



City of Lawton

City Council

Meeting Minutes

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

Tuesday, February 27, 2024

2:00 PM

**Lawton City Hall
Council Chambers/Auditorium**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER WITH INVOCATION LED BY PASTOR KATHY CRUIKSHANK FOLLOWED BY THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Present: Council Member Mary Ann Hankins
Council Member Kelly Harris
Council Member Linda Chapman
Council Member George Gill
Council Member Allan Hampton
Council Member Bob Weger
Council Member Sherene Williams
Council Member Randy Warren

Also Present:

Mayor Stan Booker
John Ratliff- City Manager
Tim Wilson- Acting City Attorney
Donalynn Blazek-Scherler- City Clerk
Dr. Julia Sibilla- Deputy to the Garrison Commander of Fort Sill

PROCLAMATION:

Mayor Stan Booker presented the February Citizen of the Month Proclamation to The Military Welcome Center.

REPORTS: MAYOR/CITY COUNCIL

Harris stated there will be a Ward 2 meeting on March 6, 2024 at the HC King Center. He also stated that planning for Freedom Fest is in the works, and advised that soap box derby participants get their car kits early.

Chapman stated that there will be an organizational meeting for a new neighborhood watch group in her ward. The meeting will be on March 4, 2024 at 6PM at the Might Center.

Gill stated that today is the final day of street work for the Mayor's 10 Wins for the Citizens project. Proposals for the next 30 street projects will be considered next month.

Hampton spoke about the benefits of the Farmer's Market. He also stated that there have been

lot of water leaks in Ward 5 and reminded his constituents to call him if they see any so we can get them fixed.

Williams stated there will be a Ward 7 meeting on April 18, 2024 at the Leslie Powell Gallery from 5:30PM to 6:30PM. She also read the following quote from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr in honor of Black History Month, "Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that".

Warren praised the FISTA because the first partner signed a new contract to expand from 700 ft to 8,000 sq ft.

Dr. Sibilla thanked the community for supporting the Buffalo Soldier Run. She stated there is a run, either 5 or 10K, each month that is open to the community. They will also host the first ever Lawton/Fort Sill half marathon in June, which will hopefully expand to a full marathon next year.

Mayor Booker gave kudos to the Lawton Constitution for the editorial they ran to fight misinformation.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: Anyone having an item of business to present to the City Council that does not appear on the agenda please come forward at this time. The Mayor and Council will receive comments from audience members. Council may recommend to the individual or group as to what action they should take, i.e., refer the situation to a particular department or person at the city offices. Each speaker will have a 3-minute time limit, each topic will have a 9-minute time limit, and Audience Participation will be limited to 30-minutes in total.

Lavetta Yeahquo, 5 NW 5th Street, Lawton, OK, stated she is representing Westwin Resistance. She requested that Westwin be shut down to look at environmental impact. She wants an opportunity to read about what is going on.

At this time, several audience members began yelling, "Shut it down" repeatedly. Mayor Booker asked the audience to cease and desist three times and warned that they would be removed from the meeting. Mayor Booker asked that the City Manager direct the police officers come forward. Mayor Booker asked again that the audience members cease and desist. The audience members continued to chant, "shut it down", and Mayor Booker requested that the City Manager have the citizens removed from the building.

JR Warren, 2418 NW 82nd Street, Lawton, OK, stated thanked Ratliff and his team for getting holes in the road repaired. He also stated the Republican Party will have their annual meeting on March 2, 2024 at 9AM at the Prairie Building.

Connie Wood, 6432 NW Arrowhead Drive, Lawton, OK, stated she is also part of the Westwin Resistance and asked what other industrial facilities would want to build next to an experimental cobalt plant.

Melinda McCool, 1425 SW Jefferson Avenue, Lawton, OK. She stated she is blind and deaf and has voiced her opinion at a previous meeting about the discrimination and harassment that she is experiencing. She submitted a request to speak with the Mayor and her Councilmember, but she

has not received a response.

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.

Approval of the Consent Agenda

MOVED by Warren, SECOND by Harris, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Gill, Hampton, Weger, Williams, and Warren

Nay:

1. Consider approving a pending tort claim (recommended for approval) and a resolution authorizing payment for Jacqueline Smith in the amount of \$7,748.85 and authorizing the City Attorney to prepare and file said resolution and all appropriate settlement documents for the Court's approval.
2. Consider adopting a resolution approving the joint petition settlement in the amount of \$10,368.00 and making payment in the workers' compensation claim of Craig Caldwell.
3. Consider adopting a resolution ratifying the action of the Deputy City Attorney and the City Manager in making payment on the judgment in the amount of \$25,118.20, in the Workers' Compensation case of Michael A. McDaniel in the Oklahoma Workers' Compensation Commission, Case No. CM-2023-01900Y.
4. Consider approving a resolution delegating to the City Manager the power to authorize external use of trademarked City of Lawton logos.
5. Consider and take action awarding a contract in the amount of \$1,966,000.00 to Howard Construction, INC for construction of the Medicine Park Water Treatment Plant Filter Improvements Project PU2314.
6. Consider authorizing staff to approve a contract with Clayco Industries, Inc - DBA Ford Roof & Sheet Metal Co., to replace the roof of the John Denney Playhouse located at 1316 NW B Ave, Lawton, OK 73507 under the State Contract DCAM/CAP#000743/000746.
7. Consider and take action in approving Amendment Number 6 to the Master Services Agreement with Jacobs Engineering Group, INC, in the amount not to exceed \$336,655.00 for professional engineering services for the replacement of Belmont lift station and force main.
8. Consider and take action in approving Amendment Number 7 to the Master Services Agreement with Jacobs Engineering Group, INC, in the amount not to exceed \$420,163.00 for professional engineering services for the replacement of approximately 15,990 linear feet of sewer main.
9. Consider declaring the land described as Lots 46, 47, and 48, Block 2, in the Subdivision of

Blocks 6, 7, & 8 of Woodhouse Subdivision, as surplus property, authorizing the lots to be sold by public auction, setting a minimum bid of \$800 for the purchase price of each lot, and setting public auction date of March 25, 2024.

10. Consider approving the record plat for Bulldog Subdivision and take appropriate action as deemed necessary.
11. Consider approving the record plat for Cache Road Shopping Center and take appropriate action as deemed necessary.
12. Consider approving the Record Replat for Lot 2, Block 1 Fire View Addition and take appropriate action as deemed necessary.
13. Consider accepting permanent easements from Lawton Economic Development Authority at Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company for right-of-way and utility relocation along the east side SW 112th Street to serve Westwin Elements Inc, located at 10925 SW Bishop Road, and authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the documents.
14. Consider accepting a donation of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) by Korean Presbyterian Church for the Lawton Police Department as an appreciation to the department and officers for what they do for the community.
15. Consider accepting a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) in the amount of \$622,199.55 for acquisition and demolition of flood-prone properties located at 209 SW I Ave., 211 SW I Ave., 213 SW I Ave., 306 SW I Ave., 407 SW I Ave., 408 SW I Ave., 410 SW I Ave., 615 SW I Ave., 808 SW 3rd St., 810 SW 3rd St., 812 SW 3rd St., 808 SW 9th St., and 809 SW 6th St.
16. Consider approving a request from the IUPA Local 24 to authorize 20 hours of Flex Leave for the two Assistant Police Chief positions with said leave to be utilized by the last pay period in 2024.
17. Consider authorizing the use of Propel Beautification funds for the purchase of a litter vacuum trailer in an amount not to exceed \$35,000.00.
18. Consider approving a resolution amending the City of Lawton FY23-24 budget, as amended, appropriating Seven Hundred Twenty-Three Thousand Forty-One and 98/100 Dollars (\$723,041.98) to the Hotel/Motel, General, Cellular Phone System and Capital Improvements/Propel 2019 Funds.
19. Consider approving the minutes of the Lawton City Council special meetings of October 5, 2023 and October 11, 2023.
20. Consider approving appointments to boards and commissions.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

31. Provide City Council with a presentation on the pilot study and report from Traffic Engineer Consultants, Inc. (TEC) on EN2403 Pilot Project - Signal Improvements on Gore Blvd from Lawrie Tatum Rd.

BJ Hawkins, Traffic Engineering Consultants, presented a pilot study on Gore Blvd from 2nd Street to Lawrie Tatum Road. This presentation is available in the City Clerk's Office.

Gill stated the interchange at Lawrie Tatum was supposed to be closed when Highway 7 was open. He would like to speak with the owners of the casino to ask w assistance for funding to keep it open.

Hawkins stated this intersection met traffic signal warrants, and he looked at possibl removing it.

Mayor Booker stated he is a little confused on why two different studies are taking place on the same area. EST is also doing a study for the LMPO.

Hawkins stated EST's study is more of a planning document as opposed to a design and operation. He has worked with EST, the planning department, engineering, pub works, and everyone else.

Harris asked how much more efficient our traffic flow would be by updating the signals.

Hawkins stated it is hard to put a number on it, but he could test the current system and the new system and then come up with a percentage of how much more improv it truly is.

Harris asked if this would also reduce the cut through's of neighborhood roads.

Hawkins stated absolutely. This helps overall flow.

Hampton stated that this has not gone through the bidding process and asked if the numbers could change.

Hawkins stated you never know how the bid will go, but he was overly conservative with his number and even included a 10% contingency.

Hampton stated he is concerned that we will test this and end up having to put more money in it again.

Joe Painter, Director of Engineering, stated the pilot test will be used to prove to the citizens that this state of the art equipment works before spreading it through the res of the city. The current systems don't talk to each other, so if something goes wrong messes up the whole thing. This solution really modernizes everything.

Warren stated we previously had the option to make a right turn only at the casino a Montego Bay, which would discourage using that as an exit and push them more towards Highway 7. He likes the idea of having uniformed equipment across the city

to cut down on expenses and delays if something is damaged. Warren also asked if there is still any talk with cell carriers about positioning their equipment on poles.

Ratliff stated it's been a while; maybe a year and half to two years.

Warren stated we might look at that to capture some of our cost back.

Gill stated this is a state of the art program we are looking at. Is it possible to take some of the bells and whistles right now that can be added back on at a later date.

Hawkins stated some of the features could be piecemealed. I did create a document that prioritizes the equipment, but if you want it to operate in the most efficient manner possible, what I presented is what you want. If you want to pull back a little bit, you can. Some of the most expensive equipment is going to be the vehicle detection systems.

Painter stated talking to the field services representatives, one of their major complaints is that there are so many different technology systems out there. Once the City settles on something, we can spec it only so they don't have to keep learning new systems. That's what we would like to head towards.

Mayor Booker stated I don't think we can do the \$34 million. He asked what all that quote includes.

Hawkins stated this is to replace all the equipment, including new poles and everything. It's a pie in the sky number, and it is not his recommendation. He recommends keeping some of the poles and equipment in place to keep costs down.

Mayor Booker stated the lights used to be set at 36 MPH, and it is frustrating that all this technology exists now, but you have to stop at every 3rd light. We simply don't have \$34 million for this. He asked why can't we do something like set Cache Road back at 36 MPH and then sometime at night, turn the lights to red and yellow or a four way stop so people don't have to wait for the light to go through a full rotation. He also stated he doesn't understand the purpose of the 4th and 6th Street light on Gore.

Hawkins stated he look at that as well as 11th. The light on 6th meets warrants, but 4th Street does not. He recommends keeping the light on 6th, but removing the light on 4th.

Mayor Booker asked what warrants a warrant.

Hawkins stated the volumes East, West, North, South and the time of day. Traffic has to meet 8 different hours to meet a threshold for the 8 hours; 4 hours is more strenuous, and then peak hour is the heaviest. 6th Street met 8, 4, and peak hour, but 4th Street meets it by sheer volume.

Hampton stated we should focus on the arterial roads for the high tech equipment, and

take some of the other roads back to the old timing method.

Painter stated anytime we are working on the arterial roads, like Lee and Gore, we are replacing the signals with updated equipment. We are just trying to settle on one form of software so we have uniformity. Cosmetics we can do later.

Hampton stated he is talking about the \$34 million number more than anything else. The Council needs a solid number to make a decision. He would like to see these changes prioritized.

Hawkins stated this is not for the citywide CIP. This is just for the five intersection G pilot study. Along with this, I'm also showing this pie in the sky to help modernize the rest of the signals. Before we started on any of that, we would do a thorough study, a firm budget, and then come back with hard numbers to explore that. That would be further down the line. I want buy in from the City and everyone, and these improvements along would help tremendously with that. Once everyone is okay with the equipment used in the pilot study, then we can explore the further options. On top of that, we would prioritize the signals on the citywide.

Hampton stated what he is talking about is for the day that this all has to be voted on. Hopefully his suggestions can be added to what is being done.

Harris stated he has three questions: 1. If any studies have been done on how much would be saved on gas and/or time by modernizing the traffic signals. 2. If the appearance of modern traffic signals has an impact on people who are coming into town looking to relocate. 3. Is it possible to update some signals, like Fort Sill Blvd and Cache Road, without getting the super deluxe model.

Hawkins stated there are emission studies that he can get as well as decreases in overall delay if the pilot study were to go forward. As far as appearances, this would have an impact. Businesses go away from traffic congestion, not towards it. Having efficient traffic signals helps everyone's overall impression.

Harris asked if there would be grant money available from the Feds for the reduction in emissions.

Hawkins stated that is something to explore. As far as prioritizing, the slide showing \$34 million was not meant to be a big talking point or what we are going after at this time. If we do small corridors at a time, that is perfect. We can rank those on priority.

Charlotte Brown, Community Services Director, stated we just got numbers from ODOT on the carbon reduction grant that the City qualifies for, and it's just over \$300,000.00 each year for a three year period.

Mayor Booker stated a few years ago we started using Clean Air federal money to replace a few signal lights. Is that still ongoing, or has it been diverted to something

else?

Brown stated it has been diverted to other items. We did the signals that we felt needed it at that time. I've visited with our transportation planners, and we can't update ones that are still currently working, but we used all of the funding that we had set aside for that.

Mayor Booker stated the clean air money is an ongoing funding stream.

Brown stated it is, but I believe the way our UPWP is set up, we have it budgeted elsewhere. But we can look at that and get back with ODOT.

Mayor Booker stated he would like that on the next LMPO agenda to discuss clean air, how we're using the money, and whether the group wants to wait for some relief the \$34 million.

Gill asked if money for the traffic lights would qualify for clean air money because of the burning fuel and causing carbon emissions.

Brown stated it probably would, but she'll go back and double check that. EST will come back to LMPO in April for their study.

NO ACTION TAKEN

21. Hold a public hearing and adopt a resolution declaring the structures located at 511 NW Bell Avenue, 516 SW H Avenue, 815 NW 35th Street, 918 SW 3rd Street, 1006 SW 28th Street, 1214 SW A Avenue, 1311 SW 9th Street, 1314 NW Taft Avenue, 1402 NW Logan Avenue, 1601 NW Andrews Avenue, 1601 SW Tennessee Avenue, 1709 SW McKinley Avenue, 1810 NW Taylor Avenue, 1901 NW Andrews Avenue, 2207 NW Pollard Avenue, 2312 NW Dunstan Lane, 2701 NW 46th Street, 4716 SE Avalon Avenue, 5632 NW Beechwood Drive, to be dilapidated pursuant to Section 6-5-1 Lawton City Code, ordering the owner to abate the nuisance, authorizing summary abatement, and authorizing the City Attorney to commence legal action in District Court to abate the nuisance.

Mayor Booker stated the City Manager has stricken 2312 NW Dunstan Lane and its number 25 on the agenda.

511 NW Bell Avenue

Josh White, Neighborhood Services Supervisor, reported the numerous violations of city code existing on the property which are documented on the Property Maintenance Evaluation Sheet. White presented photographs of the property. Utilities have been inactive since 2017.

Public Hearing OPENED:

Rick Lowe, 2118 SW Surrey Place, stated he is here to represent the owners. Reading from a letter provided by the owners, Lowe stated the intention is to repair 511 NW Bell and work has already begun.

Mayor Booker stated that if Council puts a house on the D&D list, it doesn't mean we are going to go out there tomorrow to tear it down. It means you have 30 business days to pull permits. Every month you have to show progress, and the City will work with you on this. It is our desire that you get these houses back in liveable condition

Wilson stated Mayor Booker is correct in that you have 30 business days to pull a permit, but to be clear, you do have to make progress. If you do not make progress, the resolution will authorize the demolition. You can't take as much time as you like; there has to be sustained progress.

Mayor Booker stated your permit has to be renewed every 30 days, which requires inspection to make sure you made progress.

Public Hearing CLOSED.

MOTION by Hampton, SECOND by Warren, to approve Resolution 24-32 declaring the structure/s on the property a dilapidated public nuisance and authorize the abatement thereof as set forth in the resolution. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Gill, Hampton, Weger, Williams, and Warren

Nay:

516 SW H AVENUE

Josh White, Neighborhood Services Supervisor, reported the numerous violations of city code existing on the property which are documented on the Property Maintenance Evaluation Sheet. White presented photographs of the property. Utilities have been inactive since 2022. The property has fire dates of 10-17-2023 and 11-15-2023.

Public Hearing was opened and closed with no comment.

MOTION by Hampton, SECOND by Weger, to approve Resolution 24-33 declaring the structure/s on the property a dilapidated public nuisance and authorize the abatement thereof as set forth in the resolution. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Gill, Hampton, Weger, Williams, and Warren

Nay:

815 NW 35TH STREET

Josh White, Neighborhood Services Supervisor, reported the numerous violations of city code existing on the property which are documented on the Property Maintenance

Evaluation Sheet. White presented photographs of the property. Utilities have been inactive since 2024.

Public Hearing OPENED:

Zebadiah Hendricks, Sr., 2328 NW Denver Avenue, stated he is a contractor and has entered into a financial relationship with the owner of the property. He tried to pull permits prior to the hearing and was informed by Neighborhood Services that it was on a hold, and they should show up to this hearing. He is prepared to pull permits on this job to make the structure liveable again in a timely manner.

Mayor Booker asked the timeframe on repairs.

Hendricks, Sr. stated approximately 3 and 1/2 months.

Chapman asked if Hendricks, Sr. has purchased the home.

Hendricks, Sr. stated no; he is representing the owner of the home, who is present.

Chapman requested to speak to the owner.

Chapman asked Neighborhood Services why they were told the permits were on hold. White stated he was unaware that they had come in to pull permits.

Chapman asked the owner when they came in to pull permits.

Hendricks, Sr. stated he was in the building at about 10:30AM on the 22nd and again on the 23rd. He also stated they met with a structural engineer at the property on the 23rd and confirmed that the walls on the structure are solid.

Charlotte Brown, Community Services Director, stated once notice is posted, we cannot issue any permits until the hearing. The owner can go downstairs today and apply for his permits. Once we hit that 10 day notice, we can't issue any permits.

Chapman asked if the owner understands the process if the property is put on the D&D list.

The owner stated the only reason this happened is because someone ran a car into the house. It was livable prior to that event, and he had a tenant living in the house. The driver took off, so he had to file a police report and contact their insurance company. Mayor Booker asked when that happened.

The owner stated that happened on December 28th.

Mayor Booker asked why the structure was left open for two months.

The owner stated he was working with another individual before he found Mr. Hendricks. The structure is now secured with plywood, as seen in the picture.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSE.

Motion by Chapman to continue the public hearing

Mayor Booker stated the public hearing has already been closed, so it cannot be continued. Chapman can make a motion to continue the item to a date certain.

Chapman stated she would like to do that.

Mayor Booker asked if the owner would be able to pull a permit if the item is continued.

Brown stated because the date has been pushed back, we would work with the property owner to get the permit pulled.

Motion by Chapman, Second by Harris to continue the agenda item for 815 NW 35th Street to the 2nd meeting in March. This motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Gill, Hampton, Weger, and Williams

Nay: Warren

918 SW 3rd Street

Josh White, Neighborhood Services Supervisor, reported the numerous violations of city code existing on the secondary structure on the property which are documented on the Property Maintenance Evaluation Sheet. White presented photographs of the property. Utilities are active on this property, and there is a fire date of 07-24-2021. Public Hearing opened and closed with no comment.

Hampton stated he would like to remind all the Ward 5 Constituents that he does go out to look at these properties, and they are welcome to contact him.

MOTION by Hampton, SECOND by Gill, to approve Resolution 24-34 declaring the structure/s on the property a dilapidated public nuisance and authorize the abatement thereof as set forth in the resolution. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Gill, Hampton, Weger, Williams, and Warren

Nay:

1006 SW 28th Street

Josh White, Neighborhood Services Supervisor, reported the numerous violations of city code existing on the property which are documented on the Property Maintenance Evaluation Sheet. White presented photographs of the property. Utilities have been inactive since 2022, and there are fire dates of 10-21-2023 and 01-02-2024.

Public Hearing opened and closed with no comments.

MOTION by Hampton, SECOND by Williams, to approve Resolution 24-35 declaring the structure/s on the property a dilapidated public nuisance and authorize the abatement thereof as set forth in the resolution. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Gill, Hampton, Weger, Williams, and Warren

Nay:

1214 SW A Avenue

Josh White, Neighborhood Services Supervisor, reported the numerous violations of city code existing on the secondary structure on the property which are documented on the Property Maintenance Evaluation Sheet. White presented photographs of the property. Utilities have been inactive since 2023.

Public hearing was opened and closed with no comments.

MOTION by Hampton, SECOND by Gill, to approve Resolution 24-36 declaring the structure/s on the property a dilapidated public nuisance and authorize the abatement thereof as set forth in the resolution. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Gill, Hampton, Weger, Williams, and Warren

Nay:

1311 SW 9th Street

Josh White, Neighborhood Services Supervisor, reported the numerous violations of city code existing on the property which are documented on the Property Maintenance Evaluation Sheet. White presented photographs of the property. Utilities have been inactive since 2020, and there is a fire date of 01-29-2024.

Public hearing opened and closed with no comments.

Harris asked what is sticking out of the window.

White stated it is an exhaust that is running through the house.

MOTION by Williams, SECOND by Warren, to approve Resolution 24-37 declaring the structure/s on the property a dilapidated public nuisance and authorize the abatement thereof as set forth in the resolution. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Gill, Hampton, Weger, Williams, and Warren

Nay:

1314 NW Taft Avenue

Josh White, Neighborhood Services Supervisor, reported the numerous violations of city code existing on the property which are documented on the Property Maintenance Evaluation Sheet. White presented photographs of the property. Utilities have been inactive since 2018, and there are fire dates of 03-09-2019 and 09-26-2023.

Public hearing was opened and closed with no comments.

Harris stated that staff has done a great job at taking care of the properties he has turned in very quickly.

MOTION by Harris, SECOND by Williams, to approve Resolution 24-38 declaring the structure/s on the property a dilapidated public nuisance and authorize the abatement thereof as set forth in the resolution. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Gill, Hampton, Weger, Williams, and Warren

Nay:

1402 NW Logan Avenue

Josh White, Neighborhood Services Supervisor, reported the numerous violations of city code existing on the property which are documented on the Property Maintenance Evaluation Sheet. White presented photographs of the property. Utilities have been inactive since 2023.

Public hearing was opened and closed with no comments.

MOTION by Harris, SECOND by Chapman, to approve Resolution 24-39 declaring the structure/s on the property a dilapidated public nuisance and authorize the abatement thereof as set forth in the resolution. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Gill, Hampton, Weger, Williams, and Warren

Nay:

1601 NW Andrews Avenue

Josh White, Neighborhood Services Supervisor, reported the numerous violations of city code existing on the property which are documented on the Property Maintenance Evaluation Sheet. White presented photographs of the property. Utilities have been inactive since 2023, and there is a fire date of 08-24-2023.

Public hearing was opened and closed with no comments.

MOTION by Harris, SECOND by Chapman, to approve Resolution 24-40 declaring the structure/s on the property a dilapidated public nuisance and authorize the abatement thereof as set forth in the resolution. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Gill, Hampton, Weger, Williams, and Warren

Nay:1601 SW Tennessee Avenue

Josh White, Neighborhood Services Supervisor, reported the numerous violations of city code existing on the property which are documented on the Property Maintenance Evaluation Sheet. White presented photographs of the property. Utilities have been inactive since 2012, and there is a fire date of 05-16-2023.

Public Hearing OPENED:

Paul Francis, 1601 SW Tennessee Avenue, stated he is the owner and he has talked to two contractors to tear the house down. It is too expensive to repair the property. He is just asking for a little more time.

Mayor Booker asked for someone to explain the process when the owner tears it down themselves.

Ratliff stated it's a 30% reduction at the landfill for gate fees.

Jonathan Jernigan, Deputy Director of Community Services, stated the citizen can come in and pull the permit for demolition with the Building Division.

Mayor Booker asked if it is cheaper for the owner to tear it down themselves as opposed to the City doing it and filing a lien.

Jernigan stated potentially, yes.

Mayor Booker stated so typically what we do is put it on the D&D list and start that process, right?

Jernigan stated yes, sir. Even if the property is on the D&D list, the citizen can still pull a demolition permit.

Public hearing CLOSED.

MOTION by Williams, SECOND by Warren, to approve Resolution 24-41 declaring the structure/s on the property a dilapidated public nuisance and authorize the abatement thereof as set forth in the resolution. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Gill, Hampton, Weger, Williams, and Warren

Nay:1709 SW McKinley Avenue

Josh White, Neighborhood Services Supervisor, reported the numerous violations of city code existing on the property which are documented on the Property Maintenance Evaluation Sheet. White presented photographs of the property. Utilities have been inactive since 2014, and there is a fire date of 04-30-2023.

Ratliff asked if notice has been posted for the litter on the property.

White stated yes, I believe we did.

Public hearing OPENED:

Crystal Miles, 7498 E. 1st Street, Tulsa, OK, stated this was a family home, and she was not aware of the fire. She has not been to the property since October 2023. Her mother was told by the City that the gates on the property had to be opened, and when they did that, the homeless community took over the house. She is requesting time to get personal property out of the house. She stated they have been talking with contractors to knock down the house.

Public hearing CLOSED.

MOTION by Williams, SECOND by Warren, to approve Resolution 24-42 declaring the structure/s on the property a dilapidated public nuisance and authorize the abatement thereof as set forth in the resolution. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Gill, Hampton, Weger, Williams, and Warren

Nay:

1810 NW Taylor Avenue

Josh White, Neighborhood Services Supervisor, reported the numerous violations of city code existing on the property which are documented on the Property Maintenance Evaluation Sheet. White presented photographs of the property. Utilities have been inactive since 2020.

Public hearing OPENED:

Dora Preston and Stephanie Preston, 1810 NW Taylor Avenue, stated they want to remodel the front structure on the property and demolish the duplexes in the back. They are in the process of getting everything taken care of.

Public hearing CLOSED.

MOTION by Harris, SECOND by Williams, to approve Resolution 24-43 declaring the structure/s on the property a dilapidated public nuisance and authorize the abatement thereof as set forth in the resolution. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Gill, Hampton, Weger, Williams, and Warren

Nay:

1901 NW Andrews Avenue

Josh White, Neighborhood Services Supervisor, reported the numerous violations of city code existing on the property which are documented on the Property Maintenance

Evaluation Sheet. White presented photographs of the property. Utilities have been inactive since 2016.

Public hearing opened and closed with no comments.

MOTION by Harris, SECOND by Williams, to approve Resolution 24-44 declaring the structure/s on the property a dilapidated public nuisance and authorize the abatement thereof as set forth in the resolution. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Gill, Hampton, Weger, Williams, and Warren

Nay:

2207 NW Pollard Avenue

Josh White, Neighborhood Services Supervisor, reported the numerous violations of city code existing on the property which are documented on the Property Maintenance Evaluation Sheet. White presented photographs of the property. Utilities have been inactive since 2021. White stated that this property has been brought before Council before and no improvements have been made.

Public Hearing opened and closed with no comments.

Hankins stated this was brought to us a while back, and the citizen called her. She agreed to give the citizen more time, and nothing has happened. She stated this is an example of what happens when we are generous.

MOTION by Hankins, SECOND by Harris, to approve Resolution 24-45 declaring the structure/s on the property a dilapidated public nuisance and authorize the abatement thereof as set forth in the resolution. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Gill, Hampton, Weger, Williams, and Warren

Nay:

2701 NW 46th Street

Josh White, Neighborhood Services Supervisor, reported the numerous violations of city code existing on the property which are documented on the Property Maintenance Evaluation Sheet. White presented photographs of the property. Utilities have been inactive since 2022.

Public hearing opened and closed with no comments.

MOTION by Hankins, SECOND by Harris, to approve Resolution 24-46 declaring the structure/s on the property a dilapidated public nuisance and authorize the abatement thereof as set forth in the resolution. The motion carried

by the following vote:

Aye: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Gill, Hampton, Weger, Williams, and Warren

Nay:

4716 SE Avalon Avenue

Josh White, Neighborhood Services Supervisor, reported the numerous violations of city code existing on the property which are documented on the Property Maintenance Evaluation Sheet. White presented photographs of the property. Utilities have been inactive since 2014.

Public hearing opened and closed with no comments.

MOTION by Gill, SECOND by Chapman, to approve Resolution 24-47 declaring the structure/s on the property a dilapidated public nuisance and authorize the abatement thereof as set forth in the resolution. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Gill, Hampton, Weger, Williams, and Warren

Nay:

5632 NW Beechwood Drive

Josh White, Neighborhood Services Supervisor, reported the numerous violations of city code existing on the property which are documented on the Property Maintenance Evaluation Sheet. White presented photographs of the property. Utilities have been inactive since 2016.

Public hearing OPENED.

Sharon Sutherland, 2309 NW 38th Street, stated she is the owner but hasn't lived there for a while. The house just got away from her. She had planned to fix the house back up, but now she doesn't think she will be able to. She has personal property in the house that she can't get out because she does not have anyone to help her.

Leann Enderly, 316 NW 32nd Street, asked what is the general cost to tear a house down and if the cost is placed on the taxes as a lien.

Wilson stated if the property is declared dilapidated, the City will place a notice of lien on the property as a public notice. The owner then has 30 days to pull a permit. If the permits are not pulled, Neighborhood Services will re-evaluate the property. The City will then work with a contractor to tear the house down. At that point, a tax lien is placed on the property that has to be satisfied if the property is sold.

Public hearing CLOSED.

MOTION by Warren, SECOND by Hampton, to approve Resolution 24-48 declaring the structure/s on the property a dilapidated public nuisance and authorize the abatement thereof as set forth in the resolution. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Gill, Hampton, Weger, Williams, and Warren

Nay:

22. Hold a public hearing and consider approving an Ordinance to annex approximately 160 acres of land into the corporate limits of the City of Lawton, located at the Southeast Quarter (SE/4) of Section Thirty (30), Township One (1) North, Range Eleven (11) West, I.M. classifying the land as Temporary I-4 Heavy Industrial District zoning classification, providing for severability and declaring an emergency.

Charlotte Brown, Community Services Director, stated this is property just on the East side of the existing landfill. The City of Lawton owns the property already. The request is to annex this property into city limits for a landfill gas line project with Comanche Renewables. Notice was mailed out to all property owners abutting the right-of-way and the sales tax commission. Only one call was received to ask if property was being taken from the landowner. When they were advised it was not, they had no further concerns.

Brown stated on January 23, 2024, Council approved a resolution authorizing staff to start this process. Today, we are here to hold a public hearing and request that Council approves annexing this piece of property into city limits.

Public hearing OPENED.

Tamra Pasat, 13 SW Riverbend, stated she is aware of a lot of concern regarding heavy industry and suggested that ordinances set rules on heavy industry and their proximity to residential homes. She stated that Oklahoma City ordinances say, "as far away from residential properties as possible". She suggested the City of Lawton include a similar statement.

Public hearing CLOSED.

Wilson explained there will be a motion for the annexation and a separate motion to approve the emergency clause so the ordinance can go into effect immediately. The emergency clause takes 6 votes to pass.

MOTION by Warren, SECOND by Hampton, to approve Ordinance 24-010, waive the reading of the ordinance, and read the title only.

Gill asked Brown to clarify what the piece of property will be used for.

Brown stated it will only be used for the landfill gas line.

(Title read by City Attorney) Ordinance 24-010

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ANNEXATION OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION THIRTY (30), TOWNSHIP ONE (1) NORTH, RANGE ELEVE (11) WEST OF THE INDIAN MERIDIAN, COMANCHE COUNTY, OKLAHOMA, INTO THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF LAWTON, OKLAHOMA; PROVIDING THAT THE ANNEXED TERRITORY BE ZONED AS “TEMPORARY” I-4 (HEAVY INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT) FOR A PERIOD NOT EXCEEDING ONE (1) YEAR; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Gill, Hampton, Weger, Williams, and Warren

Nay:

MOTION by Warren, SECOND by Weger, to approve declaring an emergency for Ordinance 24-010. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Gill, Hampton, Weger, Williams, and Warren

Nay:

- 23.** Consider approving an Ordinance amending Section 6-1-1-118, Division 6-1-1, Article 6-1, Chapter 6, Buildings, Construction and Housing, Lawton City Code, 2015; by adding language regarding the utilities disconnection that will allow the City to cap the water and sewer main charge the property owner for those services, requiring the removal of all driveways on the property except for the final four feet of the approach that connects to the street and removing requirement for sod or grassing to be installed on the lots for stabilization, providing for severability, establishing an effective date and allowing for floor amendments.

Charlotte Brown, Community Services Director, stated this is part of the More in '24 initiative. We have received several complaints from contractors, and we want them know we are listening to them. Currently, we require contracts to hire a plumber to cap the water and sewer main service to a house before it is demolished. What this ordinance will do is give us a mechanism for Public Utilities to possibly hire additional staff so we have a crew to cap water and sewer mains. The next agenda item is a companion item to this that would allow us to charge a fee for this service to recoup the cost. If the City does the demolition, we will include this cost on the lien that is filed. If the property owner does the demolition themselves, we will charge the fee at the time they apply for their building permit. We also did some minor clean up, including that the driveway has to be removed except for the four feet of the approach and to remove the requirement for sod or grassing. That does not include anything over an acre, when an earth change permit is required. They are still required to follow the rules of the earth change permit.

Ratliff stated in addition to making it easier for demo contractors, what we have seen in the past is that they would cap the utilities and damage the water lines and sewer lines. In some cases, it was very significant damage that was difficult to recoup back. This will allow us to control the process a little better, make it more efficient, and protect our water and sewer infrastructure all at the same time.

Hampton asked if the sodding is going to take place so there is still a finished look after the demolition.

Brown stated the requirement is so they don't have to put grass or seed down, unless it is an earth change permit. It will just be one flat ground, and grass will eventually grow.

Hampton asked if that has anything to do with the capping of the water and sewer lines because of the meter.

Brown stated meter services will still pull the meter, and then a secondary crew will go out to cap the lines.

Hampton stated he has done a lot of these in his ward, and there is usually grass left on the front easement, and the rest of the property is level. Will they need to sod the meter was located?

Brown stated no, they will leave the meter box in place with the cover on it.

Gill stated this is something he worked on with Rusty Whisenhunt, and Brown refined it. It is something really good for the City because it will speed the demolition up ten fold. We are not going to require sodding unless it is an acre or more. We are going to grade it down to fine grade and leave it. This is a great plan; the contractors are happy with it, and it will save the City money and a lot of time.

MOTION by Gill, SECOND by Hampton, to approve Ordinance 24-011, waive the reading of the ordinance, and read the title only.

(Title read by City Attorney) Ordinance 24-011

AN ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO BUILDINGS, CONSTRUCTION AND HOUSING BY AMENDING SECTION 6-1-1-118, DIVISION 6-1-1, ARTICLE 6-1, CHAPTER 6, LAWTON CITY CODE, 2015; BY ADDING LANGUAGE REGARDING THE UTILITIES DISCONNECTION THAT WILL ALLOW FOR THE CITY TO CAP THE WATER AND SEWER MAINS AND CHARGE THE PROPERTY OWNER AND ALSO REQUIRE THE REMOVAL OF ALL DRIVEWAYS ON THE PROPERTY EXCEPT THE FINAL FOUR FEET OF THE APPROACH CONNECTING TO THE STREET AND REMOVING THE REQUIREMENT FOR SOD OR GRASSING TO BE INSTALLED ON THE LOTS FOR STABILIZATION, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Gill, Hampton, Weger, Williams, and Warren

Nay:

- 24.** Consider approving a Resolution amending Appendix A, Schedule of Fees and Charges, Lawton City Code, 2015, pertaining to Chapter 6, Building Construction and Housing, amending Article A-6-1 Building Code.

Brown stated this resolution goes in conjunction with the ordinance that was just approved. The fee we are inputting is \$400 for the disconnect for the water main and an additional \$400 for the disconnect of the sewer main. We got that number from a licensed contractor that we currently use to do other work as a reference.

MOTION by Gill, SECOND by Hampton, to approve Resolution 24-49. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Gill, Hampton, Weger, Williams, and Warren

Nay:

25.

Stricken

- 26.** Consider approving an Ordinance pertaining to Nuisances and Health by amending Section 15-2-206, Article 15-2, Chapter 15, Lawton City Code, 2015, by specifying the different types of appeals that can occur and adding language that states the hearing officer will send notice in writing within 10 days of the appeal hearing, providing for severability, establishing an effective date and allowing for floor amendments.

Brown stated this is a section of code that needed some clarification. This is in regard to appeals for liens on work orders that have been done for junk and debris, and tall grass and weeds on properties. We have a new form for the citizens to fill out to request an appeal. The citizen will have an option to state their appeal via phone, email, written, or in person. This ordinance will require that the staff member that hears the appeal will send out a determination of the hearing in writing.

MOTION by Hampton, SECOND by Warren, to approve Ordinance 24-012, waive the reading of the ordinance, and read the title only.

(Title read by City Attorney) Ordinance 24-012

AN ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO NUISANCES AND HEALTH AMENDING SECTION 15-2-206, ARTICLE 15-2, CHAPTER 15, LAWTON CITY CODE, 2015; BY ADDING LANGUAGE ON THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF APPEALS THAT CAN OCCUR AND ADDING LANGUAGE THAT STATES THE HEARING OFFICER SHALL SEND NOTICE

IN WRITING WITHIN TEN (10) DAYS OF THE HEARING, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Gill, Hampton, Weger, Williams, and Warren

Nay:

27. Consider an ordinance pertaining to Administration, amending Section 2-3-9-362, and creating Section 2-3-9-365, Division 2-3-9, of Article 2-3, Chapter 2, Lawton City Code, 2015, relating to Boards, Commissions, and Committees by clarifying absences for Youth and Family Affairs Committee members; adding language to allow for Participating Alternate members for the Youth and Family Affairs Committee; providing for severability; providing for codification, and establishing an effective date.

Greg Gibson, Assistant City Attorney, stated this item and the next two items are all similar. This item specifically deals with the Youth and Family Affairs Committee. We are making a small change to this section of code to remove a portion that says members cannot be reappointed if they are removed for missing three consecutive meetings. The main thing that we are trying to do is add alternate participating members. The alternates will attend the meetings and will be appointed in a rotation act as a voting member when a quorum is not available.

Gill asked if the section regarding removal for non-attendance was removed.

Gibson stated this will just allow them to be re-appointed if they are removed.

MOTION by Weger, SECOND by Gill, to approve Ordinance 24-013, waive the reading of the ordinance, and read the title only.

(The City Attorney read the title) Ordinance 24-013

AN ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO ADMINISTRATION, AMENDING SECTION 2-3-9-362, AND CREATING SECTION 2-3-9-365, DIVISION 2-3-9, OF ARTICLE 2-3, CHAPTER 2, LAWTON CITY CODE, 2015, RELATING TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES BY CLARIFYING ABSENCES FOR YOUTH AND FAMILY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEMBERS; ADDING LANGUAGE TO ALLOW FOR PARTICIPATING ALTERNATE MEMBERS FOR THE YOUTH AND FAMILY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Gill, Hampton, Weger, Williams, and Warren

Nay:

28.

Gibson stated all we are doing here is adding the participating alternate members.

Chapman stated she is concerned about having difficulty choosing people that will show up for meetings. She listed several possible issues including choosing individuals that aren't interested, having too many committees, and having meetings that are too often, too far apart, or too long to hold someone's interest. Chapman stated we've been talking about this, and it sounds like you've come up with something to solve part of it.

Gibson stated we've discussed various options. We feel like this one will bring some more people into the fold, have them there on hand, and keep the business moving. This may be a result of COVID, but these committees in particular have had a hard time establishing a quorum over the last few years. This solution will let us get some people in there who are interested, and they can take the place of members who are terming out. I think it's important that we let the citizens know we appreciate their contributions and that this is a serious commitment.

Hankins stated we do need something, and she is anxious to see how this work. The alternate will not be there to get the foundational information they need to make their decisions. She also asked if the alternate members will need to live in the City to serve. Hankins also stated advanced notice of meetings is needed.

Ratliff stated he thinks part of the issue is that we are now rigidly adhering to the Open Meeting Act. Previously, there was a loose interpretation of what a quorum was. He believes this is a good thing because we are being transparent and allowing citizens the opportunity to attend meetings, but the issue of having a quorum is a byproduct that as well.

Gibson stated that the ordinance does say that the alternate participating members must meet all the same requirements as a regular member. If the code already requires that someone is a Lawton resident to serve on the committee, the alternate member would also have to live in Lawton.

MOTION by Gill, SECOND by Hampton, to approve Ordinance 24-014, waive the reading of the ordinance, and read the title only.

(The City Attorney read the title) Ordinance 24-014

AN ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO ADMINISTRATION, CREATING SECTION 2-3-10-369, DIVISION 2-3-10, OF ARTICLE 2-3, CHAPTER 2, LAWTON CITY

CODE, 2015, RELATING TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES BY ADDING LANGUAGE TO ALLOW FOR PARTICIPATING ALTERNATE MEMBERS FOR THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Gill, Hampton, Weger, Williams, and Warren

Nay:

29. Consider an ordinance pertaining to Administration, creating Section 2-3-12-377, Division 2-3-12, of Article 2-3, Chapter 2, Lawton City Code, 2015, relating to Boards, Commission and Committees by adding language to allow for Participating Alternate members for the Race Relations Commission; providing for severability; providing for codification, and establishing effective date.

Gibson stated this is the same addition of alternate members as the previous two ordinances. This is a trial run to see if this is a possible solution to quorum issues. If works, we could look at expanding this to other boards and committees.

Hankins stated LETA also has issues with meeting a quorum.

Mayor Booker stated LETA is an authority and makes their own rules. They could change their own rules to include something like this.

MOTION by Gill, SECOND by Hampton, to approve Ordinance 24-015, waive the reading of the ordinance, and read the title only.

(The City Attorney read the title) Ordinance 24-015

AN ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO ADMINISTRATION, CREATING SECTION 2-3-12-377, DIVISION 2-3-12, OF ARTICLE 2-3, CHAPTER 2, LAWTON CITY CODE, 2015, RELATING TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES BY ADDING LANGUAGE TO ALLOW FOR PARTICIPATING ALTERNATE MEMBERS FOR THE RACE RELATIONS COMMISSION, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Gill, Hampton, Weger, Williams, and Warren

Nay:

30. Consider establishing a Council Committee to study issues related to the City's homeless

population and make recommendations to the city council on how to address said issues.

Ratliff stated the impetus behind potentially establishing a Council committee is that we need an umbrella organization to provide some unity of effort and synchronizatic of all the initiatives we have to address the homeless issue. For example, we've talk about a potential shopping cart ordinance, mental health options and the homeless task force, and the trespassing pre-authorization for homeowners who live outside c city limits. There are a lot of different things that are coming up. This issue is very complicated and requires a multi-faceted, multi-disciplined approach to not only address the symptoms, but to address the issue and provide the homeless populatio in our town help without creating a dependency. There were a few of us that really f like there needed to be an organization to synchronize and oversee all of these effo

Mayor Booker stated we want as much representation as you can from our Housing Form run by the Continuum of Care Director, Bernita Taylor. That is all about preventing homelessness. We have a lot of great ideas. There is a lot of frustration concerning homelessness; it absolutely is a growing problem. If the Council choose to accept this, Councilman Harris will head it up, and I'll need other volunteers.

Hampton, Williams, and Weger all raised their hands to volunteer.

MOTION by Gill, SECOND by Warren, to approve establishing a Council Committee to study issues related to the City's homeless population and make recommendations to the City Council on how to address said issues, and to appoint Harris (Chairperson), Hampton, Williams, and Weger to serve as Council representatives. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Gill, Hampton, Weger, Williams, and Warren

Nay:

STAFF REPORTS:

32. Provide City Council with an update on the FY 2022 & FY 2023 Audit Process

Joe Don Dunham, Finance Director, stated he received an email on Monday mornin from our consultants that they had passed all our information on to our auditors. We are in line to meet our March 31 deadline of getting our 2022 audit done. They have also provided the journal entries we need to make to allow us to move forward on o 2023 audit. We are doing our reconciliations and trying to move that forward as quickly as possible.

Mayor Booker asked what date Dunham gave at the last meeting for the 2022 audit be complete.

Dunham stated the 2022 audit would be done on March 31, and it would be brought before Council at the first meeting in April.

Mayor Booker asked what the date was on 2023.

Dunham stated his original date was the end of February, but we aren't going to meet that date because we had to wait for the journal entries. My date today is April 31.

Mayor Booker asked Dunham his particular roll for the audit on a daily basis.

Dunham stated helping the staff where they need help, making sure information is received from other departments, and trying to keep that audit moving forward.

Mayor Booker asked if Dunham was involved daily.

Dunham stated yes, I'm involved in it daily.

Weger stated I have here that you will have the 2022 audit complete by March 31. Do you think we are going to make that okay?

Dunham stated I believe so. Forvis will take about 3 weeks to get their part of it done and submitted to us.

Weger asked how long it will take from the time it goes to the auditors to when you file it. I understand you have to file this.

Dunham stated the auditors will upload some of the information to the state auditor and inspector automatically on our behalf.

Weger stated he was told that Dunham has to file that personally.

Dunham stated we do send a copy to the auditors, but the auditors submit some of it on our behalf. There is a ledger form they fill out on our behalf, and they submit that to the auditors and inspectors.

Weger asked how long Dunham expects it to be for them to file with the state.

Dunham stated he expects them to submit to the state as soon as it is completed.

Mayor Booker asked if that is electronic filing.

Dunham stated yes, sir.

Mayor Booker stated once this is done, he will be really interested to hear what our process is to make sure that we have our audit done for 2023 and 2024 by the end of 2024.

Dunham stated understood.

NO ACTION TAKEN.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS:

MOVED by Gill, SECOND by Harris, to approve entering into executive session. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Gill, Hampton, Weger, Williams, and Warren

Nay:

The City Council remained in executive session from 4:58PM to 6:39PM. Roll call showed all members present. City Council discussed 4 items in executive session. No action was taken. MOVED by Gill, SECOND by Hampton, to approve exiting executive session and entering open session. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Gill, Hampton, Weger, Williams, and Warren

Nay:

33. Pursuant to Section 307B.4, Title 25, Oklahoma Statutes, consider convening in executive session to discuss an action relating to litigation against Settling Defendants and other defendants, where actions are currently pending in the multi-district litigation styled, In Re: Aqueous Film-Forming Foams Products Liability Litigation, MDL No. 2:18-mn-2873 (D.S.C.) (the “MDL”) and Case No. 2:23-cv-03230, to resolve claims relating to PFAS contamination of Public Water System and if necessary, take action in open session.

NO ACTION TAKEN.

34. Pursuant to Section 307B.4, Title 25, Oklahoma Statutes, consider convening in executive session to discuss litigation in the case Gerald S. Ihler v. City of Lawton, CJ-2020-185, and if necessary take appropriate action in open session..

MOTION by Weger, SECOND by Gill, to approve Councilman Warren to represent the City of Lawton in the mediation of Gerald S. Ihler v. City of Lawton, CJ-2020-185. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Gill, Hampton, Weger, Williams, and Warren

Nay:

35. Pursuant to Section 307B.4, Title 25, Oklahoma Statutes, consider convening in executive session to discuss the status of an ongoing investigation concerning pension calculations, and, if necessary take appropriate action in open session.

NO ACTION TAKEN.

36. Pursuant to Section 307B.4, Title 25, Oklahoma Statutes, consider convening in executive session to discuss the pending action in the United States District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma titled Felisha Parker and Laresha Parker as next of kin to Isacc D’Wayne Parker,

deceased v. City of Lawton, et al, Case number CIV-24-178-JD, and if necessary, take appropriate action in open session.

NO ACTION TAKEN.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the City Council meeting adjourned at 6:42PM.

MOVED by Hampton, SECOND by Warren, to adjourn the meeting of February 27, 2024. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Hankins, Harris, Chapman, Gill, Hampton, Weger, Williams,
and Warren

Nay:

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."