

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

Charlotte Brown, called the meeting to order at 3:06 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); Hampton, Allen; McConnell, Lou; Morford; Robert; Smith, Addie; Sweeney, Kerry; Tennis, Michael.

ABSENT: Coody, Joshua; Ezerski, Barry; Hankins, Mary Ann; Symuleski, Ted.

OTHER PRESENT: Charlotte Brown and Tammy Anderson, Planning; Jack Hanna, Parks and Recreation; Will Hines, Neighborhood Services; Kristin Huntley, Finance Department; Richard Rogalski, Planning Director (Phone In)

BUSINESS ITEMS:

Brown stated the first order of business is to select a temporary chair.

Sweeney suggested Tennis since he was the longest standing member. Tennis agreed to do so.

1. Reports

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

Totte stated here is an estimate for \$1,677.18 for color change here at City Hall. I was also asked to bring estimates for irrigation on Cache Road. This includes from 40th to 11th Street. The heads at the base of the trees have been pushed to the top and their parts are unfunctional.

Morford asked does that include the little garden.

Totte stated the garden we take care of on the east side of the intersection works. This estimate is starting from the west side of the intersection.

Morford stated the monument needs to be repainted.

Hanna stated we have that on our list of things to do.

Totte stated these bids range from \$2,700 to \$8,500. We have the estimates in sections in case you want to do a section at a time.

Hampton stated so we could do a median at a time.

Totte stated yes. The total is around \$108,000 for parts and labor.

Tenis stated obviously you have discussed this with Burk but in my opinion, we need to hold off.

Totte stated we didn't discuss the color change. I brought that because it is time to do it.

Tenis stated how long until you start the color change.

Totte stated we will be doing color change for the next three (3) weeks.

Motion by Morford, Second by Sweeney, to approve the color change at City Hall in the amount of \$1,677.18. **Aye:** Hampton; McConnell; Morford; Sweeney; Tennis; Smith. **Nay:** None.
Motion Passed

Brown stated the lights on the south side of the building aren't working.

Totte stated there is a programming update that needs to be done. They are working on it.

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

Hampton stated Facebook shows a meeting at the casino on October 15th.

Burk stated this is to start the planning of their event in April. There will be discussion on ways to raise money and everyone is invited.

Brown stated they will have a silent auction that night also.

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

Huntley stated we have one to Bedrock for \$650 for flowerbed maintenance.

Sweeney stated at the Spirit of Survival the butterfly garden appeared to be dead. Totte is going to check it out.

Motion by Sweeney, Second by Tennis, to approve all invoices, requisitions, and all other submitted materials for payment.

Burk stated part of this invoice is for maintenance to the butterfly garden and it is dead.

Rogalski stated Brown will go out tomorrow and take pictures to send to Totte.

Morford stated I think we need to hold that payment.

Burk stated instead of holding the payment why don't we make him give us a credit.

Sweeney stated I believe Totte will make it right.

Aye: Burk; Tennis; Sweeney; Smith; Morford; McConnell; Hampton. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

D. Receive Treasurer Report and take action if necessary.

Huntley stated at the end of September there was \$378,392.17 in the bank and \$253,713.29 was in the custodial accounts. LETA's balance was \$124,678.88. If you look at the income statement you see the interest income for August and September, miscellaneous Facebook donation of \$230, municipal fines for July and restitution from a vehicle accident. Under expenses you have \$2,578.72 for flowerbed maintenance, sprinkler repairs and tree removal. Total net income for September was \$3,583.50. Under the custodial account they had income of \$27,252.62. Under the expenses I don't believe the Fishing For Food is correct. Expenses were \$367.78 leaving a total net income of \$26,884.84. On the Income and Expense Tracker the hotel/motel shows zero but we received a deposit on October 7th of \$6,271.20 and it will show next month. Municipal fines for July were \$5,076, other donations/income of \$1,522.79 for total revenue collected of \$6,686.94. This is 4.2% of the budgeted amount. Under expenses you have spent \$12,123.29 which is 7.5% of our budgeted amount and projects pending is \$53,560. The next page you see under project pending you have the lighting project and bulb planting. Are there any questions.

Burk stated we still have concerns about the tipping fees. Supposedly those who don't want to pay drive away. I don't know if that is correct or if they are not charging them. I know the \$1800 isn't correct.

Rogalski stated I believe it is correct.

Huntley stated it was more like \$3600.

Burk stated I believe there are more than 3,600 people that use the landfill in a year's time.

Rogalski stated we based our estimate on 56,000 trips for a total of \$5,600. The \$3,600 was a result of 36,000 trips. There may be some loss. The first six (6) residential trips are free and all trips after that cost a dollar. There have been issues if the person didn't have a dollar.

Burk stated there have been conversations about raising that to \$2 and LETA would receive all the funds. We will be taking the municipal fines fund to Council on the 22nd. Also, there is a push to adjust the hotel/motel tax to 6 or 7%. LETA spends a huge amount of money on maintenance and the city needs to be paying this. They should pay for the color change, bulbs and sprinkler repairs. The sprinklers on Cache Road are not working so I have asked Bedrock to bring us an estimate. They are watering those trees with a water truck twice a week. I believe the citizens expects the city to pay for the maintenance.

Rogalski stated we need to add those projects to the city's contract.

Burk stated we need to amend the contract every year. They are asking for \$2,000,000 in the next CIP for beautification and I have asked that they raise that amount to \$8,000,000.

Morford stated I believe the grapppler needs to follow the trash trucks to pick up the big articles. In Ward 3 there were mattresses and furniture all over the Ward.

Hampton stated people are cleaning up but it just sits there. The next step is to get it to the dump.

Burk stated we have not done a good job advising to the citizens they have two (2) free pickups a year.

Morford stated a lot of the trash is from people who are leaving town and don't care.

Burk stated these are things LETA has to start saying no to. We can't accept the fact that trash is going to be left along the street curb.

Hampton stated maybe we need a bulk pickup once a month like Oklahoma City.

Burk stated in the 12 years I have been here we have never done that. We use to do it quarterly, then three (3) times a year and now twice a year. There is a big expense to do this. When we changed it to a request it was to be picked up within the next week.

Tenis stated it doesn't happen within a week.

Burk stated they are supposed to.

Morford stated it might be there for three (3) weeks.

Burk stated I was told it was done within a week. I'll talk with the City Manager.

Smith stated if your pile is big, they tell you have more than the allowable amount.

Tenis stated it can only be so high, wide and long. People were use to putting anything out there and now you are limited. I'm about to replace my fence and they won't pick that up.

Burk stated yes, they will. Construction companies leaving construction materials is different than your fence. It will be picked up.

Tenis stated if it sits on the curb people will go through it and the wind blows it everywhere. The execution of picking it up quicker would certainly help.

Burk stated I'll call a meeting of the solid waste committee. We need to know these things so we can fix them. Also, in the CIP is \$3,500,000 for dilapidated structures and money for Parks and Recreation. It is believed that we will tear down 500 structures. This is Lawton's version of MAPS.

Smith stated I don't know the process but there are homes that have been dilapidated for years.

Burk stated we put 3 or 4 structures on the D&D last night. A lot of the property owners do not live in Lawton. Once we tear the structures down then the empty lot will get overgrown. We have to do a better job of watching these areas. We should be taking care of the problem before the neighbors complain. With the help of Neighborhood Services and LETA we can make this happen. Are there any questions about the Treasurer's report?

Hampton asked are we still doing Fresh Paint Days.

Burk stated yes, we are trying to find a date. We are going to do less homes this time.

Motion by Sweeney, **Second** by Tennis, to accept the treasurers report. **Aye:** McConnell; Morford; Smith; Sweeney; Tennis; Burk; Hampton. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

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

Brown stated we talked about what we needed to do to get estimates to place the stones and where we wanted them placed. Hampton will be getting with Totte to discuss maybe a berm and some landscaping. We are looking for someone who does masonry to put another set of columns up and fixing the existing ones.

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

Hanna stated we have had back to back events so we are a little behind on our day to day operation. The landscaping contract is coming up and we have added a few things. Once it is complete, we will let Burk look it over. We added City Hall to include the turf and flowerbeds and we added the public safety building.

Burk asked what about the farmer's market.

Hanna stated they are going to maintain that area.

Rogalski stated they are responsible for the building.

Burk stated it is my understanding they will maintain the building and we will maintain the landscaping.

Hanna stated I thought they were to take care of so many feet from the exterior of the building.

Rogalski stated they are responsible for the building and right next to it. They will not take care of anything outside the building envelope.

Burk stated you might as well add it to the contract. They will be required to do the same as any other new business in regards to landscaping. LETA gave them \$10,000 for landscaping. I will not support a building permit unless they landscape.

Hanna stated they need to be required to use our contractor.

Burk stated add this to the contract. You need to also add Railroad to 2nd Street on Gore. This is next to the new public safety building. Also add the trees and shrubs on Cache Road starting at Elmer Thomas Park all the way to 67th Street. We also need to add the color change and bulbs. In the CIP I asked for a boom mower. We need to have the right equipment.

Hanna stated why don't you review this contract and make your added suggestion.

Morford asked is there a better way to light the flag. It is horrible. You can't see the flag.

Burk stated I thought it was pretty good the other night.

Morford asked when will the fountain start to change colors.

Burk stated it changes now. It is blue, white and pink.

Morford stated I was there last night and I never saw it change colors.

McConnell asked how about the Cache Road Square painting.

Burk stated I have already had complaints. The native Americans are upset with it. They believe it is disrespectful to the buffalo.

Hanna stated I'm not very fond of it.

Hampton stated I'm sorry can we go back to the contract. I agree these need to be added to the city budget.

Hanna stated the problem is we have a fixed budget and we don't get any additional funds. Adding new projects during the year means we don't have funds for them.

Hampton stated I'm really concerned about Rogers Lane. Look at the fences that are suppose to be cut by the contractors. It looks like crap.

Hanna stated we don't weed eat the fence lines. That is the responsibility of the property owner. We mow from 1' to 18" from the fence and that is probably more than we should be mowing. We couldn't afford to weed eat all of Rogers Lane.

Hampton stated I'm just saying it looks bad.

Burk stated the trees have grown back and we paid to have those removed. You can't see some of the signage. That is a never-ending project unless we take out the trees and we don't want to do that because it hides ugly.

Hanna stated that is on our winter project list.

Hampton stated after Bellino's visit I started looking around. If the main roads look bad it appears we have a ratty town.

Burk stated I was not happy for her to come in here and say we were a do-nothing committee. We can all sit here and grip like she did. I wasn't happy and didn't think it was fair but I didn't want to go off the deep end.

Morford stated this has been building for about three (3) years.

Burk stated she stated she heard we turned down a \$1,000,000 and come to find out the Mayor just made that up. She did apologize for that. I'm not happy with the contractors along Rogers Lane. Today when they mowed, they blow it all in the street. Where we planted the wildflowers there is a huge amount of grass rolled up into big piles. When the wind blows it blows it everywhere.

McConnell asked is that because we waited to long to mow it.

Burk stated not according to ODOT. Most of our right-of-way and medians are weeds and not grass. Altus and Duncan hire a contractor to spray twice a year. We need to look into this.

Hanna stated we looked into doing that. It is just a temporary fix because it is not a sterilizer. It only kills at ground level and not at the root.

McConnell stated there is a pre-emergent you spray in spring and fall that keeps the weeds from coming up.

Burk stated there are things that could be done.

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

Burk stated the sign with Sasseen is out of control. I don't mind paying for something that works but this sign does not. I'm not willing to pay for it until it is fixed. I'm not certain Sasseen knows it doesn't work.

Hampton stated I thought Ezerski was taking care of the sign.

Sweeney stated we need to look at a better way of spending money with Sasseen. We can start paying him for his services.

Burk asked can someone contact him and let him know of our concerns. If it isn't fixed right away, I suggest we discontinue using the sign.

Hampton stated looking at Facebook I think we are really getting legitimized. Our logo is being recognized and our Facebook is good.

Burk stated having Lawton Proud promoting us has really helped. We got approval to put Lawton Proud under the LETA umbrella. I told the Chamber that LETA was not going to be the only funding source. I expect the Chamber to continue funding them. I believe they have made a difference in our Facebook numbers.

Hampton stated and some younger faces.

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

Hampton stated in the last school bond there was \$5,000,000 for the Ron Stephens Stadium.

Burk stated I have not seen them do a thing to the stadium. It is starting to look worse. You need to stay on them.

Rogalski stated there was funding in the bond and at this point it is just project priorities.

Burk stated someone needs to contact Dr. Thomas.

I. Receive report from Neighborhood Services.

Himes stated the trailers that Bellino talked about last month are now on our list. One was extremely bad. It is still mowing season so if you see anything please contact the office. Last month we had 1133 complaints that came through the office. Each time we receive a complaint an inspector has to go out and inspect it. If the complaint is legit, we start the notice process.

Morford asked are the inspectors just responding to complaints or are they pro-active.

Himes stated both. We call those the inspectors do field generated.

Morford stated in our neighborhood there is a circular driveway with a 35' sailboat sitting in front and then down the street is a food vendor that parks in his front yard.

Himes stated if the vendor is parking in the grass that is a problem. Give me the addresses and I'll check them out.

Burk stated in January we hope to do something about boats, motorhomes, and other vehicles that are parked in front of their homes.

Hampton stated the 18 wheelers are tearing up the residential roads.

Burk stated those trucks are a nuisance in a neighborhood.

Morford stated they are.

Burk stated they have put ripples on 2nd Street. ODOT put up signage for the truck routes and you don't see many on Cache Road. There is a five (5) ton limit on 2nd Street but they still use it.

Rogalski stated writing citations will help the issue.

Himes stated let me make a call about writing citations. Back to the way we do complaints. Complaints are either field generated or inspector generated.

Morford stated a year ago they were so far behind they were just responding to call ins.

Himes stated our report shows how the complaint was received and I see both. The inspectors are in the field 3 to 4 hours a day.

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

Brown stated the lighting project goes to Council on the 22nd. We would like for you to decide how much light you would like. Do you want more or less than what exists?

Burk stated we want more. We want enough to have events under the lights.

Rogalski stated the question is whether the existing light level is sufficient or too low.

Burk stated too low. Are you working with the people that make the lights?

Rogalski stated no. These people are from Bright Lights.

Burk stated we need to get the lights going.

Rogalski stated we need a design. I need to know how many lights we need.

Burk stated the design needs to come from someone who knows what they are doing. They need to tell us how many lights we need and how to space them. I want it lit so we can do events. Chickasha had an event that I believe would be a great fundraiser for LETA. They had food trucks and a street band. They judged all the food trucks. They came from all over Oklahoma. We need to contact Chickasha to see who did their lighting.

Rogalski stated to get the amount of lighting you are asking for we will have to have more strings of light and some will have to be attached to the buildings.

Burk asked didn't we discuss doing that.

Rogalski stated yes. I just want to make sure you understand it will take more lights and they will be attached to the building.

Burk stated I want them up before Christmas and preferably before Thanksgiving.

Rogalski stated I'm not sure we can do that.

2. Old Business

None

3. New Business

A. Discuss approving a loan to Children United for the purchase of their playground equipment and take action if necessary.

Burk stated we will be receiving \$56,000 from the municipal court funds and they need to borrow just under \$47,000. This feels comfortable to me because the money is in our account. It is not like we are giving them something we will never get back. Worse case scenario they go belly up and stop the project.

Hanna stated we will be storing the equipment also. It will be delivered the first part of November.

Burk stated I told them that once they have their event we expected to be paid back. At the last event they made \$100,000 and it's not that long before they could pay us back. I believe McMahon will pitch in once they hit the half way mark. To me this is something we have to do.

Motion by Hampton, Second by Tennis, to approve a loan in the amount of \$46,941.14 for the purchase of the playground equipment. **Aye:** McConnell; Morford; Smith; Sweeney; Tennis; Burk; Hampton. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

Morford asked if this falls through can we do inhouse installation.

Hanna stated it will take some time but yes, we could do it.

B. Discuss approving a loan to Holiday in the Park to purchase lights and equipment in larger quantities than their current account balance allows and take action as necessary.

Burk stated I think this is retarded and I want this changed at the Council level. I don't know how we are supposed to purchase lights with \$44,000. I believe we need to loan them the money to purchase lights.

Hanna stated I have purchased all the vendor has. I spoke with Totte and with his vendor we would pay a dollar or two more per strand. This is still a good price. We need another 2.5 miles and have already purchased 4 miles.

Burk stated we have \$250,000 in the CIP for lights. We want to light the park.

Morford asked does this include the Christmas tree?

Hanna stated we have already purchased those lights.

Burk stated this needs to be funded by the city up front. They should be reimbursing the city and not LETA.

Hanna stated finance has been great to work with. We have made two (2) purchases. One in the amount of \$7500 and the other \$6000. We will be in better shape next year because we will have our seed money.

Sweeney asked how much do you need.

Hanna stated our goal is to light up 39 trees. Totte's estimate to put up and take down was \$21,800, \$7000 for lights, \$3200 for insurance and \$1000 for a scissor lift. We need roughly \$33,000.

Burk stated we will get our money back within a few weeks.

Hanna asked how do I purchase this through LETA. The vendor does take credit cards.

Burk stated use our debit card.

Huntley stated the issue with that is it will show as a LETA invoice and the reimbursement needs to be to Holiday In The Park. It has to be purchased by Holiday In The Park.

Burk stated I will make certain this never happens again. The money will come to LETA and then we will disburse it.

Hanna asked if the invoice is made out to Holiday In The Park can LETA purchase it.

Huntley stated if the paperwork states that. We look at who the invoice is billed to.

Burk asked so what is the total amount you need.

Hanna stated \$34,000.

Motion by Sweeney, **Second** by Hampton, to approve loaning Holiday In The Park \$34,000. **Aye:** Hampton; McConnell; Morford; Smith; Sweeney; Tennis; Burk.

C. Discuss the amendment to the City Code to allow pets on leashes on the concrete trails at Elmer Thomas Park, providing funding for the pet waste collection facilities and take action if necessary.

Burk stated I initiated this ordinance years ago. This was made for those ridding their bikes and jogging. I saw dogs getting hung up with bikers and causing an accident. We have no signage and there needs to be signage that says "NO DOGS" and painted on the concrete.

McConnell stated there are a few signs but you can't see them.

Hanna stated animal welfare has to enforce it.

Burk stated we make them enforce it.

Sweeney stated I was approached by two (2) people that are dog walkers and are responsible citizens. They use a leash and pick up after their pets. Over 70% in the US households have pets and most of those are dogs. We are a community that wants people to exercise. Dog owners get more exercise by walking their dogs close to 300 minutes a week. That is 200 more minutes than those without dogs. People with dogs are more physically activity. The number one (1) reason for walking their dogs is because it makes them happy. Researchers from Michigan State say that dog owners are 34%, or higher, are more likely to fit in more than 50 minutes of walking per week than non-dog owners. These two (2) women will not go to Elmer Thomas because they don't want to break the law. We need to think about what other cities are doing. Since dogs are such a huge part of people lives and this is how they get out to work, socialize and exercise do we really want to be turning people away. I'm just bringing up the other side of the coin.

Burk stated the track was built for bikers and joggers and not pets. We have other walkways where people can walk their dogs and use the restroom.

McConnell stated I go there but I don't like walking on the sidewalk or seeing others walk there with their dogs. It isn't fair.

Burk stated no it isn't and the dogs are pooping on the concrete. They need to have a place to walk their dogs. There is a dirt/chat path and I would be happy to do some pet deposals along that track.

Sweeney asked does that track follow the trail.

Tenis stated it is a different course but it is three (3) miles.

Burk stated people don't realize it is there. We need signage that shows where the dog path is. We need to also paint the concrete to say "NO PETS". Do these two (2) know that there is another path.

Sweeney stated I'll have to ask. They were under the impression the signs just went up.

Burk stated the signs have been there.

Hanna stated we put the signs up about a month ago. Signs are great but 90% don't read them.

Burk stated we have to enforce this. The police was there for about a month on their bikes enforcing the signs.

Sweeney stated maybe we need to make the other track more appealing and obvious to dog owners. There are a lot of people in Lawton that want to walk their dogs and have no place to go. Maybe we need to make this the place.

Burk stated we have the 38th Street Park but I still think you need to clean up after your pets.

Morford stated and the dog park.

Sweeney stated these two (2) ladies will clean up after their dogs. They brought this up because they want to follow the rules, they just don't understand them.

Hanna stated tell them thank you for that. So many don't want to follow the rules.

D. Choose Yard of the Month for October.

Everyone agreed on 1004 NW Laird Avenue.

4. Announcements

None.

5. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Motion by **Tenis**, **Second** by **Hampton**, to adjourn. **Aye:** Smith; Sweeney; Tennis; Burk; Hampton; McConnell; Morford. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**