do it. It is about putting a sign in your yard that says "We Care" and I'm going to mow my yard and yours if you need help. It isn't just about social service. We care about this neighborhood and we care about our neighbors.

Hankins asked could we have an inspection for renters.

Rogalski stated I'm pretty sure the state pre-empted us from that. We were trying to get this passed when the Board of Realtors lobbied against it. We have people living in horrible conditions. If all you can afford is \$400 a month and everything is broken and crummy you hate to complain because you can't afford anything else.

Hankins stated they might as well be homeless.

Burk stated we have plenty of slumlords in this town.

Hankins stated that makes me really angry.

Burk asked will you find out how much a drum of Durazone is.

Hanna stated yes.

Burk stated let's just get started. I'll bring a proposal back to the next meeting and we will get started. I wish we could put tar in the cracks so grass wouldn't come back. Thank you Dr. Bellino. We love your passion. I want us to start giving citations and maybe they will start paying attention.

C. Choose Yard Of The Month for September.

All agreed on 7609 Lancet Lane.

4. Announcements

5. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.