

MINUTES
LAWTON ENHANCEMENT TRUST AUTHORITY
3rd FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM CITY HALL
212 SW 9th STREET
NOVEMBER 13, 2019

Jay Burk, 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; Ezerski, Barry; Hampton, Allen; Hankins, Mary Ann; McConnell, Lou; Morford; Robert; Sweeney, Kerry; Symuleski, Ted.

ABSENT: Coody, Joshua; Smith, Addie; Tennis, Michael.

OTHER PRESENT: Richard Rogalski and Charlotte Brown, Planning; Jack Hanna, Parks and Recreation; Will Hines, Neighborhood Services; Kristin Huntley and Susan Schlecht, Finance Department.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

1. Reports

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

Totte stated we are currently hanging lights in Elmer Thomas Park and should be done by Saturday if all goes well. All the color is planted and the bulbs will be planted on December 1.

Burk stated we have a couple of pots on 2nd Street that are empty.

Totte asked on the north end on the east side of the road.

Burk stated yes.

Totte stated those are the ones that the irrigation is not hooked up. I'll check to make certain we are talking about the same area.

Burk asked why are some not hooked up to irrigation. Is something wrong.

Hanna stated we believe there is a water break. There is water that is coming out from underneath the brick area and we are uncertain where the leak is located.

Burk stated I noticed water in the street one day and then it was gone. We have a couple of little shrubs in the pots that are dead.

Totte stated I'm getting replacements for those.

Burk stated there is still a couple of trees that need to be address on 2nd Street. I believe they are dead. We want to go ahead and replace them since we have the funds to do so. If something needs to be done with the concrete, we have the funds for that. Let's get it done. Let's get a quote as soon as we can. Let's get some of that stuff going so by spring we are in good shape. We have money set aside for 2nd Street. Let me know about the trees and shrubs.

Sweeney asked did you look at the butterfly garden to see if there was a problem there.

Totte stated I did and I have been corresponding with Neitzke and Hanna. Those sprinklers tie into the water main and when it is shut off the sprinklers don't work. When we went out there the main was off. I called Neitzke and I'm not certain what he found out. If it is turned off and they don't tell us we are going to lose plants. We lost the milkweed so we will have to replant in the spring. We do check it but if it is turned off for a week when it is hot the plants will die.

Burk stated the whole thing looked dead to me. It really looked bad. That garden is something people really go by. When I'm walking, I see lots of people stop and read the display. I really wish we could double the size of that bed. That is what we need to do.

Sweeney stated that would be nice.

Burk stated could you give us a price on enlarging that bed. Maybe at least double.

Sweeney asked are there other plants, other than milkweed, that can be put in those beds. There is an Oklahoma Organization that we can be a part of and they will put us on the map and give us credit for having the garden. I forwarded that information to Ezell.

Brown stated I can probably find the information.

Burk stated I know that we talked about doubling the size of this bed but we also talked about doing another bed somewhere in the park. There are a couple of different locations. The butterflies are there.

McConnell asked have you tried lantana. I know in my yard it is great for butterflies. Would it be easier to keep alive? It gets really big.

Totte stated it is but not as good as the milkweed. Milkweed actually is very hardy and it is a perennial. Sometimes lantana is a perennial and other times it is not.

McConnell asked does the milkweed flower.

Totte stated yes, it has like an orange flower on it.

Burk stated I took some pictures and I believe there were 25 butterflies in the garden. It was a substantial number and the kids were loving it. We do need to put up some signs that says "Please Stay Out Of The Garden". The kids were trying to get in there and play with the butterflies. Others allow their dogs to use the area to pee. If we double the size it gives us a better look

especially since we have the display there. It looks amazing. People actually park there just to see the display and garden. I see them get out of their cars, go to the garden and then back to their cars. We have to get the word out that we have it. I don't think we have done a good job of that. A lot of citizens have no idea that the garden even exists unless they walk the park. I did notice that you mowed on the north side of the armory. Thank you. I wish they had mowed further down in the ditch.

Hanna stated we took care of it because drainage maintenance wasn't doing so.

Burk asked do they have a brush hog that we could go down through there with to mow.

Hanna stated we have put one in the budget for next year.

Burk asked do we not own one.

Hanna stated we have the one with the side attachment.

Burk stated the guys that took all that out went down there with a mower. It was a pretty good mower but it wasn't a huge one.

Hanna stated Parks doesn't have the same equipment.

Burk stated okay. It does look much better. Thank you. From the area we have the crape myrtles to where you take care of the bed at 11th Street, and I know we have added that to the new contract, but will you give us an estimate on trimming all that up. It looks bad. Everything else looks really good until you get right there.

Totte stated to the end of the grass where those crape myrtles are.

Burk stated yes. Clean those up and make them look good. I think that would make a difference and then next spring they will look really good. Totte has given us a lot of estimates for the sprinkler repairs on Cache Road. We have a disaster on Cache Road. We have a lot of growth there. They put the sprinklers heads right next to the tree when the trees were planted and now the trees have overgrown the sprinkler head. The sprinklers have busted and we have a mess. It is probably time to fix the sprinklers in those beds. We asked him for individual bids as you go east on Cache Road. If we don't do something by next summer everything in the middle of Cache Road will be dead. About a third or more of the sprinklers are not working at all.

Hanna stated probably closer to half.

Burk stated it is a substantial amount. We almost loss trees due to it. Thank goodness the City Manager put into effect that they would water twice a week with the water truck and this kept them alive. That is something that we need to look at. I think we need to phase in some of these beds as we go. We have a meeting and have gone over the responsibility of the new contract. We wanted to make sure that LETA was not the maintenance contractor. Even though LETA oversees the maintenance, and by that I mean the contractor comes to our meeting and is responsible to us

to answer questions and concerns that we might have. We wanted to add some areas that were not being covered. For example, from Railroad to 2nd Street on Gore. That has been taken care of by the City and not very well. We don't have the staff to maintain the trees. We have a bunch of stuff in there that could look really nice but we don't take good care of it. He doesn't have the staff. I believe it is a better deal to have a professional that knows what they are doing come through there and you pay them and hold them accountable. So, we did that. We added the area around the flag pole in Elmer Thomas Park.

Morford stated it still isn't lit. I go out there every night.

Burk stated I'm going to take care of it myself. Around the base of the flag pole we have asked him to start maintaining that and the shrubbery. He just doesn't have the staff to take care of all the places we need done. We have done a lot of stuff. We have the splash pad, playground in the park and in a year or two (2) we will be adding more when we add the new playground. I don't mind for us to take care of the interim period but I want it to be know that the City will maintain and we will develop. We will develop plans for new places and medians. That is what we should be doing with our money. Not spending \$75,000 or \$120,000 a year on replacing stuff that dies. That is for the City.

Morford asked what is the ordinance on blowers. On Cache Road they blow it out into the middle of the road. Does that mean that the traffic is supposed to dispose of it?

Hankins stated there is an ordinance about blowers. That has come up before.

Burk stated I have called Hanna when the contractor is blowing it into the streets.

Morford stated yesterday I saw a guy blowing leaves across the yard and down the street they were blowing it in the opposite direction.

Burk stated this is something that we have to address. We will address it with our new contractor.

Hanna stated we went to visit Killeen Texas and their operations. They don't contract anything out. It is done by a division with the city. Their mowing division does all their right of ways and easements for the whole city of Killeen. It is like \$1.9 million a year for staff and equipment. They even have their own mechanic for small engine repairs.

Burk asked what is our budget.

Hanna stated our mowing contract is \$366,000.

Burk stated ours is \$366,000 and they are putting over a million dollars into their mowing.

Hanna stated almost \$2,000,000.

Symuleski stated and we want ours to look like theirs.

Burk stated we have more complaints that we don't look like other places. We have to up the Annie and the City Manager has agreed with us. He is going to get that where it needs to be and help us with that. We can plant the beds but if the rest of the City looks ugly there is nothing we can do to fix that. We had a long meeting and came up with some great plans. Hanna had some great ideas on this stuff and since he has gone to see other places, I believe it has been helpful. I think we have some great ideas. I think we are going to bring the contractors back in and explain to them how we want it edged and maintained. We will explain they are not going to blow the grass in the streets and if they do, they won't get paid until it is fixed. I'm tired of citizens calling me and saying they blew the grass in the streets. That goes into our stormwater drains and when the drains are stopped up and we have big rains then it floods. People wonder why the streets flood, well it is because it is full of grass. It is not just from those contractors. Citizens are also blowing their grass into the streets.

Symuleski stated I saw someone do that on 53rd Street yesterday.

Burk stated if you will turn them in there is an ordinance against that.

Symuleski asked do they have to see the individual blowing it into the street.

Hines stated you have to see them doing it. If they get caught it is a misdemeanor. If we don't see them do it but we can tell which yard it came from the property owner is responsible.

Burk stated take pictures.

McConnell asked it is a misdemeanor.

Hines stated it is a code violation.

Burk stated they can be fined up to \$750 dollars. This is something that we need to enforce. We need to say to the people that we are not going to clean up their mess in our storm drains. The drains are full of stuff. Drainage maintenance is constantly cleaning out huge amounts of grass and debris from people mowing.

Brown stated stormwater sent out letters to all the landscape companies regarding mowing. We have several companies that blow the grass in the street.

Burk stated even our contractors are doing it. When I see it happening on Rogers Lane, I call Hanna and he gets right on it. Call these guys. That is what they are there for is to help us. I have called in five (5) or six (6) houses and have asked them to go look at them. I think a lot of the time the property owners take care of the issue. We need to be calling before it gets this high. I usually call Rogalski and he takes care of it. We love our city or we wouldn't be here. We wouldn't give our time if we didn't love what we were doing here with Lawton Enhancement. The only way we can keep this going is if we all work together. We need the citizens to help us. Hopefully we get the new stuff that we approved last night. I hope we start to get some of the portals up where people can report major violations. It can happen so fast now.

Morford stated we need the police to help us with littering. I know they say they don't have time but people are throwing cups and everything out.

Burk stated we can't get them to do some of the other stuff. I don't think I have ever seen a littering fine. When I asked the Chief, he said that in the last three (3) years there was maybe one (1) that actually got a fine.

Hines stated they use to give them community service for the ticket.

Morford stated the Judge said they didn't show up for community service.

Burk stated Totte, do something with 2nd Street. We have the funds for that.

Totte stated this happened sometime this summer.

Burk stated I didn't know this. I have never seen anything about this. Please, get me an estimate and we will get that approved. Is there anything else for Totte? Thank you for being here.

Totte stated are you going to get with me on Cache Road.

Burk stated yes.

Totte stated thank you.

Burk stated I know I give him a hard time but I love their work ethic. When I call about anything within a matter of minutes they have someone going that way. I have been on the other end of it, and not that the other contractor wasn't my friend as well, but sometimes it took weeks to get a response. When you have a sprinkler down for a full block and it's 100 degrees you have major issues. Then when it all dies, they say "oh we need to replace them all because they are dead". We went through that our first couple of years.

Morford stated they are the highest in town but they are the only people that will do what they say they would do.

Burk stated and he has the manpower. Like the landscaping here. He said they would get it done and they were done a week and a half before they said it would be. It was because he had 15 to 20 guys here digging. It just makes a difference in company and response time.

Hampton stated his work shows that he cares. That is the whole deal. He looks professional.

Burk stated their plants are more expensive.

Symuleski stated but they look better.

Burk stated I buy them because I think they are better quality plants.

Morford stated the others would die so it doesn't matter anyway.

Hankins stated his employees are all competent too.

Burk stated he has the ability to do the spraying and everything that you need for your landscaping. It is just a world of difference. They have started doing this stained curbing around flowerbeds. I don't know if you have seen it but they are doing a lot of the new homes in Wyatt Acres. It is just off the chart amazing. I was thinking about that around the butterfly garden. I don't know how much it cost. Right now, we just have the metal edging and the grass is always in there. Every time they mow, and they mow with a big mower, it is all inside the bed. I would think if you had a higher curb that would help. I don't know but we may ask him about it.

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

Ezerski stated thanks to LETA the equipment is on its way. It will be delivered within the next few days. We are getting Hanna in coordination with the company and he has people on standby ready to unload it into the armory until such time they can get the rest of the park done. We had another \$5000 donation and we had a garage sale that raised close to a \$1000. Things are looking really good for the April event. They will start getting some publicity out after the first of the year. They are trying to get the paper and Channel 7 there when the equipment is delivered to keep it fresh on people's minds. They are working on two (2) grants. One is with the Chick Fil A Foundation and the other with Arvest Foundation. David Madigan is helping with the Arvest Foundation. We are hoping to raise \$80 to \$90,000 at next years dancing event. Joe's timetable is pretty aggressive and he wants to have this done by the end of next year.

Burk stated I think our goal was a two (2) year plan. One thing you might want to tell Joe is PSO, Tim Hushbeck, mentioned they might want to make this one of their projects. Maybe that is something he can address. He didn't know if he would be able to get it done but he thought maybe there would be some funds there where PSO could help.

Ezerski stated great.

Burk stated I think this is a great thing. Keeping that energy going and keeping people excited about it. Joe has done a great job at helping to put this all together and to help keep it flowing. It seems like every month there is something happening and that is important in a big project.

Ezerski stated they have done a float for the Christmas parade.

Burk stated that is awesome. Thank you.

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

Huntley stated I would like to introduce Susan Schlecht. She is an account in our office and has been with the City for fourteen (14) years. I'm passing the LETA torch to her. She has been preparing these documents. I will present today and come with her next month. She will present next month and after that it is all hers.

Rogalski stated I have worked with Susan for many years on the TIF District. She will do a great job.

Burk stated I don't know that I approved that she could not be here.

Huntley stated LETA totally became my baby, that I never really wanted, but I have enjoyed it. I don't want it to fall by the wayside and Susan won't let that happen. The expenditures today all need to be retroactively approved. There is one to City National Bank in the amount of \$28.70 for checks, one to Bedrock Nursery for \$650 for the monthly flowerbed maintenance and several to Bedrock Irrigation for sprinkler repairs. First is \$81.20, \$370, \$90, \$81.50 and \$220.80. Are there any questions.

Burk stated that is over \$1500 that next July will not be our responsibility but it will be in the contract.

Hanna stated you mean as of January.

Burk stated yes, January. That will be in the new contract and we will no longer have to take that out of our operational funds. I think that is the way it should be.

Symuleski asked so if something breaks it will be covered under the City contract.

Burk stated yes. The City has a contract now but those things are not a part of that contract. There is not enough money in the budget so LETA has always picked up the in between.

Motion by Ezerski, Second by Sweeney, to approve all invoices, requisitions, and all other submitted materials for payment. **Aye:** Ezerski; Hampton; Hankins; McConnell; Morford; Sweeney; Symuleski; Burk;

D. Receive Treasurer Report and take action if necessary.

Huntley stated at the end of October you had \$232,933.05 in the bank. Of that \$160,828.08 was in your custodial accounts. Looking at the "other current assets" you see a due from Children United and Holiday In The Park. That is how we keep track of what they owe us. Under "liability and equities" you will see a due to LETA in the amount of \$46,964.14 and that is what Children United owes. Those kind of wash since they are in the same bank account. I need to know as we get deposits from Children United do you want us to apply them against what they owe.

Burk stated I would think so.

Ezerski stated I would think so.

Huntley stated they had a \$5000 deposit this month.

Burk stated I think we apply it there. That will help them out when it comes time to repay the amount due.

Huntley stated we have an account payable under “liabilities and equities” of \$1,428.80. Those are voided checks and not new expenses. There were checks to Bedrock that was lost in the mail so we had to do a stop payment. We issued the stop payment in October but didn’t reissue the checks until November. That is why they show there. On the next page you see there wasn’t a tone of activity. We did get our first quarter hotel/motel income of \$6,271.20. Interest for the month of October was \$23.13, repairs, maintenance and replanting was just under \$1500 and supplies were the checks. Total net income for LETA was \$4,772.13, net income for the custodial accounts was a negative \$140,110.05 and that brings you total net income to negative \$135,637.92. On the income and expense tracker through October we have collected \$12,981.27 in revenue. The municipal fines show \$5076 and we actually got August and September payments as well. Those were just over \$12,000 but it wasn’t deposited until November. Our expenses for the year is \$8,445.49 but we have quite a bit in projects pending. For the most part you have 60% remaining for your budget so far this year. You are not in bad shape at all. On the project pending page under “beautification” the C avenue project is in limbo, under “repairs” the tulip planting will be happening in December. The annual color change has occurred and we were billed for it in November. That will come off next month. Are there any questions.

Ezerski asked Children United is probably going to need \$15 to \$20,000 for the event in April. We were hoping to hold some of that money back. Do we need to get what we need and LETA will add the total to what we owe?

Burk stated that is my suggestion. It is still all coming out the same. What are your thoughts.

Huntley stated we can always leave the deposit in their account. As long as it all washes by the end of the fiscal year I’m fine with it.

Burk stated why don’t we do that. Instead of applying their deposit against the amount owed just put it in their account. That way if they do need it, we won’t be taking it back and forth.

Ezerski stated okay.

Burk stated I want to mention a couple of things that Hankins did. She made sure that the medical marijuana sales tax comes into our account next month because she is vested. Actually, it was a huge think last night and I really appreciated it. Two (2) percent of the medical marijuana sales tax that usually goes into the general fund will come to LETA and it will be set aside for arterial sidewalks replacement and repair.

Symuleski stated great.

Sweeney stated that is great.

Burk stated Jay's thinking is it could be in the upper \$250,000 a year. That is my guess. We get 4 1/8 on the City side but 2 1/8 goes to a CIP project which is already earmarked and that leaves 2%.

Symuleski asked how do they track that when it comes in.

Burk stated they are going to have to be smart.

Rogalski stated the way it works, and actually Susan did this very well for a while with the TIF District. As long as the dispensary doesn't have another taxable entity, we can pull it out, but if it has another taxing entity, we can't separate the two (2).

Burk stated I think there are forty-seven (47) dispensaries in Lawton. Some of them are not paying sales tax. That is a given. I talked to the tax commission and about 1/3 of these are not paying any sales tax.

Symuleski stated because it is all cash.

Burk stated they are going to be gone because they know better. There is so much tracking in medical marijuana. Trust me. If you don't have the papers the medical marijuana association are going to close you up. They are going to come down on them like a ton of bricks in the next three (3) or four (4) months. It is going to be bad. I think a lot of mom and pops are going to be closed. It is going to hurt the economy some because these people are paying rent and employing people. I don't want to see any of them close. Just because I own one doesn't mean I want to see them close. That is not my point. My point is, and I know that some of them are not good at business and they are good people, but they are not good business people. They haven't paid their sales tax or their IRS taxes. I go to Oklahoma City to pay mine. Everything is in cash but you still have to pay. Anyway, I think it could be a quarter million. We don't have the numbers yet. Even with those closing that won't affect the sales tax number because it will go to the other places that are actually paying taxes. They will collect more money and then pay more money. The tax lady made it very clear that there were about twelve (12) here that are facing audits. They are paying zero to date and have been open almost eight (8) months. With that said you are right we are going to look at those businesses and say we have this many dispensaries and then hopefully be able to remove that money to know what our 2% is. I think the tax in April was \$48,000 or something like that. Maybe it was \$38,000. It was close to \$40,000 and that was the 4 1/8th. If you take out half that is what our part would have been to use towards sidewalks. It is starting to grow. Six months ago, it was \$1000 so you are starting to see the number grow. That will be money that will be set aside for sidewalks. What we will do when it comes to us is figure out where we want to start first. Whether it is Sheridan Road, Cache Road or some specific area that is something Rogalski is going to work on to get us a plan. We already have a sidewalk plan of what areas are needed. Those right of ways that are dangerous areas and places that have sidewalks that lead to nowhere. We want to be able to tie that together and make some of those right. The good thing is we should be able to start seeing our first project within the next 90 to 120 days. Our

projects will be less than \$50,000 per project and we are going to try and get some contractors that will work through us where we will pay them directly. The contractor will do the work and we will send the city inspector to inspect it. Some will be more expensive than other because there will be driveways, slopes and ADA accessibility requirements and we want to make sure that is all correct. I think this is a great start. We have never had a fund set aside like this before. Even if it is \$150,000 a year that is \$150,000 more in sidewalks that we have never been able to do.

Symuleski stated with that amount of money within five (5) years you should have most of the City of Lawton completed.

Burk stated well they are not cheap. This is arterials and not residential roads.

Rogalski stated I was under the impression that Councilman Davis took that out of the resolution.

Burk stated no.

Rogalski stated I thought he said he left it out on purpose.

Burk stated no, we took out a piece that said “adjacent to arterials”. We took the adjacent out. The ideal is it will be just arterials.

Ezerski asked what does it cost to do a sidewalk.

Rogalski stated on arterials it has to be 6’ wide so it will be about \$4,333 for 100’. That is 100’ of nice raw land. The sidewalk on the east side was nothing but grass and we plowed right through. The piece across the street took twice as long and it was a third of the size. We are working on the sidewalk at Ridgecrest Elementary School.

Burk stated it is a mess

Rogalski stated it is planned but we are waiting on the survey. It wasn’t that bad. There are probably four (4) or five (5) driveways that are a little steep and we will have to get easements on. Jones is sitting on his hands. This is something that needs to be addressed. We have to figure out how we can get it designed. Right now, we have GIS doing it on the side. That is not the way it needs to be done. If you are serious about it you have to have someone who will design the sidewalks.

Burk stated especially if we do it in the space we want to and keep it going. I want the citizens to see. I don’t want to start here and then jump over to here. You need to complete at least one (1) section. When that section is complete then you can move to another area. Sheridan Road is horrible and we have soldiers that walk there all the time. My office is over there and I see people walking in the grass or the streets. Somebody is going to get killed. We have been lucky that hasn’t happened yet and God forbid it be a military person.

Rogalski stated you will need to determine whether to include traffic control crossings at the intersections since you are dealing with arterial.

Burk stated that is a City thing. We don't have that kind of money.

Rogalski stated I'm not talking about the whole signal. I'm talking about the walking features. That isn't that expensive.

Burk stated I get what you are saying. You have to have accessibility to get to the other side. With that being said that money will start coming in here. Sales tax is always a month behind.

Huntley stated taxes are two (2) months behind.

Burk stated okay. We passed this last night and I don't believe it was an emergency. I believe it will go into effect in 30 days. We will see about five (5) or six (6) months for this fiscal year. This is a good thing. The other thing I was going to say is there is the Lawton Beautification fund and municipal fines that has now been increased. Have we received that check yet?

Huntley stated you haven't. I have two (2) things I need to clean up in the account first. I need to visit with Branstetter about this. She will be here next week and hopefully I can get that ironed out and get a check.

Burk asked how much did we think the amount in that fund would be.

Huntley stated around \$55,000.

Burk stated that will be coming to us and then the other .50 cents will now come to us. Our funds will now increase by that amount. We passed that as well. We will be having a meeting within the next few days to go over the landfill gate fees. We are going to fix it and the committee is going to be meeting on this. We think the gate people don't believe a dollar is worth haggling over. We may end up increasing that fee to \$2 or \$3 dollars.

Symuleski stated so in other words they are not collecting it at all.

Burk stated that is why we are going to meet to find out. We think that is part of it. That is what staff has told us.

Rogalski asked since they have to have a water account is there a way to add it to their account.

Burk stated I asked all that and they said it becomes a nightmare.

Rogalski stated collecting a dollar is a nightmare. I mean administratively it cost more than a dollar.

Burk stated I know so maybe we should start collecting \$5. I don't know. We don't know the number but we know there needs to be number. Now we are being asked to cleanup both sides of the road going to Geronimo and this needs to happen. That is another thing. I also wanted to ask about the second person that was hired to take out inmates. When does he start?

Hanna stated he started 2 weeks ago.

Burk asked and is he taking people out already.

Hanna stated yes and no. It all depends on whether they release them or not to come out.

Burk stated we need to get in touch with the Judge. Did you find out if he can take out females?

Hanna stated he cannot.

Burk stated I wanted Hanna to hire a female so she could take out the females. That was the plan.

Hanna stated I only had two (2) applicants and one (1) was a sex offender.

Burk stated honest to God I wanted a female. When I went to visit the jail, and it is horrible so don't ever go there, at least not to the old one wait until the new one is done, I heard from the ladies "you take the guys out and they get lunch and we are eating the same crap". They complained they never got to get out. I had to get permission to walk through there because the women might not have clothes on. There are a bunch of women in jail. I didn't realize there were so many. After talking to them they said it was almost like we were picking on them and not allowing them to do what we were allowing the men to do. I thought here we go. We are going to get a lawsuit because we allowed the men to do something that we didn't allow the women to. A lot of them were like we can pick up trash, weed eat and mow. And you know they can. I felt like we needed to do that. Council approved hiring somebody and Hanna was supposed to hire a female and he didn't. He hired another male.

Rogalski asked so a male can't check out the prisoners and watch them pick up trash.

Hanna stated not the ladies. It has to be the same gender.

Burk stated our goal was to get that done. I'm disappointed we don't get to use the females because that was the biggest part of our talk. Their complaints were they were stuck in there and of course they were being treated wrong. They wanted out for a little bit and maybe do some community service. The Judge was high on the fact that females were not getting to go. He was willing to make sure that he helped in getting that done and to give them more community service time. At some point and time, we need to have a community service team so when an individual does community service on the weekends, we give them specific jobs with a specific person. I know that LETA can sign someone out because I have use them before with trash-off or whatever.

They have painted buildings and have done a lot of good stuff. They are really proud of their work. We don't have a program set up for that.

Hanna stated Killeen Texas does.

Burk stated we need to have that. The Judge is willing to give community service but the problem is they don't show up. There is nobody to see that it is done. Can we work on that? If you would work with Hines on that I think he would be good help.

Hanna stated in Killeen on Mondays and Tuesday they have a group of 20 to 30 inmates that go out and picks up trash. Part of the police staff transport them to and from the site. They work for four (4) hours. On Saturday and Sundays, they meet up with drainage maintenance to clean out the drains.

Sweeney asked what is the population of Killeen.

Hanna stated 140,000.

Symuleski stated you have to find officers that are willing to do that.

Burk stated we will tell them to do it.

Hanna stated I thought it was interesting that the police transported them and stayed with them while they worked.

Burk stated I think this is a great idea. That could really make a difference in our community. Then drainage maintenance would have the kind of help they always say they don't have. They could do the fence around the playground. It needs to be stained right now.

Ezerski stated that would be free labor.

Burk stated yes. All we would have to do is buy the materials, put brushes in their hands and they will get busy. They would have it done in a day. We sealed the Holiday House in one (1) day with those that came to do their community service. I think there were nine (9) of them. They didn't leave because I told them I wasn't signing their paperwork if they left. This is something we need to work on.

Hanna stated in Killeen those were actually inmates.

Burk stated I agree but can you image if you had those doing community service coming on the weekends to help clean the drains. I think that would be awesome. With a huge number of people working the citizens will notice that. They will notice 50 people cleaning behind Walmart. We are going to talk about this.

Sweeney asked Hanna, you didn't get a female volunteer and that is why it didn't work.

Hanna stated I did not get a female applicant.

Sweeney asked so after all the complaints no one applied.

Burk stated no citizen applied for the job.

Sweeney stated okay.

McConnell stated Medicine Park uses the prisoners all the time.

Burk stated we use them at McMahon, Museum of The Great Plains, the library, mow, weed eat and a lot of stuff here. We have one (1) crew already but we wanted two (2). It is much cheaper for two (2) employees with five (5) or ten (1) going out everyday to pick up trash. The one (1) crew picks up a ton of trash. We wanted to double the efforts and maybe use them to do other things besides pick up trash. Whether it was painting bathrooms or whatever needed to happen in our community.

Morford asked does that person have to be CLEET certified.

Hanna stated no.

Burk stated there are some exciting things coming with LETA. I'm going to get with Hanna and trust me I will not forget that conservation. Is there anything else with the treasurer's report?

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

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

Brown stated we will meet next week with IT to discuss installation of security cameras in the building. There is a gentleman that is suppose to be taking over and I hope to get to talk with him.

Rogalski asked have you met with him at all.

Brown stated no, he isn't answering any of my emails.

Rogalski asked doesn't he work for Whipp.

Brown stated yes.

Rogalski stated start copying Whipp on your emails.

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

Hankins stated Burk has stepped out for a moment. Hanna, do you have anything further to add.

Hanna stated we are still working in Elmer Thomas Park. There are a bunch of dead trees we are going to cut down. I counted the rings on one (1) of the big elms and I lost count around 150. It was sad to lose that big old tree. We are starting our winter projects and it is Holiday In the Park season. We have eight (8) miles of lights. It will be huge.

Hankins state so we will see results from the hotel/motel funds.

Hanna stated out of \$44,000 we spent around \$41,000 and an additional \$6,000 of Holiday In the Park funds. I believe we have purchased around \$25,000 in lights this year. You will see huge results.

Rogalski asked is there some sort of light event.

Hanna stated the parade will be the Saturday before Thanksgiving.

Morford asked have you seen the redhead duck at the lake and do you know what type of duck it is. It is a hybrid of some sort and it has been there for the last two (2) years.

Hanna stated I don't know. I'll go check it out.

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

Hampton stated we have about 1500 followers. We haven't posted a lot lately but I think Facebook is going strong.

Hankins stated we had worried about there being negativity posted and I don't believe we have seen that in a long time. They kind of like us now.

Rogalski stated Burk deletes the negativity within minutes. You won't see many negative comments.

Hampton stated a lot of the other pages allow the negative stuff. We also have Lawton Proud posting their videos to our page. There was a lot of traction when Burk gave the annual report.

Hankins stated I believe that overall people think this is important work.

Hampton stated we are becoming an institution.

Symuleski stated LETA does a lot of things. A lot more than people know.

Hankins stated I wasn't much for the money going for sidewalks in general but when I knew we were going to be getting it I knew it would happen much faster.

Hampton stated Eddie Hamra and I were talking about Ware on C and I mentioned to him about the lights from 5th to 6th. He was excited. I think once we start to see that take place it will help.

Hankins stated well even seeing the Christmas parade improved will help.

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

There were none.

I. Receive report from Neighborhood Services.

Himes stated we have lost an inspector and hope to hire one before long. We had 647 complaints last month. This is about half of what we had the month before.

Rogalski asked how are we doing on the backlog.

Himes stated there are 247 backlogged. This is due to losing some of the contractors but the others are working really hard. We have three (3) really good contractors. One (1) of the new contractors has two (2) crews and seems to know what he is talking about. Things are coming along and we are seeing some changes.

Rogalski stated we didn't have the response we had hoped to. Normally we would hire five (5) contractors and we only hired three (3). We will have to go back out to bid in the spring but three (3) will get us through the winter.

Hankins stated we had several houses on the D & D last night.

Burk stated I want you to do some in Ward 4.

Hankins stated I think you are doing an excellent job.

Burk stated I do too. I was impressed with the number of houses that came down. We need to do that until every dollar is spent. We have to tear down old houses. It is crazy that we have to do that with a burnt-out trailer but you have to go through the process.

Hines stated that one was one of those that Dr. Bellino was complaining about.

Burk stated there is so much of that. I want us to focus on buildings that are boarded up. I know I have said that a zillion time. Code says you can not be boarded up for more than 18 months. There is one coming off Fort Sill on the corner that use to be a Stripes. It has been boarded up for ever. Even businesses that are open have their windows boarded up and we are not doing anything about it. I really want, and maybe LETA makes this a priority at their next meeting, Sheridan

Road to become the priority coming off Fort Sill headed south. Council approved making Fort Sill Boulevard a priority a few years back. Sheridan Road needs to be the focus area. There are so many dilapidated buildings, empty buildings, trashy trucks, washers and dryers, and truck that have been there forever. It is embarrassing to me. Then Molino's opens and it looks really nice and across the street you have junk with old broken-down trucks with flat tires. There is where I want to see us in the winter time when we are not dealing with high grass. Now is the time to say we are going to do it. To say we are going to nick pick the crap out of you until you get it right. The next thing we need to work on is signs. We have let it go to pot again. How many businesses have signs and nothing there?

Rogalski stated yes, there are a lot of dilapidated sign.

Burk stated or their sign is just flapping in the wind. My sign is broke but I have Arrow making a new one. It is just part of business. We have people who have nothing on those signs. The ideal was if you leave the pole you had to put a blank on both sides. They are not doing that. It is in the code that they have to put a blank in it. You can't just leave it wide open. We have them up and down Cache Road. The old Mr. Z's building is the pit and it is all boarded up. The hotel is all boarded up and has been since the new owner bought it. He comes to Council all the time and grips.

Rogalski stated I will say that commercial buildings are more expensive to tear down. They will run through a normal budget very quickly. If the CIP passes we will have \$4,000,000 and then it will be a different story.

Burk stated I want the owners to have to tear them down.

Rogalski stated we can take it through the process where we take it to district court.

Burk stated I say for the big buildings we go a different route. Don't take our house money. I want all of us to get behind the CIP. If we do it will pass and Lawton will be impacted immediately. It won't be five (5) or ten (10) years from now. We are talking millions of dollars for tearing down homes.

Rogalski stated \$3.7 or \$3.8.

Burk stated I put money in the CIP for LETA so we could tear down houses and so we can get the parks right. Parks and Recreation is not going to know what to do. He will have funds to actually go and do things if we can get this passed. It is not just stuff that Council wants. These are things that the citizens have been asking for.

Hankins stated it is time.

Hampton stated it is very comprehensive. It covers everything.

Burk stated yes. We have gone from top to bottom. We just have to get the citizens to vote and I think the vote will happen. Council will vote on it at the next meeting and I believe the

citizens will vote in February. It is one of those things that if we don't get the people to vote yes, and there are some in Lawton that will vote no. It doesn't increase your taxes not \$1 but I promise you there will be some no votes. They don't want to see Lawton get any better. We can put it on our Facebook to support the CIP. We can get Vrska to help write some articles and put them on Facebook. We can get the message out from LETA's side and what this will mean to LETA. This is not just about roads and things like that. Citizens expect us to do those things but they don't expect us, well they do expect us to but they don't know how we get the money, to do parks, playgrounds, skate parks and all those things. This will help us to immediately have funds for these improvements and to get things built. We don't have to wait three (3) or four (4) years to raise the money. We are going to have the money right away. We made it very clear to the City Manager that we wanted these projects, these touchy feely project, to happen now. That is what people get discouraged about. You can't see it underground.

Hankins stated the Mayor of Oklahoma City said you always have to have something in the pipeline that you can see. That is why their MAPS 4 is getting ready to start. They always have something in the pipeline that people can see, feel and touch.

Burk stated and they are having complaints. People are complaining they are only using it in certain areas and not all across Oklahoma City. They want to know what they are going to do to help with the other blighted areas. They are having to figure out ways to do their MAPS a little different. They are passing TIF's and that is very important for us. I will ask each of you to call your school board member and tell them what Dr. Tom said about not supporting the TIF and it being unethical to take money from Lawton Public Schools was wrong and that Lawton Public Schools ought to get the money. He publicly said that it was wrong and he is just the interim.

Symuleski asked why did he say that.

Burk stated that is just him. Plus, he gets his retirement from Great Plains Technology Center.

McConnell stated weren't they saying it was going to Cache Schools.

Burk stated it has always gone there. STEM is the key. I have been working on this for weeks. I have talked with every Councilmember I know and said that we have to pass this. I think we have the votes to make sure it happens. I was elected by the people of Lawton and I represent the Lawton Public Schools as well. The STEM program is based upon student population.

Rogalski stated the current plan has 10% of the increment going towards STEM and the STEM is divided by average daily membership.

Burk stated about 85% of that will be....

Rogalski stated if you use all schools it will be 83%.

Burk stated Lawton Public Schools will get a huge line share of that. And it will happen January 1.

Rogalski stated the increment is not really there. It will be set to happen.

Burk stated no but starting January 1...

Rogalski stated it will take a full year to get ad valorem taxes in.

Burk stated it will make an instance impact.

Rogalski stated yes.

Hankins stated and we have been doing without all the time.

Burk stated Cache is getting almost \$800,000 a year and they will still get that. It doesn't affect that and they are lying about how it is going to go down. They are not going to be affected in their base money. They are still going to get their \$800,000. They are worried about what is going to happen fifteen (15) to twenty (20) years from now when everybody in Lawton moves out there. Well not everybody is going to move out there because there is no infrastructure. Hell, they can't even get water and sewer out there. It isn't going to happen. People are moving out there right now because you built the Taj Mahal of schools. It is a mini university.

Hankins stated they can seat 1500 in their auditorium.

Burk stated they already have a two (2) year plan to spend their \$800,000.

Hampton stated they are building a new wrestling gym.

Burk stated and an aquatic gym for the twelve (12) kids that are going out for swimming. All I'm saying is this is our chance as citizens to tell the public-school system. I'm going to call everyone I know and I'm going to take the papers to them to show them what it means to Lawton Public Schools. Are you in or out? If you are out, I'm not voting for you again.

Morford asked will the 25% be an increase for Lawton Public Schools from the TIF.

Rogalski stated no.

Morford stated it is not that much of an increase but I mean the money goes to the schools.

Burk stated right now we are at zero.

Morford stated correct. We don't get anything.

Burk stated we get zero. When the TIF happens then we will get, I think the number I came up with was 18%. It is less than 20%.

Rogalski stated no, of the total pie 18% gets carved out and 10% goes towards STEM. The other 8% is divided amongst the other taxable entities. That 8% creates a net benefit of 25% of what they would have gotten. With the expansion we can sort of calculate what the amount will be and then we will be 25% of that expanded amount. Instead of the full amount they will get 25% so we are giving them some of the expanded amount.

Morford asked who is the other entities.

Burk stated Comanche County Health Department, Great Plains Technology, Cache and Lawton Public Schools.

Morford asked what does the Lawton Independent IA get.

Rogalski stated when we are talking about the public schools, I want to make it clear that we are providing to the taxing entity net benefit. The net benefit and gross benefit to the County, County Health Department, Great Plains Technology Center is exactly the same because their funding is just very straight forward. School funding is not. The school funding equalization formula is very strange in general. You get \$14.50 out of every hundred dollars in increased ad valorem. The state keeps the rest. It reduces your ____ by the other \$85.50. That is why we look at the net benefit. That is why the TIF District can create funding for these projects without hurting them and still give them 25% of their net benefit.

Burk stated I met with Rogalski and I went with a plan. I said we cannot leave Lawton Public Schools out this time. In the beginning it was 100% payback of the TIF. That was the first proposal. The second proposal came from Cargill the County Commissioner. I don't think he understands how it works. His proposal would give Cache Public Schools, well it actually would give the County their portion of it....

Rogalski stated the County would be 100%.

Burk stated 100% and the school would get....

Rogalski stated no. Sorry it wasn't 100% it was 70 something percent.

Burk stated it was a 283% increase for Cache Public Schools. No wonder they were tickled pink. Well I'm not pink over that. I said no and what it comes down to is the citizens don't vote. There is a ten (10) man panel of all the taxing entities and others that the Mayor adds that have multiple meetings. Eventually they will have an up and down vote on each proposal. They may have five (5) proposals in front of them. We gave them two (2) proposal last night to vote on. We said you were going to vote on the 100% payback proposal or the proposal we talked about for Lawton Public Schools. No matter what they do it doesn't matter. Council has to vote to do the one for Lawton.

Rogalski stated Council has the final authority. If they do not get a positive recommendation it takes a super majority. That is six (6) positive votes from Council.

Morford asked what is Lawton Public Schools going to come out with.

Rogalski stated the initial net benefit, the 25% goes to whatever physical school district it is in. So, of the areas at the airport will go to Lawton Public Schools and the areas on the west side goes to Cache Public Schools for the most part. There are some areas that is in Lawton Public School but most of it is Cache. For Republic Paper the 25% net benefit for Cache is \$215,000ish over a 25-year period. The STEM that is being carved out is \$1.5 million and that is the part that Lawton Public Schools would be something like 80% or some significant percent. There is the ability to provide STEM fund for Cameron, Great Plains Technology and then the schools. That portion has not been set yet. It will be set by Council.

Burk stated so that everybody gets it in their head, because I didn't have it in my until I sat down with Rogalski and argued. I think we have a plan but right now we get zero. Getting \$1.4 million is an estimated amount that Lawton Public School would receive.

Morford asked is that annually.

Rogalski stated no. That is over 25 years for just the one (1) project.

Burk stated that is just for the one (1) project. Just Republic Paper. That doesn't include any of the other projects that is going to be ongoing. We have ten (10) years to implement the other Tax Increment Financing District that we have labeled as A, B, C, D or whatever. Say another industry comes in and plans to start over here. It will automatically go under the same rules. If another comes here it goes under the same rules. So, you understand how this works we found that these entities wanted to come to Lawton. We have the land but everybody has land. Others give them the land, the infrastructure, water and sewer lines, gas, electric and all that stuff. We don't have any of that so the City of Lawton is fronting the \$30,000,000 plus for this to happen. One of the questions that Councilman Davis asked the superintendent from Cache, which I thought was absolutely perfect, was how much money has Cache put into the economic development on the west side projects. The answer is zero. Who has gotten all the money.... Cache.

Hampton stated Hance is spinning that as they don't mind giving anything but they aren't giving anything. What they are trying to say is we are giving something by not taking something.

Burk stated they can't take anything because we won't let them. Where is your cash.

Hankins stated they chastise us for not doing economic development in that area. They are really chastising us.

Burk stated yes. I stopped reading it all because it just made me mad. It was you guys have never kept up that area so you are the problem. No, when that was first developed, and I applied for a job at Goodyear in the early 80's late 70's when I was getting out of high school. I thought I wanted to go to work for them and I was offered a job but I realized that I didn't want to be that factory worker. I remember the conversation that they would at some point, because they knew that Cache was going to get all this and at that time it wasn't a huge amount because

Goodyear was much smaller plant. It has blossomed into something but they stated we will work it out with Lawton Public Schools.

Morford stated I was on the school board when that happened. They kept promising that they were going to get it worked out.

Burk stated some fifteen (15) years later Lawton Public Schools went to Cache and said can we sit down and talk about the deal. They decided that the deal didn't suit their needs. Okay, this time it doesn't suit my needs and I have the control and you don't. Here is the caveat. If we don't vote for this to happen chances of us losing people at Republic is greatly increased.

Rogalski stated absolutely. The deal with Republic is over if we don't pass the TIF. We don't have the mechanism to provide the incentives that we approved.

Burk stated the average income for those 70 jobs is over \$100,000. That is for the 50 to 70 jobs that will be created. These are high end jobs and Lawton needs them. If we are doing STEM in our schools that is where we want our kids to go to work.

Hankins stated and Great Plains should jump on that.

Burk stated they don't like it either because they want more of the pie. They feel the County is giving them more of the pie and they will. I don't think the County gets it. I don't think Cargill is bad I just don't think he gets it. I didn't get it until Rogalski showed me 19 times.

Hankins asked can we make it simpler so people can understand. It is hard to understand.

Burk stated it was hard for me. I got a piece of paper and drew it out for Rogalski and I still didn't have it right. I looked at it again and he explained it again. I went to the Mayor, and I don't believe he totally understands it either because he was confused and we were all doing that battle. Honest to God I think what we have to do is let this thing play out. They have to do their up and down votes on the two (2) proposals and then Council has to vote and we have to make it happen. It happens with us calling our school Board and saying that we don't care what Dr. Tom said Lawton Public Schools better come first. That needs to be our call to every single Board member and you better make sure they understand. He did say he would support it if the Board told him too. That was his words. By golly we need to be making phone calls. You just need to say that we elected you. Not Dr. Tom or Cache. When I was elected, I was elected by the people of Lawton. My job is to Lawton Public Schools. Lawton Public Schools is in my Ward. Be assured I don't have a Cache Public School in my Ward. When this first happened, they had an old wooden chantey out there. It was a wooden chantey and nothing there. The only industry that they have in Cache is the school system. There is no other business.

Sweeney stated Ezerski was telling us that the Chamber of Commerce are concerned because the higher ups at Fort Sill are telling people not to live in Lawton. They are saying they need to go to Cache or Elgin and now we are having problems renting homes in Lawton. One woman got upset because there were no homes in Elgin and she was afraid she would have to live

in Lawton. How horrible is that. On social media they were saying there were gang fights at Lawton High and all these untruths.

Hanna stated they have those same problems in Cache.

Burk stated they do. They have it everywhere. We need to call Tom Cole and say we have a Post Commander that is allowing this to happen. Going to the Post Commander is not going to help. He is not a Lawton person but Tom Cole can get their attention.

McConnell stated he said that he was having dinner with one of the Generals tonight.

Burk stated the Generals we have right now are all about Fort Sill. They want to be their own community and lock everybody in. They want their own restaurants and other things. They have been trying that for years.

McConnell stated that is what he said. He called the Mayor out there.

Burk stated that is the Garrison Commander.

McConnell stated he said they had been here six (6) months and his wife had been to Lawton twice. She goes to Oklahoma City because she is scared to come to Lawton.

Rogalski stated this problem has been there a long time. This hasn't just happened.

Burk stated we have to stop it and the only way to do so is to contact you elected officials and ask for their help. Cole has come here a lot and he is ready for re-election so it is time to start a fire.

Hankins asked is the Cannon Group suppose to do that for our community. My kids are in Wichita Falls and all the civilians welcomed them and treated them to different stuff. I want to show you what a friend of mine in Cache posted. She has a picture of all the little kids and said "Why should they be punished because of a vision. GPD and Cache Public Schools and the community is being bulldozed to assist a failing municipality".

Burk stated we are going to show you how failing we are.

Morford stated we get that all the time when selling lots. People say you can move to Elgin and not have the crime but their streets are chat.

Burk stated that is because they have no sales tax money. What we need to do as a group is make those phone calls. I know most of you know everyone on the School Board. I just got to where I don't listen to Cache stuff anymore because I don't care. I just don't care. It has been 40 some odd years since we let them rooky do us around with Goodyear. We should have never said okay. We should have made them put it in writing that we would get 50%. We should have gotten 80% and they got 20%. We let them get over on us and they have laughed all the way to the bank. Their athletic and school facilities are outstanding. Paul Construction told me that so far, he has

done over \$8.5 million in work for them in the last five (5) years and they just keep adding projects. Cameron needs light and we can't afford them. They got brand new LED lights put on their ballfield this year. Those are hundreds of thousands of dollars. I mean not just a few. And we can't get bathrooms with toilets that flush. We have to fix it and the only way to do so is by starting this STEM program. That is going to get people to say "why can't I send my kids to Lawton Public Schools. They have STEM money and have invested in their children." I think passing a \$100,000,000 bond helped. There are things that are happening. Our schools look better with the new windows and air conditioning. There is a lot of new stuff coming but we have to get it in the classroom. This program was the best idea and Rogalski was a big part of it. He deserves a lot of credit.

Rogalski stated something has been mentioned several times but I'm not sure you caught it. The 25% is up until we get \$30,000,000 in actual infrastructure cost. After that it goes to 100% of their net income. They get the rest of it. There is only \$42,000,000 of infrastructure cost for the whole project. The \$30,000,000 is not right away and it is not \$30,000,000 in earnings but in actual physical infrastructure. Then it switches to 100%. We are talking 15 years from now or at least five (5).

Burk stated we have to be able to sell these companies. We have had GM and other companies come here and we weren't prepared for them so they went somewhere else. They left us and they wanted to be here. Our cost of living is good, they love the area and everything about us except for we weren't ready.

Hampton stated Vicky Horton came and spoke at one of the Chamber dinners and said industries came here three (3) times.

Burk stated we just didn't have the shovel ready to go. We didn't have the infrastructure in but we can fix that and we are going to. Having the CIP pass is huge for Lawton because then we are going to clean up. That is going to be our vision and trust me I have three (3) more years on Council and I promise you I'm going to be hard nose as hell about getting the stuff done to make this place better. I want you guys to go step in step as we are walking down the street to clean this place up. We are going to clean it up and make it look better. We have already done it once. We made it a lot better than it was ten (10) years ago and it was a disaster. It is still not great but it not a disaster. We have taken it to where people can say they see the difference. They are making improvements besides cleaning up. Coming down 11th there was stuff out by the streets such as lawnmowers, washing machines and whatever. It is not like that anymore. A lot of it started with LETA and Rex Givens saying we have to fix the signs. No more big trucks with billboards hanging off them. We looked like a ghetto community but we stopped it. We have gone back to some of it and I'm hoping with the new Councilmembers we can go back to saying we are going to fix the signs. This is the way it is going to be and you are either going to take the sign down or your going to fix the sign. When you go down Cache Road look at the signs. You are going to say "oh my it has gotten out of control". After Rex left we kind of put a hold on signs. We haven't allowed the city to do anything about signage because we had a couple of Councilmembers, who are now leaving, totally against that. They had different ideas. I'm not saying they were wrong, but they had different ideas on how it should be addressed. They wanted to allow paper sign and all kinds of stuff.

Hampton stated other cities have as much blight as we have. The main thorough fares where people travel looks good and that is the area you have to clean up. You bring company to your house and you clean it up.

Rogalski stated we complain about Fort Sill ditching us but our front door to Fort Sill is Sheridan Road and Fort Sill Boulevard.

Hampton stated that is why I like the idea about fixing Sheridan.

Burk stated me too and getting sidewalks through there. Maybe more people will see that as our entryway.

Hankins stated it has to happen now and not later.

Burk stated that is our hello sign.

Sweeney stated that is on us.

Burk stated it is on us. We have to fix it and LETA can make it happen. Since we won't have to spend our money on yearly maintenance and we will have the \$50,000 from municipal fines we could do three (3) or four (4) medians up and down Sheridan Road. We can do sidewalks and medians. We have been that close already and we just need to do it. Every time we turn around we have to spend \$1500 here or a \$1000 there and by the end of the year we have spent \$20,000 to \$30,000 on repairs. That was never the intent of LETA. We were not to be the repair company and we are not going to be. I think the City Manager understands that. Hanna and I have talked to him and said that it isn't fair to LETA that we can't do what we were suppose to be doing.

Hampton stated in the five (5) years I have been here we have gotten some good traction.

Burk stated we need to kick it into high gear and say that in the next five (5) years there needs to be a huge push in getting all these things done. I think we can. Our last item is the Planning Division Report and they will report on the downtown lights. We have money set aside in the budget for these. Rogalski came up with some different lights but I don't like them. They look cheap. I have received a lot of calls from the businesses there asking if we were going to start the first block. We have money and I found the company. Did we contact that company?

Rogalski stated yes, we have a meeting with their design people next week.

Burk stated we need to hurry it up.

Sweeney asked can it be done by Christmas.

Rogalski stated we are getting the connections going and I have sent them the stuff.

Burk stated it can be done by Christmas if we hurry. Would you call them tomorrow and tell them I want to talk with them?

Sweeney stated the holidays would be the perfect time for everyone to see them.

Burk stated if they want us to buy thousand of dollars in lights, they better talk to us. We are ready to talk now. Rogalski is here and we are going to talk.

Hankins stated if they don't want our business, we will find someone that does.

Burk stated correct. We are going to make a decision. I want to get somebody hired and get that first block done. I want to get them hung. I want those same lights we talked about and I'm going to put those babies up. We are going to be the happiest people in town. People down there have already said, including Vera, they will write a check. They want to see some movement.

Rogalski stated we are thinking about zig zagging a string of lights and going down the line pole to pole. That gives you more lights and I think we can do that.

Burk stated I like the concept but I don't like the lights. If we can work on this and make it a priority in getting one (1) block up before Christmas. If we could change the light colors and people would go "wow, look what they did".

Symuleski asked doesn't the next set have to be three (3) blocks.

Burk stated no. The next two (2) block will come faster because there are more businesses down there. Those other businesses are going to write checks once they see the first block. They are going to say "I want those in front of my business".

Symuleski stated I thought you said it was for

Burk stated we are going to do 5th to 6th.

Brown stated 5th is the breaking point.

Symuleski stated I thought you said that was another section that....

Rogalski stated the next set will be two (2) blocks.

Brown stated we were going to do 4th through 6th but then we would have had to kill 3rd through 4th. That is where the three (3) blocks came into effect.

Burk stated if we had turned those lights off, we would have had a panic. Please make a phone call. I can meet anytime to get these people on board. Get the lights ordered and get them here so we can get them hung. We have the money in the bank so let's do this.

Sweeney stated I agree. I believe a more traditional look will last longer.

Burk stated the lights I looked up are guaranteed for life.

Sweeney stated of wow you can't beat that.

Rogalski stated we can hire a contractor to string the cable and then the lights.

Burk stated I talked to the lighting people once before and I agree with them. This was six (6) months ago or longer and we didn't have the money to do a block. They stated not to use an electrician to run the cable because they will charge you electrician rates. They have a company that hangs the aircraft cable and the lights. All you need an electrician for is to hook into the electricity.

Hanna asked do we know how many feet those come in.

Burk stated they are 45' lengths and we.....

Rogalski stated I thought they came in 100'.

Burk stated I thought 45' was the longest. The most you can put together is 750'.

Hanna stated the company we use had a 33' light span and they are \$50 dollars a span. The more you order you get either a 10 or 15% discount.

Burk stated I believe for every 45' they charge either \$38 or \$43. The good thing about Jasco they are out of Oklahoma City.

Rogalski stated the cost is hanging them. It cost more to hang them than to purchase them.

Burk stated and the cable. The lady said the cable was not cheap. You need to hang them with the right cable and hooks. They have people who hang them for them and she thought they would probably come to Lawton. When can they take the tops of the heads?

Rogalski stated I didn't want to get PSO to cut the lights until we are ready to put them up.

Burk stated I know but we need to plan it now.

Rogalski stated the agenda item is ready it just needs a date.

Burk asked what do you mean you have it ready to go. Have we not already passed it?

Rogalski stated no. Once you pass it PSO can cut the lights and you don't want to have the lights turned off.

Burk stated I will tell PSO not to turn it off until I tell them to. Am I going to have to call a special Council meeting to get the damn lights put on? My deal is we have to get this done. Is there anything else that the Planning Division needs to discuss?

Rogalski stated the Farmers Market's lease is being reviewed by Hanna and the City Attorney's office. It is moving right along. They have most of their funding.

Burk stated I made certain they understood they would have landscaping. LETA has given them money and that was what it was suppose to be used for.

Sweeney stated that is right we did.

Burk stated we are not going to maintain the landscaping or the building.

Hankins stated they are farmers they can do that.

Burk stated they wanted LETA to maintain the building and the landscape. I said no. That is not our job. No, we are not doing that. I think we have made some headway with them understanding that.

Brown stated they are working on a landscape plan. I have talked with Stacy Sharp and she said it wasn't finalized yet.

Hanna stated we have included the Farmers Market in the maintenance bid packet. We also included the public safety building. It is hard to bid the Farmers Market without seeing what their landscaping will be. It will probably not be an exact amount but we will have an idea.

Burk stated the landscape plan for the public safety building is amazing. It is stunning.

Sweeney stated oh good.

Hampton asked was some of that pulled from the original plan.

Brown stated it has not changed.

Burk stated I fought to make sure we kept the landscaping. They tried to scrape it. It is going to be beautiful. It does have a sprinkler system all the way around the building. We did it all. I said we are not going to be stupid.

Hampton stated that is why it is important to do those medians. It is going to be right downtown.

Burk stated and there will be a new restaurant down there. You couldn't believe the amount of people who wondered why they would put that restaurant there. We hope with the new restaurant it will produce more people to come to 2nd Street. We hope it will bring more businesses and I think it will help everyone there.

Hampton stated I have had lots of people wishing there was a place to eat down there.

Burk stated well there is going to be.

Rogalski stated the trees in the I-44 medians. We trimmed them last year but they are getting hairy again. We probably ought to.....

Burk stated what....

Rogalski stated if we are going to play chicken with ODOT we are going to lose that game.

Burk stated first we didn't hire the right company.

Rogalski stated they looked good for a little while.

Burk stated listen we didn't hire the right company. They didn't trim it back far enough to keep us from having to trim them every six (6) months. You have to trim those trees.

Rogalski stated what is growing is stuff at the bottom.

Burk stated I understand but they just took some little snippy thing and snipped them off. I walked down there and looked at all of them. I said this is going to grow right back because they didn't cut it all the way back to the base and keep it cut off. I see it over there on the north side in that one area. They didn't get the canopy high enough or where I wanted it. It wasn't bad and I know we paid little pennies on the dollar. I think you need to have Sullivan Tree Service.

Rogalski stated I'm just bringing it up. Do you want us to hire someone or try again and have them submit bids?

Burk stated we need to fix it. There is a tree going downtown that is dead and needs to be taken down and the stump grounded out. We need to get the stumps out of there. I hate it when, and the city is terrible about it, we take a tree down and leave the stump. Grind the stump out and get it out of there.

Hanna stated we are grinding all the trees at Elmer Thomas Park.

Burk stated well good. Thank you.

Rogalski stated this is below ground.

Burk stated yes, but there is a dead one in that median as well. They did clean up but, I guess I should have stayed there because they needed a supervisor, they didn't clean every ramp on the exit.

Rogalski stated oh street sweeping.

Burk stated yes. They did half of them and got a lot of it. I swear a third of this room was full of gravel they got off I-44. I watched them dump the truck. There is still a ton of grass growing into the streets. We have to fix it. I've talked to the City Manager about it and he agrees. We are going to send a follow truck with our streetsweeper and clean it up all the time. We are not going to wait until the State says it is okay to clean up our own neighborhood. We are going to send people down there, whether it is Bedrock or someone else, with weed eaters and weed eat along those curbs line to get the weeds back.

Brown stated there is another type of contract that we could do with ODOT that isn't just a onetime contract. One is for a onetime project and the other is like an annual contract.

Sweeney stated we need to look at that maybe.

Burk asked for the same company.

Brown stated yes.

Rogalski stated that actually might be something you want to kick to the other funding mechanism from the city if we are going to maintain them.

Burk stated I don't think that is a bad idea. That is maintenance and here we go getting back into the maintenance business. That is not our job. Let's look at that. Would you send that to me and then I'll forward it on to the City Manager.

Rogalski stated once we become the maintenance guy for those areas LETA could do something really spectacular in that triangle and other areas. We have talked about it over and over for the past 15 years.

Burk stated they left the two (2) pads out on Rogers Lane for us to put up buffalo's or whatever.

Sweeney stated I hate to get off topic since we are running late but speaking of that intersection I have had conversations about how dangerous that intersection is. When you are getting off Rogers Lane onto the highway you are trying to merge onto the highway when others are wanting to exit onto Rogers Lane.

Brown stated there are areas in Norman like that when you get off I-35.

Rogalski stated the Lee Boulevard exit is like that.

Sweeney stated okay, I guess it is the same thing.

Burk stated the good thing is we haven't had an accident there since we changed it. We were having major accidents there. I mean major accidents because they were crossing lanes in front of semis.

Sweeney stated they are crossing lanes now.

Burk stated well those were crossing lanes like this and pow. I mean major major things with lights. It is much better than it was but I think it could be perfect.

Rogalski stated there is a decent amount of distance there but it is really hard.

Sweeney stated obviously someone has looked at it and said it is a legal.

Rogalski stated it would cost a lot of money to make them further apart.

Burk stated do you remember the ugly trees and the old gas station. It looks so much better. Now it is painted and looks good. We need to be out there doing some landscaping.

Sweeney stated if we could get a buffalo that would be good.

Rogalski stated you need a big gun.

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

2. Old Business

None

3. New Business

A. Approve the minutes of September 11, 2019.

Motion by Sweeney, **Second** by Morford, to approve the minutes of September 11, 2019.
Aye: Hampton; Hankins; McConnell; Sweeney; Symuleski; Burk. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

B. Approve the Yearly Meeting Notice for 2020.

Motion by Morford, **Second** by Symuleski, to approve the yearly meeting notice for 2020.
Aye: Hankins; McConnell; Morford; Sweeney; Symuleski; Tennis; Burk; Hampton. **Nay:** None.
Motion Passed.

4. Announcements

5. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.