

# **Lawton City Council Minutes**

**December 3, 2013**

The Lawton City Council met in Regular session on Tuesday, December 3, 2013, at the Lawton City Hall. Meeting called to order at 5:00 pm by Mayor Jeff Nitzschke. Council members answering roll: Terry Masching, Perry Ludwig, Don Grigg and Rick Schorg. Reed Burson was absent. Clerk Patricia Washburn, Attorney Glenn Metcalf arrived later. Others attending included PWD Mark Vault, Will Wollesen, Bethel Lutheran Church Pastor Bruce Jackson, Kim and Jenna Peterson, Judi Meyer, Jerry Steffen.

Motion to approve Consent Agenda by Schorg, second by Masching. Motion carried 4-0.

Pastor Jackson presented Council with building permit to install electrical message sign on church property. Council approved.

Jenna Peterson distributed information regarding a 4-H project she would like to do on her parents' property in Lawton. She would like to build and erect a "Little Free Library" box. She has already contacted the local Post Office and has checked with the City Clerk and is aware of location concerns. Council feels it is a worthwhile project and thanked Jenna for attending the meeting.

No action was taken regarding resignation of council member or administering oaths of office to new members. Councilman Schorg relayed message to Council from Reed Burson saying he appreciated his time on Council and would consider running again in the future.

Judi Meyer from SIMPCO gave report on LMI Housing projects and presented Council with pay request for administration fees in addition to invoices earlier presented. Ludwig made motion to approve payment of \$10,880.00 to Dirty Payne, \$23,749.00 to Dream Builders, and \$13,724.00 to SIMPCO. Motion seconded by Masching. Motion carried 4-0. Meyer also updated Council on projects currently under consideration.

Regarding Sheriff's report, Council viewed report and discussed continuing parking concerns within city limits. Mayor has spoken with some owners, but has not had contact with all of them yet. If not moved, vehicles could get snow pushed up around them.

Council discussed getting additional light pole banners. Schorg stated there were three additional banners still coming. Hardware will be ordered as needed.

Schorg discussed warning sirens with council. According to Gary Brown, Lawton is the only city in Woodbury County that does not have sirens. Bronson's sirens are not currently working and they are looking to replace what they have. The vendor has indicated sirens will cost between \$20,000 and \$25,000 for each siren, but could be at a lower cost if additional sirens were purchased such as purchasing with Bronson. The vendor stated Lawton would need three sirens; however Gary Brown said the city would need two sirens. One should be situated in the central part of town with a second one situated near the ball fields west of town. Schorg stated Gary Brown commented that warning sirens are only a small part of a total package including weather radios, cell phones, etc. Schorg stated the sirens do not have generators, but rather battery backups so they are charging all the time. Questionnaire will be put in January newsletter to get feedback from community.

Metcalf and Washburn arrived at 5:25 pm.

Schorg also discussed possible meeting time change for Council meetings. It was discussed that a later meeting time may conflict more with school activities. Topic was tabled until January meeting.

Regarding employee compensation, motion by Grigg, second by Ludwig to freeze wages for all employees. Motion carried on roll 3-1 with Schorg dissenting. Schorg stated he feels if work is not being done properly, a list of concerns should be made and discussed with employees.

Vault stated everything should be set for winter months.

Washburn stated no building permits were received through November. Clerk asked if use of Debit cards would still be acceptable for the upcoming year. Currently three are active. Council approved keeping with the same practice regarding Debit cards.

Attorney discussed how to fill council seat once it has been vacated. No decision was made at this time. Council can either call for a Special Election, or Council can appoint to fill the vacancy. Clerk will contact county auditor to verify that an appointed person will have to be on the ballot again next fall during the General Election. This matter is controversial between the State and Woodbury County. More discussion will be held at January meeting.

Although the city does not currently have a Fire Advisory Board representative, Councilman Schorg stated he has gone to the last two Fire meetings to try to keep the line of communication open. Council discussed having member of Fire Department come to Council meetings to give monthly report. Schorg will inform Fire Department of that request. He also mentioned Gary Brown suggested the Fire Department could possibly hold a couple of pancake breakfasts with intention of raising funds for new warning sirens.

Schorg also stated he has been in contact with several local residents that are going to attempt to form a group to organize events and fund raisers for the city.

When asked about disposing of the tree pile, Vault stated he has been in contact with someone to come and grind it.

Motion by Schorg, second by Grigg to approve consent agenda including November 5, 2013 minutes, November 2013 disbursements of \$300,076.68, financial statements from November 2013, and approval of John Eblen as new fire chief. Motion carried on roll 4-0.

With no further business to come before the meeting, meeting adjourned at 6:10 pm.

REVENUES BY FUND		DISBURSEMENTS BY FUND	
Interest Earned	814.79	TIF-Housing	-
TIF	3,623.73	TIF-West Creek	6,688.50
Local Option Sales Tax	17,194.16	Local Option Sales Tax	-
General	13,438.37	General	6,927.33
Road Use Tax	6,865.89	Road Use Tax	93,726.15
Water	14,391.71	Water	183,484.28
Sewer	3,206.83	Sewer	2,215.52
Garbage	5,195.64	Garbage	4,802.75
Fire Revenue	-	Fire Disbursements	2,232.15
VOIDED CHECKS	-	RETURNED CHECK	73.89
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>64,731.12</b>	<b>NOV. DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>300,150.57</b>

#### WARRANTS APPROVED

Gail Scofield, deposit refund	109.14
Acco Unlimited, chlorine, carusol	1,180.40
Certified Testing, comprehensive tests	1,409.00
City of Lawton, utilities	49.89
Dakota Supply Group, water meters	302.48
Holiday inn Airport, Des Moines	104.30
Mangold, replace lost check	320.00
Motorola, half of pager repair	47.50
O'Reilly Automotive, air filter	17.96
Sign Pro, banners, hardware	2,371.00
Steffen, 2-cutting edges	779.55
Tri-State Communications, half base pager repair	57.50
Western IA Telephone	344.77
Staples.com, check envelopes	28.74
Kaspersky Labs, FD computer security	69.95
Analytical & Consult. Serv., lab fees	261.50
First Trust & Savings, call water bonds	178,035.83
HAKA, aka Pronto, fuel	703.32
Novak Sanitary Service, garbage	4,757.75
Steffen Engineering, Cedar/Birch intersect.	7,692.50
TR Harris Construction, Cedar/Birch intersect.	77,989.32
Utility Equipment Co., 26" VB top	49.23
Wolfe Communications, shipping	14.26
Anderson Heating, furnace checks	225.00
Barco, signs, jacket	463.53
EGR Ins., surety bond	100.00
MidAmerican Energy, November	1,645.22
US Postal Service, 2,000 envelopes	1,124.20
Nick's Garage, FD	213.00
Feld Fire, bunker gear	1,552.91
First Trust & Savings, street bond interest	6,688.50
Mangold Environmental Testing, lab fee	15.00
Menard's, supplies	128.70
US 20 Ass'n, dues	100.00
Employee compensation	7,041.02
EFTPS, Fed, Med, SS	2,569.14
IPERS, retirement	1,482.27
Aflac, employee contrib	32.30
<b>NOVEMBER DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>300,076.68</b>

ATTESTED BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Patricia L Washburn, City Clerk