

CITY OF LAWRENCE
Common Council
August 17, 2022
Regular Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lisa Chavis, Shawn Denney, Tom Shevlot, Sherron Freeman, Deborah Whitfield, and Rick Wells

MEMBERS BY ZOOM: Maria Rusomaroff, and Lauren Russel

MEMBERS ABSENT: William Tyrrell Giles

ALSO BY ZOOM: Attorney Kristina Wheeler (Bose McKinney & Evans LLP),

ALSO PRESENT: Clerk Kathleen Walton, Deen Rodgers (Baker Tilly) and Doug Kowalski (Kroger Gardis and Regas)

STAFF PRESENT: Controller Douthit, Chief of Staff Hofmann, Deputy Chief of Staff Korn, Deputy Chief of Staff Murphy, Deputy Police Chief Bigsbee, Bob Swintz, and Utility Superintendent Salsbery

STAFF BY ZOOM: Director of Engineering Venugopalan

Council President Lisa Chavis called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and announced a quorum was present.

COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: Councilor Freeman reported that residents in the 5400 block of Purpura Drive had contacted her about streetlights in their neighborhood. She referred the request for streetlights to the DPW director, Jim Heneghan, and Mayor Collier's office. She is awaiting an update. She went on to ask whether the Administration and the Common Council can lobby the Indianapolis City County Council to look into increasing the Public Safety Tax in Marion County. She informed the Common Council and the citizens of Lawrence that there is a Proposal No. 310,2022 that was introduced to the Indianapolis City County Council on August 8, 2022. It was referred to the Administration and Finance Committee. The proposal concerns Property Tax Credit Relief. She said that she would provide City Clerk Walton a copy of this proposal to be included in the record. Briefly, it seeks to provide a \$150 property tax credit for homes up to a value of \$250,000. She concluded by saying that she is excited about what is being called the "Keystone Project". Initial information indicates it will include a five-story building with residents and retail shops. Councilor Shevlot reinforced the need for a public safety tax increase. It would provide a significant impact. Councilor Wells thanked the city inspector Peni for addressing complaints on tall grass and trash. He thanked Chief of Staff Hofmann for his response to concerns they discussed at the recent safety day. This involved parking issues at 47th Street and Franklin Road. Utility Superintendent Salsbery responded by saying that CSX Railroad had closed the road and that it would be open by Friday. Councilor Russel recalled that at the last council meeting she expressed concern about an animal control situation in her district. She expressed gratitude for the prompt response.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS 8-17-22: Councilor Freeman moved to approve Payroll Claims for \$1,016,195.95 [July 31, 2022, payroll], and Invoices [for vendors] as presented today [for \$1,042,943.63]. Councilor Wells seconded the motion. By a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Proposal No. 16, 2022, establishing a vehicle inspection fee pursuant to Ind. Code 9-17-2-12 and a rebuilt salvage motor vehicle inspection fee pursuant to Ind. Code 9-22-3-15, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Chavis assigned Proposal No. 16, 2022 to the Code Committee.

Proposal No. 17, 2022, amending Title 1, Article 2, Chapter 2, Section 4, of the Municipal Code of the City of Lawrence redistricting Common Council district boundaries pursuant to Indiana Code 36-4-6-3, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Chavis assigned Proposal No. 17, 2022 to the Committee of the Whole. There will be a town hall meeting on September 6, 2022, at 5:30 p.m.

Resolution No. 12, 2022, amending the City of Lawrence's ARP Fund Plan, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Chavis assigned Resolution No. 12, 2022 to the Administration, Budget, and Finance Committee.

Councilor Chavis said nominations for a Council appointment to the Grants Committee were open for consideration. Councilor Chavis nominated Judy Byron. Councilor Chavis announced that, there being no further nominations, nominations were closed. By a roll call vote, eight votes were cast, 8 votes for Judy Byron. Clerk Walton announced that Judy Byron was elected to the Common Council Grants Committee.

Proposal No. 18, 2022, adopting a new schedule of sewer utility rates and charges, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Chavis assigned Proposal No. 18, 2022 to the Administration, Budget, and Finance Committee.

Proposal No. 19, 2022, concerning acquisition, construction or improvement of sewage works; authorizing issuance of sewage works revenue bonds for such purpose; providing for the collection, segregation, and distribution of revenues of sewage works and safeguarding of interests of owners of sewage works revenue bonds; other matters connected therewith; and repealing ordinances inconsistent herewith, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Chavis assigned Proposal No. 19, 2022 to the Administration, Budget, and Finance Committee.

Proposal No. 20, 2022, Amending Section 3-3-4-7 and Section 3-3-4-8 of the Lawrence Municipal Code with respect to litter violation notices, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Freeman said the Code Committee met and recommended a do-pass.

NEW BUSINESS: Proposal No. 21, 2022, Amending Title 3, Article 2, Chapter 4 of the Lawrence Municipal Code with respect to event parking, was introduced and read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Chavis assigned Proposal No. 21, 2022 to the Code Committee.

Mr. Deen Rodgers (Baker Tilly) gave an overview of recommendations of a sewage rate adjustment and responded to questions from the Council.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m., by the unanimous vote of the Council.

Lisa Chavis, President

Kathleen A. Walton, Clerk

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