



City of Lawton

Lawton City Hall

212 SW 9th Street

Lawton, Oklahoma

73501 3944

City Council

MINUTES

Tuesday, November 5, 2024

6:00 PM

Lawton City Hall
Council Chambers/Auditorium

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY MAYOR STAN BOOKER WITH INVOCATION BY CAPTAIN BRIAN BRINLEY, FOLLOWED BY THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

"Official action can be taken only on items which appear on the agenda. The Council may adopt, approve, ratify, deny, defer, recommend, or continue any agenda item. The Council may also propose and enact floor amendments to any matter presented before them. When more information is needed to act on an item, the Council may refer the matter to the City Manager or the City Attorney. The Council may also refer items to standing committees of the Council or a board, commission, or authority for additional study. Under certain circumstances, items are deferred to a specific later date or stricken from the agenda entirely."

ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

- Mary Ann Hankins, Ward 1
- Kelly Harris, Ward 2
- Linda Chapman, Ward 3
- George Gill, Ward 4
- Allan Hampton, Ward 5
- Dr. Bob Weger, Ward 6
- Sherene L Williams, Ward 7
- Randy Warren, Ward 8

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: Stanley Booker, Mayor
John Ratliff, City Attorney
John Andrew, City Attorney
Donalynn Blazek-Scherler, City Clerk

PRESENTATION:

Introduction of Wesley Simmons, Assistant City Attorney

Local Defense Community Champion Award Larry Parks, Parks & Recreation Director

PROCLAMATION:

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Annual Achievement Week

Extra Mile Heroes: Daniel Wall, Lawton REASN; Kelly and Teresa Pendergraft, Next Generation Performing Arts Camp

REPORTS: MAYOR/CITY COUNCIL

Warren spoke about the potential of doing a statute for CH Brazzel, which will be constructed using private donations.

Hampton spoke about the Farmers Market and Open Streets.

Gill mentioned that the pedestrian bridge on Gore is almost completed. He also spoke about the road projects as part of the 10 Wins for the Citizens initiative.

Chapman talked about the exciting changes going on in Lawton and how the citizens are very happy.

Harris stated he is very excited to be back on the dais after being ill.

Hankins talked about positive changes and the importance of community involvement.

Mayor Booker talked about the responsibility of voting and how much he appreciates the diligent work of the poll workers.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: Lawton citizens who have completed a Request to Speak Form and wish to address business not listed on the agenda may step forward at this time.

To ensure compliance with the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act, the Mayor and Council will receive comments but will NOT engage in direct responses. However, they may refer matters to the appropriate department or individual for further consideration and follow up action.

To participate, speakers must submit a Request to Speak Form to the City Clerk and reside within the Lawton city limits. Each speaker is allotted 3 minutes, with a maximum of 9 minutes per topic, and Audience Participation is limited to 30 minutes total. All participants are expected to follow the Rules of Decorum as outlined in Council Policy 1-6.

David Reeves spoke about an individual being who was removed for the previous Council meeting for using profanity. He questioned if Council Policy 1-6 prohibits profanity.

Mayor Booker directed Reeves to the City Attorney to get an answer.

CONSENT AGENDA:

The following items are considered to be routine by the City Council and will be enacted with one motion. Should discussion be desired on an item, that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda prior to action and considered separately.

1. Consider a resolution to designate SW Sedalia Ave between SW Salinas Drive and SW Chisholm Trail Blvd as an honorary street, honoring the accomplishments of Raymond L. Gates as the City of Lawton’s first black firefighter. **24 2070**

Attachments: [Draft RESOLUTION](#) [Honorary Street Designation](#)
[Location](#)

2. Consider awarding contract RFPCL25 006 Employee Drug & Alcohol Screening for Normal Business & After Hours for Human Resources to Allied Laboratories and Statcare Urgent and Walk in Medical Care. **24 2074**

Attachments: [RFPCL 25 006 Dept. Recommendation](#)
[Abstract.docx](#)
[Original Contract](#)

3. Consider awarding contract RFPCL25 005 Employee Physicals for Human Resources to Comanche County Hospital Authority DBA MMG **24 2076**

Occupational Health Medicine.

Attachments: [RFPCL 25 005 Dept. Recommendation](#)

[Abstract.docx](#)

[Original Contract](#)

4. Consider awarding contract (RFPCL25 013) Park Modernization Lighting Project to First Light of Tulsa. **24 2098**
5. Consider awarding contract CL25 014 Pest Control Services for Parks and Recreation to Allstate Termite and Pest Solutions. **24 2080**

Attachments: [Pest Control Services CL25 014](#)

[Abstract](#)

[Original Contract](#)

6. Consider approving the rental of one printer to the City Attorney's Office, with the rental period matching the current High Tech Office Systems contract RFPCL22 016 **24 2086**

Attachments: [Rental Agreement/Quote](#)

[RFPCL22 016 Contract Agreement High Tech](#)

7. Consider approving an amendment to the agreement between the City of Lawton and TE Construction, to provide remedies for non compliance on city specifications relating to roadwork on the 1900 block of NW Cherry Avenue. **24 2109**

Attachments: [TE Engineering Specs Agreement](#)

[CL22 042 Concrete Repair](#)

[CL22 042 Concrete Repair](#)

Michael Watrous, Public Works, stated there were some discrepancies in the road work done in the 1900 block of NW Cherry Avenue, and this amendment addresses those discrepancies.

Harris explained to the citizens of Ward 2 that this work will be completed very soon, so they will have full access to their roads quickly.

Motion by HARRIS, Second by WILLIAMS, to approve the amendment as presented. AYE: HANKINS, HARRIS, CHAPMAN, GILL, HAMPTON, WEGER, WILLIAMS, WARREN. NAY: NONE. **Motion Passed.**

8. Consider approving a corrected employment agreement amendment between the City of Lawton and Donalynn Blazek Scherler for the position of City Clerk and authorize the Mayor and Deputy City Clerk to execute the agreement. **24 2094**
- Attachments:** [5 Corrected 1st Amendment](#)
9. Consider and take action approving Change Order 1 reducing the contract by \$362,505.94, accepting project in the final contract amount of \$5,627,374.06 and placing the Maintenance Bond into effect for the Meadowbrook Waterline Replacement Project PU2204 and the 67th Street Waterline Project PU2213 as constructed Southwest Water Works, LLC **24 2069**
- Attachments:** [Meadowbrook Change Order 1](#)
[Engineer's Recommendation Letter](#)
10. Consider approving task order 2.1 under the Master Services Retainer Agreement between the City of Lawton and WSB, Inc., to perform a traffic study on Gore Boulevard (east and west bound), coordinate proposed changes with the Electronics Maintenance Division and provide recommendations to the traffic commission. **24 2093**
- Attachments:** [Scope for Lawton traffic signal Optimization and Implementation Gore Blvd 06182024 V3](#)
[Cost Estimate](#)
11. Consider and take action approving the plans, specifications and authorize advertisement for construction of PU2405 Belmont Liftstation Replacement Construction Project to replace the dilapidated, high maintenance liftstation at SW 6th Street and SW Belmont Avenue in Lawton. **24 2075**
- Attachments:** [Belmont Lift Station location map](#)
12. Consider approving plans and specifications for Engineering Project EN2112 Rehabilitation of Cache Rd. Bridges M09 1 & M09 2 and authorizing staff to advertise for bids. **24 1438**
13. Consider determining the actual costs of the dismantling and removal of dilapidated buildings and other expenses that may be necessary in **24 2077**

conjunction with same by approving invoices for demolition of properties as required by State Statute 11 22 112.4 for properties located at 1734 SW 12th Street.

Attachments: [Invoice](#)

14. Consider approving an amendment to Council Policy 01 01: Employee Travel to add a section exempting all contracted individuals traveling on behalf of the City from employee travel requirements. **24 2099**

Attachments: [01 01 Council Policy DRAFT](#)

[01 01 Council Policy CLEAN](#)

15. Consider approving up to \$4,700,000.00 of available GO Bond funds to current street projects that meet the criteria established and approved by the public, specifically for mill & overlay initiatives, outlined in the GO Bond Issues of 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2024. **24 2118**

Motion by WARREN, Second by WILLIAMS, to approve the consent agenda as presented, with the exception of pulling item 7 for discussion. AYE: HANKINS, HARRIS CHAPMAN, GILL, HAMPTON, WEGER, WILLIAMS, WARREN. NAY: NONE. **Motion Passed.**

BUSINESS ITEMS:

16. Consideration and action upon a Resolution of the City of Lawton, Oklahoma (the “City”), approving and authorizing the modification of terms regarding the Letter of Credit Note, Series 2024C (the “Note”) to be issued by the Lawton Water Authority (the “Authority”); and all matters related thereto. **24 2113**

Attachments: [City Council Resolution final execution version](#)

Mayor Booker stated this is a companion item to resolution approved by the Water Authority.

Motion by WEGER, Second by CHAPMAN, to approve Resolution 24-261. AYE: HANKINS, HARRIS, CHAPMAN, GILL, HAMPTON, WEGER, WILLIAMS, WARREN. NAY: NONE. **Motion Passed.**

17. Receive a presentation from CivicPlus regarding agenda management **24 2101**

software, open records management software, and municipal website management.

Attachments: [CivicPlus Bundled Pricing](#)

Jason Clapp, CivicPlus, presented on agenda management, open records, and municipal website services that can be provided to the City of Lawton by CivicPlus. This presentation is available in the City Clerk's Office.

No action was taken on this item.

- 18.** Receive a presentation from the Salvation Army on plans for assisting the **24 2089**
unhoused community and discuss potential ways to facilitate the Salvation
Army's initiatives for the winter months and provide direction to staff as
appropriate.

Captain Bryan Brinley delivered a comprehensive presentation on the Salvation Army's history, mission, and ongoing work in the Lawton area, as well as its plans for addressing homelessness in the community. A copy of the presentation is available in the City Clerk's Office.

Captain Brinley explained that the Salvation Army was founded in 1865 by William and Catherine Booth in London and has since expanded to 132 countries worldwide. The organization's mission is consistent across all locations: "To preach the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name." The Salvation Army focuses on serving those who are often forgotten or left behind. Its iconic logo is globally recognized as a symbol of help and hope. The Salvation Army has been operating in Lawton, Oklahoma, since February 13, 1904, and will celebrate 106 years of service to Lawton, Cotton, Jefferson, Stephens, and Tillman Counties in 2025.

During the presentation, Captain Brinley reviewed the Salvation Army of Lawton's 2023 statistics, which include serving 7,373 individuals, providing 1,765 food boxes, serving 29,521 meals, offering 5,291 Christmas gifts, providing 2,901 nights of shelter, distributing clothing to 1,197 individuals, and offering utility and rent assistance to 178 and 7 families, respectively. These numbers do not include programs such as the Boys and Girls Club, Christmas kettles, and case management services.

Captain Brinley shared that he has been with the Salvation Army for five months. During this time, a community assessment was conducted, and the Salvation Army Shelter was paused due to challenges such as low occupancy, lack of funding, and maintenance issues. On average, the 21-bed shelter operated at only 28% capacity, accommodating eight people per night. Recognizing the need for action, Captain Brinley collaborated with Brenda Ragland to address the closure of C. Carter Crane Shelter, which faced similar issues and was also at risk of shutting down. Together, they ensured the continued operation of C. Carter Crane Shelter, with the Salvation Army signing a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to support the shelter. The partnership has led to increased capacity, with the shelter now operating at approximately 80%, highlighting the need for continued community support.

Captain Brinley conducted a needs assessment and identified chronic homelessness as a significant issue in Lawton. In response, he developed a three-year Battle Plan to address this problem. This plan, approved at multiple levels within the Salvation Army, aligns with the City Council’s recent ordinance regarding unauthorized camping, which aims to encourage engagement with the homeless population. Phase one of the Battle Plan will begin on November 16, 2024. As part of this initiative, the Salvation Army has allocated \$62,000 to employ homeless individuals as bell ringers, providing them with a source of income.

Captain Brinley explained the difference between high-barrier and low-barrier shelters. A high-barrier shelter focuses on situational homelessness and requires individuals to meet specific health and engagement criteria, such as drug testing. Conversely, a low-barrier shelter accepts individuals regardless of their circumstances, prioritizing immediate housing and providing case management services. While high-barrier shelters are less costly, low-barrier shelters require higher levels of funding, training, and resources.

Mayor Stan Booker inquired about the cost differences between the two shelter models. Captain Brinley stated that the annual operating cost for the high-barrier shelter in 2023 was \$240,000, while a low-barrier shelter would require \$540,000 annually. He also noted that he is considering two potential facilities for the proposed low-barrier shelter. Renovating one facility, which would require installing an elevator, is estimated at \$370,000. The other facility, located across the street, is estimated at \$390,000 to \$400,000 for remodeling and is considered a better location. However, the first year’s operating costs would also need to be secured to launch the shelter.

Councilmember Gill asked about the Salvation Army’s previous shelter. Captain Brinley confirmed that the previous shelter is still intact but has not been used. The proposed low-barrier shelter will accommodate 30 to 50 individuals, focusing on small-scale success before potential growth. He emphasized that if a low-barrier shelter is not properly managed, it could revert to a high-barrier model. Councilmember Gill also inquired whether the cost difference between the two shelter models was primarily due to personnel. Captain Brinley confirmed this, explaining that low-barrier shelters require more training and specialized staff.

- 19. Receive public comments on the usage and allocation of unallocated sales tax** **24 2079**
revenue received from July 2020 to June 2024. The unallocated funds total \$8,425,974.94.

Attachments: [Resolution of Intent No. 24 114](#)

2024 Monthly Sales Tax Analysis

Rebecca Johnson, Finance Director, explained that these funds are associated with PROPEL. This is the first of two required opportunities for public comments on how the funds should be allocated.

Mayor Booker stated the public comment hearings are required by the resolution and the funds are inflationary overage. We are applying inflationary income to inflationary projects that are part of PROPEL.

Caysa Whitely stated the funds should be used to fight the heat index. She provided examples such as planting more trees and vegetation, using cool pavements, and having more green spaces. She also

mentioned increasing the accessibility of public transit, fence line monitoring at every business in the industrial park, temporary housing that is low income and low barrier, an endowment or scholarship fund for students graduating from Lawton Public Schools to attend Cameron University, and paying a salary to have someone sit on the Council to represent the indigenous voice.

Daniel Jameson stated he would like to see a Council representative from the indigenous community and a pilot project for unconditional public housing for both transitional and chronic homeless.

Mayor Booker said we should have said earlier that inflationary overage associated with the CIP voted on by the citizens can only be spent on items in the CIP.

- 20.** Consider holding a public hearing and approving an Ordinance pertaining to **24 2003**
Planning and Zoning amending Section 18 2 1 212, Division 18 2 1, Article 18 2; Section 18 4 1 413, Division 18 4 1, Article 18 4; and Sections 18 8 1 804 and 18 8 1 805, Division 18 8 1, Article 18 8, all of Chapter 18, Lawton City Code, 2015, by changing the word handicap to ADA compliant and updating the ADA compliant parking space design requirements, Figure 13, allowing for two options and amending the associated code; providing for severability, establishing an effective date and allowing for floor amendments if necessary.

Attachments: [Ord 24](#) [ADA Parking Update REVISED](#)

[Ord 24](#) [ADA Parking Update REVISED CLEAN](#)
[Executed Newspaper CPC & Council 10.24 & 11.05](#)
[10.24.2024 CPC Minutes](#)

Christine James, Planning, explained that this is simply a housekeeping item. The term handicap will be replaced with ADA compliant, which is the politically correct term, and the parking lot design requirement is being updated to allow for a few options for developers.

Gill asked if all recommendations from the City Planning Commission were included.

James stated the Planning Commission discussed the ordinance, but did not recommend any changes.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED.

Andre Wilson commended the City of Lawton for the proposed changes. He noted that this is a significant step in the right direction to foster inclusivity. He stated he would like to know more about the ADA compliance projects the City of Lawton has been working on to improve accessibility.

Mayor Booker directed Wilson to contact the City Attorney's Office to receive answers to his specific questions.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED.

Motion by GILL, Second by HAMPTON, to approve Ordinance 24-074, waive the reading of the ordinance, and read the title only.

The City Attorney read the title:

ORD. 24-074

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 18-2-1-212, DIVISION 18-2-1, ARTICLE 18-2; SECTION 18-4-1-413, DIVISION 18-4-1, ARTICLE 18-4; AND SECTIONS 18-8-1-804 AND 18-8-1-805, DIVISION 18-8-1, ARTICLE 18-8, ALL OF CHAPTER 18, LAWTON CITY CODE, 2015 PERTAINING TO PLANNING AND ZONING BY CHANGING THE WORD HANDICAP TO ADA COMPLIANT AND UPDATING THE ADA COMPLIANT PARKING SPACE DESIGN REQUIREMENTS, FIGURE 13, ALLOWING FOR TWO OPTIONS AND AMENDING THE ASSOCIATED CODE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

VOTE ON MOTION: HANKINS, HARRIS, CHAPMAN, GILL, HAMPTON, WEGER, WILLIAMS, WARREN. NAY: NONE. **Motion Passed.**

- 21.** Consider approving an Ordinance amending the Employee Retirement System, Defined Contribution Plan for the City Manager for the City of Lawton, Oklahoma; providing retirement benefits for eligible employees of the City of Lawton, Oklahoma; pertaining to plan design; providing for repealer and severability; and declaring an emergency. **24 2116**

Attachments: [City Manager Ordinance and Joinder 2024](#)

Craig Akard, Human Resources, explained that all general employees hired after July 1, 2017 are part of a defined contribution retirement plan, including the City Manager. He stated that in addition to this plan, the City Manager also has the option to join another plan specifically for City Managers. John Ratliff has declined to participate in the additional plan, so the plan documents with OKMRF need to be amended so that he does not have to contribute anything into that fund. This ordinance allows for that amendment. Akard went on to say that when this ordinance was first drafted, he was under the impression that it couldn't be done as an emergency, but the City Attorney's Office has confirmed that this does meet the requirements to take effect immediately.

Motion by CHAPMAN, Second by WILLIAMS, to approve Ordinance 24-075 with a floor amendment to change the wording from "establish an effective date" to "declaring an emergency", waive the reading of the ordinance, and read the title only.

The City Attorney read the title:

ORD. 24-075

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT SYSTEM, DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN FOR THE CITY MANAGER FOR THE CITY OF LAWTON, OKLAHOMA; PROVIDING RETIREMENT BENEFITS FOR ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF LAWTON, OKLAHOMA; PERTAINING TO PLAN DESIGN; PROVIDING FOR REPEALER AND SEVERABILITY; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

VOTE ON MOTION: AYE: HANKINS, HARRIS, CHAPMAN, GILL, HAMPTON, WEGER, WILLIAMS, WARREN. NAY: NONE. **Motion Passed.**

Motion by CHAPMAN, Second by GILL, to declare Ordinance 24-075 an emergency. AYE: HANKINS, HARRIS, CHAPMAN, GILL, HAMPTON, WEGER, WILLIAMS, WARREN. NAY: NONE. **Motion Passed.**

22. Consider approving an Ordinance pertaining to Buildings, Construction and Housing amending Sections 6 1 2 123 through 6 1 2 128, Division 6 1 2, Article 6 1, Chapter 6, Lawton City Code, 2015, by amending the procedures for addressing to allow for consistency between GIS, E911 and Planning and potentially providing a better response time in emergency situations, providing for severability, allowing for floor amendments, and establishing an effective date. **24 2071**

Attachments: [Ord 24 Addressing](#)
[Ord 24 Addressing CLEAN](#)

Christine James, Planning, stated this is a housekeeping item. The GIS mapping system is now integrated in CAD, and there was also an update with the post office on assigning addresses. This will make sure that Code matches the current practice and that when an address is assigned, it is getting geocoded correctly and hitting the E-911 CAD system correctly.

Motion by WARREN, Second by WILLIAMS, to approve Ordinance 24-076, waive the reading of the ordinance, and read the title only.

The City Attorney read the title. ORD. 24-076

AN ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO BUILDINGS, CONSTRUCTION AND HOUSING AMENDING SECTIONS 6-1-2-123 THROUGH 6-1-2-128, DIVISION 6-1-2, ARTICLE 6-1, CHAPTER 6, LAWTON CITY CODE, 2015, BY AMENDING THE PROCEDURES FOR ADDRESSING TO ALLOW FOR CONSISTENCY BETWEEN GIS, E911 AND PLANNING AND POTENTIALLY PROVIDING A BETTER RESPONSE TIME IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, ALLOWING FLOOR AMENDMENTS AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

VOTE ON MOTION: AYE: HANKINS, HARRIS, CHAPMAN, GILL, HAMPTON, WEGER, WILLIAMS, WARREN. NAY: NONE. **Motion Passed.**

23. Consider approving an Ordinance pertaining to businesses by amending Section 7 12 1 1213, Division, 7 12 1, Article 7 12, Chapter 1, Lawton City Code, 2015; by adding language that if a no soliciting sign is located on a property that it is unlawful for a door to door vendor to attempt to solicit at that property, providing for severability, and establishing an effective date. **24 2084**

Attachments: [Ordinance 24](#)
[Ordinance 24 CLEAN](#)

Charlotte Brown, Community Services, stated that the Building Division has received several complaints about door-to-door salesmen ignoring “No Soliciting” signs. This ordinance would allow us to enforce those signs and give us the ability to revoke licenses for those who do not comply.

Motion by HAMPTON, Second by HARRIS, to approve Ordinance 24-077, waive the reading of the ordinance, and read the title only.

The City Attorney read the title:

ORD. 24-077

AN ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO BUSINESS BY AMENDING SECTION 7-12-1-1213, DIVISION 7-12-1, ARTICLE 7-12; CHAPTER 7, LAWTON CITY CODE, 2015; BY ADDING THE LANGUAGE THAT IF A NO SOLICITING SIGN IS LOCATED ON A PROPERTY THAN IT WILL BE UNLAWFUL FOR ANY DOOR-TO-DOOR VENDOR TO ATTEMPT TO SOLICIT AT THAT PROPERTY AND PLACING AN ENFORCEMENT FOR VIOLATING THE NO SOLICITATION CODE, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

VOTE ON MOTION: AYE: HANKINS, HARRIS, CHAPMAN, GILL, HAMPTON, WEGER, WILLIAMS, WARREN. NAY: NONE. **Motion Passed.**

24. Consider waiving Section 2-1-1-102 of the Lawton City Code in order to approve the Annual Meeting Notice for 2025. **24 2073**

Attachments: [Meeting Times](#)

2025 CC ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

Blazek-Scherler stated this is the Annual Meeting Notice for 2025. It lists that the City Council meetings will take place on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:00PM.

Motion by WARREN, Second by HANKINS, to waive Section 2-1-1-102 of Lawton City Code and approve the Annual Meeting Notice for 2025.

Gill stated he would like to consider posting the Annual Meeting with January and February showing the 6:00 PM meeting time with the rest of the year showing 2:00 PM as the meeting time in order to reflect the temporary trial of 6:00 PM meetings that will end in March.

SUBSTITUTE Motion by GILL, Second by HARRIS, to approve the 2025 Annual Meeting Notice with a floor amendment to list the meeting time as 6:00 PM for January and February and 2:00 PM for the remainder of the calendar year.

Mayor Booker asked if this would be considered reconsidering the meeting times. He stated the way that Gill presented his motion, he doesn't believe it is.

Andrew stated it is not a reconsideration.

Warren stated it has already started all over Facebook that now that PROPEL has passed, the Council is going to move the meetings back to 2:00PM when the citizens don't have a say.

Harris stated he disagrees with Warren, and he believes there was more participation at 2:00PM and that citizens can always voice their opinions online. He also noted that the staff and Council will be coming

to the meetings and going home from the meetings in the dark, which causes a safety concern.

Chapman asked Gill to explain his motion again.

Gill stated it would be 6:00 PM meetings until March, and then it would go back to the regular 2:00 PM meetings. He stated the time can always be voted on again, but this would reflect that 6:00 PM meetings were only approved on a temporary 6-month basis.

Mayor Booker asked if the substitute motion fits the agenda item.

Andrew stated yes it does because we are waiving Code and considering the annual meeting notice. This would just be a floor amendment. Because Code is being waived, it still fits.

Blazek-Scherler stated Code is being waived because it states that Council meetings are at 2:00 PM. In order to post an Annual Meeting Notice that says 6:00 PM, the Council would have to waive that section of Code.

Andrew agreed. He stated it would just be either waiving code for 2 months or 12 months.

Hampton reiterated the motion and asked if changing the meeting time would come back up automatically.

Mayor Booker stated if Gill's motion prevails, it will not come back up unless someone puts it on the agenda.

Hampton stated we would be moving the meetings back to 2:00 PM unless someone brings this back up for reconsideration.

Mayor Booker stated yes.

Williams stated she voted to change the meetings to 6 o'clock because citizens voiced concerns over their ability to attend meetings. Since the meetings have been moved, she has not seen those citizens in attendance at meetings.

Warren stated the original motion did not allow for the time change to revert back to 2:00 PM automatically- it said the issue would be revisited in 6 months.

Andrew stated we have a deadline to submit the Annual Meeting Notice and what is listed on that notice is up to the Council. If the Annual Meeting Notice says 6:00 PM, whether it's 2 months or 12 months, we still have to waive Section 2-1-1-102 of Code. That will require a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote.

Hampton stated that Warren is addressing the question he asked. He stated this was voted to be revisited in 6 months, so it should not automatically revert back to 2:00 PM.

Mayor Booker asked the City Clerk to pull up the motions made over the time change and either email them to everyone or pull them up on the big screen.

Blazek-Scherler stated if she can have a moment, she can put the motions on the big screen.

Gill asked Andrew if there are not enough votes to waive the Code, what happens.

Mayor Booker asked Andrew why the motion that was used the last two times that did not include waiving the Code is not good enough for this motion.

Andrew stated it all hinges upon how this notice is filed. When we started this 6-month test, we were 4 months to the end of the calendar year. Really, the state doesn't care about what the Code says, but our Charter and Code requires us to waive this Section of Code to change the time.

Mayor Booker asked if notice was filed with the state when the time was changed to 6PM or if notice was only required to be given to the public.

Blazek-Scherler stated only notification to the public was required. She posted a special meeting notice from the time the meeting time changed to 6:00PM to the end of the six months. That was the notification to the public.

Andrew asked what the deadline is for filing the Annual Meeting Notice.

Blazek-Scherler stated December 15th.

Andrew stated his only other idea is to put an item on the next agenda to change the Code.

Mayor Booker stated we need to deal with what we have. We voted on this four months ago, so we need to see what was said, and then we need to deal with it. If we fail to waive the Code, the attorney has a decision to make.

2nd SUBSTITUTE Motion by HARRIS, to table this item to the next meeting.

Mayor Booker stated someone can second that motion, but he would like to deal with waiving the Code right now. If we don't, the City Attorney doesn't know what he's dealing with and what's coming down the pipe.

Ratliff stated Robert's Rules of Order does not allow for two substitute motions.

Mayor Booker stated Council Policy 1-6 may allow for a second substitute motion.

Mayor Booker reviewed the two motions made on May 28 and June 25 regarding the change in meeting times. The May 28 motion notes that the change will be re-evaluated after 6 months.

Gill stated that what he said was correct; the change was temporary.

Mayor Booker stated it will be re-evaluated after 6 months, not that it is temporary. That tells him that the meeting time is 6:00 PM until it is re-evaluated.

Andrew stated that based on the May 28 motion, the Code should have been changed at that time.

HARRIS WITHDREW HIS SUBSTITUTE MOTION.

Mayor Booker stated that he believes a motion to reconsider the May 28 motion would be necessary to consider Gill's substitute motion because the May 28 motion says to re-evaluate, not that it is temporary.

Gill and Mayor Booker continued to discuss whether or not Gill's motion would be reconsidering the

May 28 motion and if Gill could agenda an item to change the time prior to the end of 6 months without a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority vote.

Andrew stated no matter what, Code would have to be waived.

Mayor Booker asked Gill what the big deal is about just waiting until February to agenda an item to change it to 2:00PM.

Gill asked if it would require a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote if he brought it back at the end of February or beginning of March.

Mayor Booker stated it would not require a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote at that time. He also stated that Gill's current substitute motion is not germane to this agenda item and will not be considered. The Council will go back to considering the original motion, which was to list the times at 6:00 PM. This will allow the clerk to file the notice as required by State Statute, and we will deal with the time later.

VOTE ON ORIGINAL MOTION: AYE: HANKINS, HARRIS, CHAPMAN, GILL, HAMPTON, WEGER, WILLIAMS, WARREN. NAY: NONE. **Motion Passed.**

Mayor Booker asked Blazek-Scherler if that gives her what she needs. She affirmed.

Mayor Booker asked Andrew to bring a Code change back to the next meeting.

25. Receive a report from staff concerning the status of Ralph's Resort and provide direction as necessary. 24 2122

Dewayne Burk, Deputy City Manager, briefed the Council on 4 proposals received for Ralph's Resort and gave a presentation over issues at the existing store. This presentation is available in the City Clerk's Office. Staff's recommendation is to relocate the store.

Mayor Booker stated he has no problem with tearing down the old store but questioned building a new store. He doesn't know that the market is strong enough to support a new store. He suggested possibly doing a portable building instead.

Burk explained that the concessionaire for Ralph's Resort is also manages the boathouses, fishing docks, and the entire campground. This provides a supplemental income other than the store. Burk went on the suggest using some of the lake revenue from the recent loan to purchase or construct a steel building. He has spoken with Councilman Gill, and they believe this is the most economic option. He also stated that the concessionaire may struggle to manage the area without a headquarters.

Mayor Booker requested this be brought back with a business plan, a business model, and an explanation on what Burk means by managing the property.

Burk noted that this discussion directly impacts negotiations with the concessionaires.

Hampton questioned how many people live in the community nears Ralph's Resort and if they use the store.

Perry, current Ralph's Resort concessionaire, stated they do purchase incidentals like chips, pop, and bait.

Hampton asked if fishing is still active in that area.

Perry affirmed that it is a very active fishing area, and the store is used frequently. He expressed that the hardest hit the store has taken is when the City took over selling permits.

Harris asked Perry's recommendation on tearing the building down.

Perry stated he hates to see it torn down, but it is very old and would be expensive to be brought back up to Code.

Motion by WARREN, Second by HAMPTON, to direct staff to have the store demolished and bring a business plan back for Council's perusal.

Mayor Booker asked why, with the exception of the day fishing, that location needs management onsite when the City of Lawton manages everything at Lake Lawtonka.

Burk stated the collection of the rent and oversight of the boathouses does not need management onsite, but the management of the fish houses does. They are a daily rental that are currently paid in the store.

Mayor Booker asked how many people a day use the houses.

Burk stated it depends on the time of year but he can't give an exact number.

Mayor Booker said it sounds like a subsidized business, which is exactly what we are trying to get away from at Lake Lawtonka. That is not the right use of the citizens' money.

VOTE ON MOTION: AYE: HANKINS, HARRIS, CHAPMAN, GILL, HAMPTON, WEGER, WILLIAMS, WARREN. NAY: NONE. **Motion Passed.**

Burk stated he advises not tearing the store down until there is a plan in place.

Motion by HARRIS, Second by GILL, to reconsider the previous action. AYE: HANKINS, HARRIS, CHAPMAN, GILL, HAMPTON, WEGER, WILLIAMS, WARREN. NAY: NONE. **Motion Passed.**

Burk stated we need the store to stand until we have a replacement, if it is the Council's desire to replace the store. The new concessionaire will need the facility to continue to operate on a temporary basis. If Council wants to get rid of the store, it needs to be included in the negotiations with the next concessionaire.

Motion by HARRIS, Second by WEGER, to direct staff to bring back a plan. AYE: HANKINS, HARRIS, CHAPMAN, GILL, HAMPTON, WEGER, WILLIAMS, WARREN. NAY: NONE. **Motion Passed.**

Mayor Booker stated you know it is Council's desire to tear it down. You can bring back a plan that includes keeping it, though.

STAFF REPORTS:

26. Provide City Council with an update on the FY 2024 Audit Process.

Rebecca Johnson, Finance Director, stated the FY23 audit and professional agreements for the FY24 audit will be on the November 12th agenda. We are still on target.

Mayor Booker asked what exactly will be on the November 12th agenda for FY23.

Johnson stated the final audit.

Mayor Booker asked if the audit has been sent to the state.

Johnson stated at this moment, no, but it will be sent before November 12th.

Gill asked if the FY24 audit would make the December 31st deadline.

Johnson stated it is highly possible.

27. Receive a presentation on the proposed Homeless Assistance Program (HAP) and take action as necessary.

Attachments: [Presentation](#)

Charlotte Brown, Community Services Director, gave a presentation over the Homeless Assistance Program (HAP). This presentation is available in the City Clerk's Office.

Mayor Booker clarified that the bus ticket program is only for homeless individuals that need assistance getting back to their families.

Ratliff stated the program is directly tailored to assist the homeless. He is only seeking Council's direction to implement the program.

Hampton stated it is compassionate to help the homeless get closer to their families and support systems.

Motion by HAMPTON, Second by GILL, to direct the City Manager to proceed with the implementation of the Homeless Assistance Program.

Harris asked if a bus ticket is purchased for someone, will there be a requirement that they cannot come back?

Brown stated she cannot enforce that.

Mayor Booker stated he doesn't think that would be legal, but he did see in another city with a similar program that they had to sign an agreement that said they would not receive any services or assistance if they came back.

Harris stated he is good with starting the plan as presented.

VOTE ON MOTION: HANKINS, HARRIS, CHAPMAN, GILL, HAMPTON, WEGER, WILLIAMS, WARREN. NAY: NONE. *Motion Passed.*

28. Receive a report from staff on Short Term Rentals.

This item was stricken from the agenda.

29. Receive a report on Lawton's water supply at Lake Lawtonka, Ellsworth Lake, and Waurika Lake due to the drought situation and take action as deemed necessary. The council would like to be briefed on the water supply and to show the citizens how to access the information.

Attachments: [Lakes Update Presentation](#)

Rusty Whisenhunt presented a report on Lawton's water supply at Lake Lawtonka, Lake Ellsworth, and Waurika Lake due to the drought situation. He explained that each lake is fed by a different watershed, with ridge lines separating the drainage basins that feed each reservoir. He showed a map displaying the lakes in relation to the city of Lawton.

Mr. Whisenhunt reported that as of Monday morning, the combined total of all lakes was at 84% capacity, up from 79% the previous week due to recent rainfall. He noted that by the day of the meeting, the level had risen to 88.6% and was continuing to rise, with more rain projected for the coming week.

He explained the city's water restriction stages based on lake levels:

- Stage 1 (70%): Voluntary restrictions
- Stage 2 (60%): Mandatory restrictions limiting outdoor watering to every other day
- Stage 3 (50%): Restrictions limiting outdoor watering to Wednesday and Saturday only
- Stage 4 (40%): Restrictions limiting outdoor watering to one day per week
- Stage 5 (30%): No outdoor watering allowed

Mr. Whisenhunt noted that the city had been 9% above the Stage 1 threshold before the recent rain, and even without additional precipitation, they would not have reached the Stage 1 level until early January.

He further explained that it would have taken several more months to reach Stage 2 restrictions without additional rainfall.

Mr. Whisenhunt demonstrated how citizens can access lake level information through the city website by navigating to Departments > Lakes > Gate Operations. This page shows information for Lake Ellsworth and Lake Lawtonka, including graphs of lake levels and actual foot elevations. He mentioned that information for Waurika Lake must currently be accessed through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers website, but the IT Department is working to add this link to the city's website.

Mr. Whisenhunt also provided an update on the alternative water supply project. The city currently has one production well producing 1.25 million gallons per day and has identified four more locations to drill production wells. These five wells combined will yield approximately 6.5-7 million gallons per day, exceeding the original goal of 5 million gallons per day.

He explained that the groundwater has higher levels of fluoride, iron, and total suspended solids, requiring treatment. The city is piloting a green sand filtration system as a potentially more economical alternative to a full reverse osmosis (RO) system. While the green sand filtration system would not be cheaper to construct, it would have lower operating costs than RO.

Council Member Warren asked if the city still had approximately four years of water supply when lakes are at full capacity with no rain. Mr. Whisenhunt confirmed this was still accurate as citywide demand has remained constant.

Mayor Booker inquired about daily water usage. Mr. Whisenhunt stated that the yearly average is about 18 million gallons per day, with summer usage averaging around 22 million gallons per day. The Mayor also asked about the cost to build the water treatment plant. Mr. Whisenhunt indicated that while the 2016 estimate was \$17 million, the current estimate is approaching \$40 million.

Council Member Gill mentioned that information from previous water source reports had been shared with the USGS, significantly enhancing their data on the aquifer. He asked Mr. Whisenhunt to continue sharing information with them. Mr. Whisenhunt noted that the Arbuckle-Timbered aquifer where they are drilling has only one production well in the Lawton area (at Great Plains), which was used for initial testing. He added that they have tested all sites for PFAS ("forever chemicals") and have found no evidence of contamination.

No formal motion was made on this informational item.

30. Receive a report on installation of cameras in the parks, and direct staff as necessary. 24 2088

Attachments: [Security Camera Slide Deck](#)

Larry Parks presented a report on the installation of security cameras in parks and recreation areas, as directed by the Council on August 8. He detailed the current progress and future plans for camera installations.

Mr. Parks reported that cameras have been installed at the following locations:

- Greer Park (6 cameras)
- McMahan Ball Field and Skate Park (9 cameras)

- Holiday House (4 cameras)
- Miracle Field (4 cameras)

The total cost was \$36,000, which equates to approximately \$1,500 per camera after installation costs.

Mr. Parks outlined future plans for an additional 36 cameras:

- 8 additional cameras at the Lakes
- 2 cameras at the Centers
- 10 cameras at the Cemetery
- 8 cameras at Ball Fields under Parks
- 11-12 cameras at Aquatics facilities

Council Member Hampton asked who monitors the cameras. Mr. Parks explained that his staff, including superintendents and supervisors, monitor during business hours, while dispatch watches after hours.

Mayor Booker asked if the cameras were being prioritized based on areas with the most vandalism, which Mr. Parks confirmed. The Mayor emphasized the importance of these cameras for crime prevention and perception of safety in parks, especially at night. He noted that this initiative would qualify for crime-fighting technology funding.

Council Member Warren asked if the cameras were Wi-Fi or hardwired, and Mr. Parks confirmed they are hardwired.

No formal motion was made on this informational item.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS:

Motion by GILL, Second by HAMPTON, to adjourn into Executive Session. AYE: HANKINS, HARRIS, CHAPMAN, GILL, HAMPTON, WEGER, WILLIAMS, WARREN. NAY: NONE. *Motion Passed.*

The Council remained in executive session from 8:56 PM to 10:41 PM. No action was taken in executive session.

Motion by GILL, Second by CHAPMAN, to return to open session. AYE: HANKINS, HARRIS, CHAPMAN, GILL, HAMPTON, WEGER, WILLIAMS, WARREN. NAY: NONE. *Motion Passed.*

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| <p>31. Pursuant to Section 307B.4, Title 25, Oklahoma Statutes, consider convening in executive session to discuss the investigation and possible pending action with Great Plains Improvement Foundation concerning a HOME Program Finding Report received from U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to the City of Lawton on July 26, 2024, and if necessary, take appropriate action in open session.</p> | <p>24 2125</p> |
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No action was taken in open session.

- 32.** Pursuant to Section 307B.1, Title 25, Oklahoma Statutes, consider convening **24 1980**
in executive session to review the employment of John Andrew as City
Attorney and in open session take other action as necessary.

No action was taken in open session.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Council Member GILL moved to adjourn. Seconded by Council Member WILLIAMS.

Vote: Approved 8-0.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:42 PM.

The City of Lawton encourages participation from all of its citizens. If participation at any public meeting is not possible due to a disability, notification to the City Clerk at (580) 581 3305 at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting is encouraged to make the necessary accommodations. The City may waive the 48 hour rule if interpreters for the deaf (signing) is not the necessary accommodation."