



# City of Lawton

## City Council

### MINUTES

Lawton City Hall  
212 SW 9th Street  
Lawton, Oklahoma  
73501-3944

**Tuesday, February 25, 2025**

**6:00 PM**

**Lawton City Hall  
Council Chambers/Auditorium**

#### **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER WITH INVOCATION, FOLLOWED BY THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Pro Tem Randy Warren called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Councilman Bob Weger delivered the invocation, and all remained standing for the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT:** Hankins, Smith, Chapman, Gill, Hampton, Weger, Williams, Warren

**ABSENT:** None

**ALSO PRESENT:** Stanley Booker, Mayor\*; COL Derek Baird, Fort Sill Liaison; John Ratliff, City Manager; Timothy Wilson, City Attorney; Donalynn Blazek-Scherler, City Clerk.

\*Arrived at 7:15PM

#### **PRESENTATIONS**

##### **Employee Spotlight Award**

The Employee Spotlight Award was presented to Derek Stanfield, cement finisher in the Streets Division. Mr. Stanfield has been employed by the City of Lawton for nine years and was recognized for his integral role in ensuring the Streets Division accomplishes its mission. He was specifically commended for identifying an improper cement mixture in early January 2025, which saved the city significant costs.

#### **Proclamations**

Mayor Pro Tem Warren issued a proclamation declaring March 2025 as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. Rita Posard, Program Coordinator with Lawton Public Schools' transitional program for 18-22 year olds, accepted the proclamation and thanked the City for their support of students with disabilities.

## **REPORTS FROM MAYOR/CITY COUNCIL**

### **COL Derek Baird**

- Announced the Army Emergency Relief Campaign starting March 1st with a kickoff at Twin Oaks Bowling Center on March 5th at 3:00 PM
- Noted Fort Sill has been a top installation for AER campaign donations for two consecutive years
- Reported the indoor archery range at Fort Sill will open on March 6th at 1:00 PM
- Announced the Warrior Run on March 22nd starting at 6:00 AM at the Patriot Club

### **Council Member Smith**

- Highlighted items available at the Farmers Market, including no-bake cookies and German cookies
- Mentioned the upcoming Open Street initiative on March 29th from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, promoting healthy activities for children

### **Council Member Chapman**

- Provided an update on the street program, stating bids will be sought in two weeks for the first 24 streets of the next segment
- Reported that despite bad weather, the program remains on schedule

## **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

### **Matina Davis**

- Expressed concerns about a lack of community representation on boards and committees
- Noted that current appointees have expressed difficulty attending meetings due to other obligations
- Requested the Council consider a broader range of citizens for appointments to ensure quorums at meetings
- Mentioned she was still seeking open records from November and that websites were not being updated

### **Christina Boswell**

- Requested speed bumps on her street (SW A Avenue)
- Noted her son is autistic and her neighbor has an autistic daughter
- Described dangerous speeding on her street and reported her mailbox had been damaged and neighbor's cars had been hit multiple times

Mayor Pro Tem Warren advised Ms. Boswell to meet with Council Member Gill or the City Manager after the meeting to be directed to the appropriate staff.

## CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Pro Tem Warren announced that item #11 would be stricken and item #2 would be pulled for separate consideration.

**MOTION** by WILLIAMS , SECOND by HAMPTON, to approve the Consent Agenda with the exception of items #2 and #11. Motion carried (8-0).

1. Consider approving one (1) damage claim (recommended for approval) and authorizing payment for Reginald and Tatjana Harris in the amount of \$1,745.90
2. Consider and take appropriate action with respect to City Council Resolution No. 2025-\_\_\_\_, approving the resolution of the Lawton Water Authority authorizing the application of two (2) grant applications and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the applications for the Environmental Protection Agency Federal Communities Grants in the amounts of \$4,000,000 and \$1,125,000 for the construction of Southeast Water Treatment Plant Sludge Handling Facility.

Wilson explained this was a companion item to what was approved by the Water Authority and there was a requirement to read the title. He read the title of the resolution: "Resolution of the City of Lawton, Oklahoma, the city approving and ratifying the action taken by the Lawton Water Authority, the Authority authorizing the filing of applications for fiscal year 23 and fiscal year 24 Federal Communities grants from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for additional funding for the construction of the southeast Water Treatment Plant dewatering project and other provisions related thereto."

**MOTION** by CHAPMAN, SECOND by WILLIAMS, to approve Resolution No. 2025-\_\_\_\_ as presented. Motion carried (8-0).

3. Consider approving a limited event support agreement between the City of Lawton and Fort Sill Moral Welfare and Recreation(MWR) for support of the Warrior Run 2025.
4. Consider and take action approving Change Order 1 increasing the contract by \$389,603.96 for the Cache Rd Waterline 36-inch Project PU2302, for a total adjusted contract price of \$15,977,729.35 and adding an additional 90-days to the contract time.
5. Consider approval of Final Change Order and Final Payment Application to T&G Construction on Project PW2304 Citywide Pavement Rehabilitation Project "B" and thereby accepting the project and placing maintenance bond into effect.
6. Consider approval of an amendment to an easement agreement between Comanche Renewables, LLC and the City of Lawton for the use of the Landfill Gas End Use Program.
7. Consider approval of an amendment to an agreement between Comanche Renewables, LLC and the City of Lawton for the use of the Landfill Gas End Use Program, authorizing an addition outlining responsibilities of both parties.
8. Consider approving the amendment to the professional service agreement with Forvis-Mazars acknowledging that the firm will not be investigating the following: 1. Mergers or acquisitions, 2. Change in accounting principles, 3. Substantial doubt about the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, 4. Violation of covenants in debt arrangements, 5. Indications of fraudulent financial reporting or misappropriation of assets, 6. Quantitative impairment analysis of long-lived assets.

9. Consider authorizing the action of the City Manager to sign a Memorandum of Agreement with the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality to accept an award of \$273,914.50 as part of the On-Road2 Program as funded by the Volkswagen Diesel Emissions Environmental Mitigation Trust.
10. Consider approving a new merchant agreement with Forte to provide payment processing and related products and services to the Solid Waste Disposal Division.
11. Consider approving a professional services contract to allow Freese and Nichols to perform construction management services on the Rogers Lane lighting project (EN2307A).  
  
This item was stricken from the agenda.
12. Consider extending contract (CL23-012) Litter & Debris Abatement with T&M Solutions, LLC of Duncan, OK.
13. Consider extending contract CL24-012 Electrical Services at City of Lawton Facilities to Patco Electrical Services of Oklahoma.
14. Consider authorizing staff to apply for the US Department of Transportation Safe Streets for All (SS4A) planning grant for the purpose of creating an action plan, developed to provide a holistic, well-defined strategy to prevent roadway fatalities and serious injuries within the City Limits of Lawton, as approved by the Streets and Bridges Committee on February 11th, 2025.
15. Consider authorizing staff to apply for a grant from the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for the purpose of hosting a household hazardous waste (HHW) collection event.
16. Consider approving staff to close and demolish the M42-5 bridge in the alley between SW I Avenue and SW J Avenue, and between SW 8th street and SW 9th street.
17. Consider directing the City Manager to proceed with the construction of the Elmer Thomas Aquatics Center Parking Lot by authorizing staff to go out for bid on said project (PW2502)
18. Consider approving a nomination for City Manager John Ratliff to serve on the Oklahoma Office of Homeland Security's Regional Advisory Council in the seat of City Manager/Mayor for Region 3 and authorize the City Manager to sign a Letter of Acceptance.
19. Consider approval of the final list of the "105 in '25" pavement rehabilitation segment list, to include previously approved segments, as the benchmark to meet.
20. Consider approving the Claims List for February 1, 2025, through February 13, 2025.
21. Consider approving a lease agreement, retroactive to February 1, 2025, with Hilliary Development, Incorporated for the purpose of securing a temporary office space for the Parks and Recreation Lake Division Headquarters.
22. Direct staff to initiate a Request for Proposals (RFP) for executive search services to identify and recruit candidates for the position of City Attorney.

## **BUSINESS ITEMS**

23. Consider approving an Ordinance pertaining to Businesses, by repealing and reserving Section 7-3-1-301 through Section 7-3-1-317, Division 7-3-1, Article 7-3, Chapter 7, Lawton City Code, 2015; providing for severability and establishing an effective date.

Charlotte Brown, Community Enrichment Deputy Director, explained the ordinance would repeal provisions pertaining to licensing of airports, helipads, and stops. The city has never enforced these provisions and no licenses have been issued, making the code sections unnecessary.

**MOTION** by GILL, **SECOND** by HANKINS, to approve the ordinance, waive the reading of the ordinance, and read the title only.

Interim City Attorney Wilson read the title of the ordinance.

#### ORDINANCE 25-09

AN ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO BUSINESSES BY REPEALING AND RESERVING SECTIONS 7-3-1-301, 7-3-1-302, 7-3-1-303, 7-3-1-304, 7-3-1-305, 7-3-1-306, 7-3-1-307, 7-3-1-308, 7-3-1-309, 7-3-1-310, 7-3-1-311, 7-3-1-312, 7-3-1-313, 7-3-1-314, 7-3-1-315, 7-3-1-316, 7-3-1-317, DIVISION 7-3-1, ARTICLE 7-3, CHAPTER 7, LAWTON CITY CODE, 2015; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Motion carried (8-0).

24. Consider approving an Ordinance pertaining to Businesses by repealing and reserving Article 7-11, Chapter 7, Lawton City Code, 2015; providing for severability and establishing an effective date.

Charlotte Brown, Community Enrichment Deputy Director, explained that when the rest of the ordinance and code was repealed in 2013, they forgot to repeal the title of the article. Since fireworks are not allowed inside City Limits, it doesn't make sense to have that title there.

**MOTION** by GILL, **SECOND** by Council WILLIAMS, to approve the ordinance, waive the reading of the ordinance, and read the title only.

Interim City Attorney Wilson read the title of the ordinance.

#### ORDINANCE 25-10

AN ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO BUSINESSES BY REPEALING AND RESERVING, ARTICLE 7-11, CHAPTER 7, LAWTON CITY CODE, 2015; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Motion carried (8-0).

25. Consider approving an ordinance pertaining to Administration, amending Section 2-1-1-102, Division 2-1-1, Article 2-1, Chapter 2, Lawton City Code, 2015, relating to meetings of the council, by updating the time of council meetings to 6:00 pm to reflect the current meeting time, providing for severability and establishing an effective date.

Wilson explained that after a six-month trial period of 6:00 PM meetings, the Council had voted to make this time permanent. The ordinance needed to be updated to reflect this change.

**MOTION** by WEGER, **SECOND** by HAMPTON, to approve the ordinance, waive the reading of the ordinance, and read the title only.

Interim City Attorney Wilson read the title of the ordinance.

#### ORDINANCE 25-11

AN ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO ADMINISTRATION, AMENDING SECTION 2-1-1-102, DIVISION 2-1-1, ARTICLE 2-1, CHAPTER 2, LAWTON CITY CODE, 2015, RELATING TO MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL, BY UPDATING THE TIME OF COUNCIL MEETINGS TO 6:00 PM TO REFLECT THE CURRENT MEETING TIME, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Motion carried (8-0).

26. Consider approving an ordinance pertaining to Administration by amending Section 2-3-16-400, Division 2-3-16 in Article 2-3, Chapter 2, Lawton City Code, 2015, by providing that the mayor or mayor pro tem shall serve as the chairperson of the Council Budget and Efficiency Committee; providing for severability and establishing an effective date.

Mayor Pro Tem Warren stated this is Mayor Booker's item.

**MOTION** by GILL, **SECOND** by WILLIAMS, to approve the ordinance, waive the reading of the ordinance, and read the title only.

Interim City Attorney Wilson read the title of the ordinance.

#### ORDINANCE 25-12

AN ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO ADMINISTRATION BY AMENDING SECTION 2-3-16-400, DIVISION 2-3-16 IN ARTICLE 2-3, CHAPTER 2, LAWTON CITY CODE, 2015, BY PROVIDING THAT THE MAYOR OR MAYOR PRO TEM SHALL SERVE AS THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE COUNCIL BUDGET AND EFFICIENCY COMMITTEE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Motion carried (8-0).

#### STAFF REPORTS

27. Provide City Council with an update on the Monthly Sales Tax Revenue for the month of January and February reporting.

Rebecca Johnson, Finance Director, provided an update on monthly sales tax revenue. January showed a 4.5% decrease and February had a 5.28% decrease. There is no new information for the reason of the decline, but for comparison, Norman's sales tax was down 5.95%.

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

Rebecca Johnson, Finance Director reported that the audit was progressing with only one entity still needing to report. McMahon had provided their report, and the city is now waiting on the actuary for pension numbers. The audit is on track to be completed by the end of March for presentation at the first meeting in April.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

**MOTION** by GILL, **SECOND** by HAMPTON, to enter into Executive Session. Motion carried (8-0).

The Council remained in executive session from 7:14 PM to 8:53 PM. No action was taken in executive session.

\*Mayor Booker arrived at 7:15PM.

**MOTION** by GILL, **SECOND** by HAMPTON, to return from Executive Session. Motion carried (8-0).

Wilson reported that discussions were held on all three executive session items, and no action was necessary.

29. The pending action in the United States District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma titled Kent Jackson, as Personal Representative of the Estate of Israel Williams v. City of Lawton, et al, Case No. 5:23-cv-00284-G (pursuant to Section 307B.4, Title 25, Oklahoma Statutes)

No Action Taken.

30. Review of the employment of John Ratliff as City Manager (pursuant to Section 307B.1, Title 25, Oklahoma Statutes)

No Action Taken.

31. Negotiations for the FYE 2026 Collective Bargaining Agreement between the International Association of Firefighters (IAFF), Local 1882, and the City of Lawton (pursuant to Section 307B.2, Title 25, Oklahoma Statutes)

No Action Taken.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** by GILL, **SECOND** by HAMPTON, to adjourn. ROLL CALL: Hankins - Yes, Smith - Yes, Chapman - Yes, Gill - Yes, Hampton - Yes, Weger - Yes, Williams - Yes, Warren - Yes

VOTE: 8-0. Motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:53PM.

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."