

CITY OF LAWRENCE
Common Council
September 18, 2024
Regular Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kristie Krone, Sherron Freeman, Zach Cramer, Rick Wells, Lisa Chavis, Carlos Jennings, Tyrrell Giles and Betty Robinson

MEMBERS BY MICROSOFT TEAMS: Liz Masur

MEMBERS ABSENT:

ALSO, BY MICROSOFT TEAMS:

ALSO PRESENT: Clerk Adkisson, Michael Allen (Frost Brown Todd)

STAFF PRESENT: Jami Weirich, Humphrey Nagila, Zach Brown, Eric Martin, Fire Chief Wallace, Police Chief Bigsbee, Kevin Sandborn, Amber Finley, Janette Jackson, Keith Johnson, Niki Simmons, Police Captain Cantrell, LeAndre Level and Mayor Whitfield

STAFF BY MICROSOFT TEAMS: Renea Rafala and Jim Henegan

President Robinson called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

The pledge of allegiance was administered, followed by a prayer given by Council President Betty Robinson.

President Robinson recognized there was a quorum. It was also recognized there were extra copies of the agenda located in the back of the room along with a sign-up sheet for comments from the citizens.

COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: Councilor Freeman asked if the City of Lawrence would be following the City of Indianapolis regarding the burning of leaves, tree branches etc. The City of Indianapolis allows the burning to take place during the hours of 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., in a non-combustible container with a ventilated mesh covering. The councilor also thanked and gave appreciation to Jared Hooten for an awesome job on the technology upgrades. She also gave thanks to the administration for moving IT from the molded basement to the 2nd floor. Councilor Freeman asked if there's any economic development for the Ivy Tech and Monarch Beverage building. She also has some concerns regarding the tall grass at the Monarch location. The councilor also stated that she had 12 questions for Controller Nagila regarding the bills that were sent 9/11/2024 and he responded to all 12 questions. She also asked if there's any senior activities, for over the age of 60, in the City of Lawrence, sponsored by the Parks of Lawrence.

Councilor Wells stated he received calls from 2 of his constituents regarding the new medians that are being erected in the City of Lawrence. There are some concerns surrounding these new medians for some of the businesses in the city. The medians are forcing drivers to make U-turns to get to some business. This maneuver is a huge cumbersome for large vehicles, such as mobile homes etc. Councilor Wells wants to hear from the Director of DPW to find a fix for this issue.

Councilor Giles thanked all who were involved in the repairs north of 46th and Shadeland. He also said he has 1 caveat. As the work is being continued, these work trucks are coned out in the right lane which has caused some near misses and accidents.

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS OR RESOLUTIONS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES REGULAR MEETING 9-3-2024

Councilor Jennings made a motion to approve the minutes. Councilor Krone 2nd the motion. Roll call was taken, and motion carried unanimously, 9 (ayes) 0 (nay).

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS 9-3-2024: Councilor Chavis made the motion to approve Payroll Claims for \$1,181,827.87 [August 31, 2024, payroll] and Invoices [for vendors] as presented today [for \$200,408.28]. Councilor Jennings 2nd the motion. Roll call vote was taken, and motion carried 8 (ayes), Councilors Robinson, Chavis, Cramer, Giles, Jennings, Freeman, Krone and Masur. 1 (abstaining) Councilor Wells.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES: President Robinson stated, as chair for the Committee of The Whole, which met on September 5, 2024, and has recommended a favorable recommendation for Resolution No. 7, 2024.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Resolution No. 7, 2024 - A Resolution of The Common Council Of The City Of Lawrence, Indiana Concerning Retention Of Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors, LLC As Municipal Advisor.

Resolution No. 7, 2024 was read in the record. Councilor Chavis asked Controller Nagila, if there's funds in the budget for this resolution or would it be included in an appropriation request. Mr. Nagila answered, it's included in the appropriation request.

Councilor Wells, asked with the added help from Baker Tilly, will the council continue to receive the monthly finance report from the controller's office. He responded that finance report will be posted and will be emailed to all councilors. President Robinson asked if there was a motion for Resolution No. 7, 2024. Councilor Jennings made a motion and Councilor Freeman 2nd the motion. Roll call was given, 9 (ayes) 0 (nay). Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS: Statement was given to the council by Mayor Whitfield.

Resolution No. 8, 2024 - A Resolution Of The Common Council Of The City Of Lawrence, Indiana Concerning Approval Of Collective Bargaining Agreement Between The City Of Lawrence And The Fraternal Order Of Police, Lodge 159 Effective January 1, 2025. This resolution was read into read. Chief of Staff, Zachary Brown, along with FOP President Sgt. Raffer gave a presentation on this resolution. Councilors were given the opportunity to ask questions of Mr. Brown, Sgt. Raffer and Attorney Brad Boswell, of Fagerdrinker. The councilors also asked questions of the city controller, Humphrey Nagila. This resolution was sent to the Committee of the Whole for consideration.

Resolution No. 9, 2024 - A Resolution Of The Common Council Of The City Of Lawrence, Indiana Concerning Approval Of Collective Bargaining Agreement Between The City Of Lawrence And The Lawrence Professional Firefighters Association, Local 416 Effective January 1, 2025. This resolution was read in the record. Chief of Staff, Zachary Brown, along with Fire Union President, Nick Remmel gave a presentation on this resolution. Councilors were given the opportunity to ask questions of Mr. Brown and Mr. Remmel. This resolution was sent to the Committee of the Whole for consideration.

Resolution No. 10, 2024 - A Resolution Of The Common Council Of The City Of Lawrence, Indiana Concerning Approval Of Transfer Of Funds. This resolution was read in the record. President Robinson stated, on behalf of the Common Council, this resolution will be referred to the Committee of The Whole for consideration.

Proposal No. 12, 2024 - An Ordinance Fixing Salaries Of Appointed Officers And Employees Of The Police Department And The Fire Department For The Year 2025. This proposal was read in the record. President Robinson stated, on behalf of the Common Council, this proposal will be referred to the Committee of The Whole for consideration.

Proposal No. 13, 2024 - An Ordinance Establishing Compensation For Elected Officials For The City Of Lawrence, Indiana For The Year 2025, And Providing A Time When The Same Shall Take Effect. This proposal was read in the record. President Robinson stated, on behalf of the Common Council, this proposal will be referred to the Committee of The Whole for review and discussion.

Proposal No. 14, 2024 - An Ordinance Fixing Salaries Of Appointed Officers And Employees Of The City Of Lawrence, Indiana For The Year 2025. This proposal was read in the record. President Robinson stated, on behalf of the Common Council, this proposal will be referred to the Committee of The Whole for review and discussion.

Proposal No. 15, 2024 - Additional Appropriation Ordinance For The Year 2024. This proposal was read in the record. Madame President paused the meeting for the Public Hearing. There were no comments from the public during the hearing. After the Public Hearing was closed, President Robinson stated, on behalf of the Common Council, this proposal will be referred to the Committee of The Whole for consideration.


Proposal No. 16, 2024 – Ordinance For Appropriations and Tax Rates For The Year 2025. This proposal was read in the record. City Controller, Mr. Nagila gave a presentation to the councilors regarding this proposal. The councilors were given the opportunity to ask Mr. Nagila question about this proposal. Madame President paused the meeting for the Public Hearing. Mr. Daniel Rapp, 5718 Wallingwood Drive, Lawrence, Indiana. Mr. Rapp asked when the Public Hearing notice was put in the newspaper. Madame President informed Mr. Rapp that notice was put in the IndyStar on September 8, 2024. After the Public Hearing was closed Madame President stated, on behalf of the Common Council, this proposal will be referred to the Committee of The Whole for consideration.

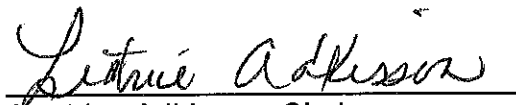
COMMENTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION: Mr. LeAndre Level, announced Lagers in Lawrence was being held that Saturday at the Culture Campus from 3 pm – 6 pm. Mr. Level also made mention of an email that was sent by Jared Hooten, Manager of Communications. The email is regarding the upgrades that will take place in the Assembly Room. Mr. Level thank the council for the approval of the General Ordinance Bond that was passed earlier in the year. This bond will allow renovations to take place in the near future.

COMMENTS FROM THE CITIZENS: Charles Knapp, 5728 Wallingwood Drive, Lawrence, Indiana. Mr. Knapp asked for consideration of a 3-way stop sign at Wallingwood and Boy Scout Road. This will push drivers to slow down and make this area less dangerous. It's difficult for children to play safely without a 3-way stop sign.

Mr. Daniel Rapp, 5718 Wallingwood Drive, Lawrence, Indiana. Mr. Knapp had an issue with the word of "misinformation" that was used in minutes from the August 21, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT: Councilors Cramer moved motion for adjournment. Councilor Jennings 2nd the motion. There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m., by President Robinson.


Betty Robinson, President


Leatrice Adkisson, Clerk

These minutes are not intended to be verbatim. They are a summary of discussions held, except for the motions.