

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
LAWTON ENHANCEMENT TRUST AUTHORITY
2ND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
LAWTON CITY HALL
212 SW 9th STREET
SEPTEMBER 23, 2020**

Jay Burk called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. in the 2nd floor conference room of City Hall. Notice of meeting and agenda was posted on the City Hall notice board as required by law.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Burk Jay; Hankins, Mary Ann; McConnell, Lou; Smith, Addie; Sweeney, Kerry; Symuleski, Ted.

ABSENT: Morford, Robert; Ezerski, Barry.

OTHER PRESENT: Richard Rogalski, City Manager's Office; Charlotte Brown, Planning; Tiffani Vrska, City Manager's Office; Greg Gibson, City Attorney's Office; Tammy Anderson, Planning.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

1. New Business

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

Burk said the financial report(s) that correspond with these items were presented to the Authority at the last meeting.

Symuleski said he understands the financial reports are from August, but he asked why the financials do not reflect income.

Burk said the financial reports typically don't reflect income until approximately two months after the income is collected.

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

- B. Receive Treasurer Report and take action if necessary.

Motion by Smith, Second by Hankins, to approve the Treasurer Report. **Aye:** McConnell; Smith; Sweeney; Symuleski; Burk; Hankins. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

- C. Approve the minutes of August 12, 2020, meeting.

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Motion by Symuleski, **Second** by McConnell, to approve the minutes of the August 12, 2020 meeting. **Aye:** McConnell; Smith; Sweeney; Symuleski; Burk; Hankins. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

D. Discuss the Holiday in the Park Budget and take action as necessary.

Brown said Jack Hanna requested the tree be ordered as soon as possible.

Burk clarified that the tree would cost \$9,360.00.

Brown said that is correct.

Burk agreed that the tree should be ordered as soon as possible. If the order is delayed it may not arrive before the Holidays.

Motion by Hankins, **Second** by Symuleski, to approve the Holiday in the Park Budget. **Aye:** McConnell; Smith; Sweeney; Symuleski; Burk; Hankins. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

Burk asked for a motion to approve purchasing the specified Christmas tree for \$9,360.00.

Motion by Smith, **Second** by Symuleski, to approve purchasing the specified Christmas tree for \$9,360.00. **Aye:** McConnell; Smith; Sweeney; Symuleski; Burk; Hankins. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

E. Discuss giving an award to the Department of Public Utilities and take action as necessary.

Burk said this item relates to the wood fence that was built alongside Rogers Lane between 12th Street and 16th Street. He said many citizens use Rogers Lane and a wooden fence looks much nicer than a chain-link fence would look.

Brown noted this portion of wooden fence cost approximately \$75,000 to install.

Sweeney asked if the presentation for the award has been drafted.

Brown said staff is working on drafting a City Council item for the presentation of this award.

Burk said he can present the award once the item is drafted and placed on a Council agenda.

Hankins noted this area needs weed eating.

Vrska said this area can be difficult to access, but staff has managed to obtain some photos of the fence. However, Vrska said staff will attempt to get photos from a better angle.

Burk requested the area be mowed before more photos are taken of the fence.

Brown asked if the Authority would like to present a gift card with the Certificate.

Burk asked who the gift card recipient would be.

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Rogalski said the gift card could be presented generally to the Department. He asked Brown if she's been in contact with the Public Utilities Department regarding things they might need.

Brown said the Department could use a new coffee maker, but a \$100 gift card to Sam's Club has also been discussed.

Burk said he supports the gift card.

Motion by Sweeney, Second by Symuleski, to approve giving an award along with a \$100 Sam's Club gift card to the Department of Public Utilities and take action as necessary **Aye:** McConnell; Smith; Sweeney; Symuleski; Burk; Hankins. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

- F. Discuss the painting of crosswalks within the downtown area and take action as necessary.

Burk said he saw numerous painted crosswalks when he went to Dallas last weekend and they look amazing. Burk said painted crosswalks are being used everywhere in the City of Dallas and our community is behind.

Burk said he understands there are safety concerns regarding painted crosswalks. However, Burk said currently most crosswalks in Lawton are not adequately highlighted. He said this poses a greater safety issue than painted crosswalks would.

Burk said the use of painted sidewalks throughout Lawton would make our community stand out.

Sweeney said she, too, has seen painted sidewalks in other various cities. She agrees with Burk and thinks Lawton would benefit from them.

Burk noted how the recently painted murals (e.g. the Vaska Theater) around Lawton have changed the entire look of the area. He said these murals evoke a sense of pride in the community.

Gibson said City Code 18-12-1-1212, pertaining to the Overlay District, states "if decorative painting is used for crosswalks it shall conform to the crosswalks installed on 2nd Street as part of the 2nd Street enhancement project." He said the crosswalks installed on 2nd Street are pavers.

Rogalski said changes could be made to City Code if needed. He also noted crosswalk pavers are just as risky, if not riskier, than mural crossings because neither resemble a standard crosswalk.

Burk agreed with Rogalski. He added that the crosswalks on 2nd Street look black and dirty.

Gibson said a letter was written in the City of Buffalo to the Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration regarding painted crosswalks. Gibson said the FHA has implemented a Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). Considering this Manual, the DOT's response to the letter expressed opposition of painted crosswalks. Gibson said there's some insinuation that Federal funding may be lost with the use of painted sidewalks. However, Gibson said he's never seen that happen.

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Gibson noted that many cities are beginning to incorporate painted crosswalks. According to an article published on January 31st, 2019, the City of San Diego has put together a committee to brainstorm various paintings to be showcased on crosswalks throughout the community. Gibson said a permit has been established to add colors between the white markings of the crosswalk.

Burk said the painted crosswalks he saw in Dallas also had white markings to establish the boundary of the crosswalk.

Gibson said Section 155 (Exemptions from Liability) of the Tort Claims Act states that the City must provide proper maintenance of crosswalks, to include facets of the crosswalk that are already present.

Gibson said there is a court case in Edmond involving a pedestrian who was hit by a vehicle while crossing the street. In response to this case, the Supreme Court stated, “the City’s maintenance of existing painted lines and crosswalk is not within the discretionary exemption that is contemplated in Section 155 of the Tort Claims Act.” The City of Edmond was held negligent.

Burk said he would like to table this item until a more in-depth study is conducted regarding the way painted crosswalks are being incorporated in cities such as Dallas, Austin, Waco, Oklahoma City and Tulsa.

Burk said he believes the crosswalks on 2nd Street have only been power washed one time in the last 15 years. He asked if staff can work on getting them power washed again to remove the black stripes on the roadway.

Rogalski said there is available money from the 2nd Street TIF District to have these crosswalks power washed, and staff will work on getting this done.

Burk said it would be better to have this done at night as to minimally disrupt traffic. He also said it might be beneficial to put some sort of coating on the 2nd Street crosswalks.

Motion by Sweeney, **Second** by Symuleski, to table the discussion of painting crosswalks within the downtown area until the next meeting. **Aye:** McConnell; Smith; Sweeney; Symuleski; Burk; Hankins. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

- G. Update on the Girl Scout project that was discussed in May 2019 and February 2020 and consider possible matching funds and take action as necessary.

Burk said this item is regarding the 911 Monument in Elmer Thomas Park. He said currently \$6,500 has been raised for this project.

Brown said LETA’s portion, if approved, would be just under \$11,000.

Burk said he thinks it will look great, but he would like to know the size of the Monument and how tall the statue would be. Burk suggested the item be tabled until this information can be provided to the Authority.

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Motion by McConnell, **Second** by Sweeney, to table the approval of matching funds for the 911 Monument in Elmer Thomas Park until the next meeting. **Aye:** McConnell; Smith; Sweeney; Symuleski; Burk; Hankins. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

- H. Discuss the proposal for a Friends of the Library Mural to be located on the west side of the main library storage building and take action as necessary.

Brown said the Downtown Lawton Architectural Review Committee (DLARC) expressed concern about allowing murals in this area.

Rogalski said DLARC members viewed this mural as a sign because it says “library.” If this mural is viewed as a sign, it would have to meet sign code. However, murals are exempt from sign code. Rogalski said it’s his understanding that the Friends of the Library will be bringing back a new mural design that doesn’t resemble a sign. Rogalski said he thinks the new design will likely pass at the next DLARC meeting, but if it doesn’t then the item must be brought before the Board of Adjustment (BOA) for approval. After going through BOA, the item would be presented at City Council.

Burk said he likes the initial idea of having this mural say “library.” Burk said he would like to approve the mural.

Rogalski said LETA could simply vote to approve the placement of a mural on the wall of the library. This way, the new design would not have to be brought before the Authority before going to City Council for approval.

Motion by Sweeney, **Second** by McConnell, to approve the mural designed by the Friends of the Library to be placed on the outside wall of the library building. **Aye:** McConnell; Smith; Sweeney; Symuleski; Burk; Hankins. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

- I. Discuss where to place two (2) story walks and take action if necessary.

Burk said prior discussion mentioned placing these story walks in the downtown area of Lawton near the library.

Hankins asked if the story books are interchangeable.

Burk said yes.

Motion by Sweeney, **Second** by Symuleski, to approve the addition of two story walks to be placed in downtown Lawton, starting at the library. **Aye:** McConnell; Smith; Sweeney; Symuleski; Burk; Hankins. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

- J. Discuss sending a letter to the McMahon Foundation requesting a grant to do exterior lighting and take action if necessary.

Motion by Symuleski, **Second** by Hankins, to approve sending a letter written by Councilman Hankins to the McMahon Foundation requesting a grant to do exterior lighting. **Aye:** McConnell; Smith; Sweeney; Symuleski; Burk; Hankins. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

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- K. Approve a modified amount for the wildflower plantings along NW Rogers Lane and I-44.

Brown said the Authority previously approved \$15,000 for the wildflower plantings. However, after checking the numbers, Brown said the total is \$18,475.

Burk said these areas need to be mowed sometime between September 1st -15th. He said that's when the State does their mowing. Burk said if the grass gets too long it would need to be baled as to not interfere with the planting of wildflower seeds.

Motion by Hankins, Second by Symuleski, to approve expenditures in the amount of \$18,475 for the wildflower plantings along NW Rogers Lane and I44. **Aye:** McConnell; Smith; Sweeney; Symuleski; Burk; Hankins. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

- L. Choose Yard of the Month for Wards 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7.

Brown said Wards 3, 4 and 5 were discussed at the last meeting. Brown said the Authority chose 3505 NE 35th Street for Ward 4. 302 NW 29th Street was chosen for Ward 3. 1810 NW Dearborn was chosen for Ward 5.

Motion by Sweeney, Second by Symuleski, to approve the selections for Yard of the Month for Wards 3, 4 and 5. **Aye:** McConnell; Smith; Sweeney; Symuleski; Burk; Hankins. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

2. Announcements
3. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.