

**CITY OF LAWRENCE
Common Council
September 3, 2024
Regular Meeting**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kristie Krone, Sherron Freeman, Zach Cramer, Liz Masur, Rick Wells, Lisa Chavis and Betty Robinson

MEMBERS BY MICROSOFT TEAMS:

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tyrrell Giles

ALSO, BY MICROSOFT TEAMS:

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

STAFF PRESENT: Jami Weirich, Humphrey Nagila and LeAndre Level

STAFF BY MICROSOFT TEAMS: None

President Robinson called the meeting to order at 6:30 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 Masur mentioned, on August 13th, she attended an event sponsored by the Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana. The guest speaker was Brendan Ballou, the author of Plunder Private Equities Plan to Pillage America. She also mentions 46% of the homes sold in Lawrence between 2018 and 2023 were bought with cash. These homes were bought by entities and rented out at exorbitant prices. The homes are not being kept and is harming our community.

Councilor Wells, mentions the 2025 budget and the deficit of this year's budget. He goes on to say we, can't formulate next year's budget until we resolve the deficit that currently exists. Councilor stated he contacted Controller Nagila to inquire into the cost of the recent purchases made by the mayor. Councilor Wells also questioned the Controller about a monthly finance statement that should be provided to the council. He also asked for a summary of bills and wages of the new hires. He will ask the council to move forward with retaining a independent auditor.

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS OR RESOLUTIONS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES REGULAR MEETING 8-21-2024

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

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS 9-3-2024: Councilor Jennings made the motion to approve Payroll Claims for \$1,035,679.57 [August 15, 2024, payroll] and Invoices [for vendors] as presented today [for \$766,336.07]. Councilor Freeman 2nd the motion. Roll call vote was taken, and motion carried 7 (ayes), Councilors

Robinson, Chavis, Cramer, Jennings, Freeman, Krone and Masur. 1 (nay)
Councilor Wells.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES: President Robinson stated the Rules and Code Committee met earlier and asked the Chairperson, Councilor Krone if there's a report to the council. Councilor Krone gave an update on Proposal No. 11, 2024, which is currently in the Code and Rules Committee. Chairwomen and the full committee gave a favorable recommendation for Proposal No. 11, 2024.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Proposal No. 11, 2024 - An Ordinance Adopting And Enacting A Seventeenth Supplement To The Code Of Ordinances Of The City Of Lawrence, Indiana.

Proposal No. 11, 2024 was read in the record. President Robinson announced that this proposal was introduced at the July 17th, 2024, council meeting and was sent to the Code and Rules Committee for consideration. She also mentioned the Code and Rules Committee met on this day and are giving a favorable recommendation for Proposal No. 11, 2024. Councilor Chavis made a motion to approve Proposal No. 11, 2024. Councilor Jennings 2nd the motion. Roll call was given. Motion passed. Unanimously.

NEW 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.

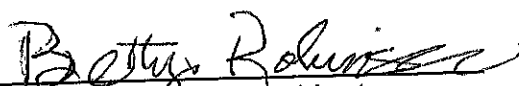
Resolution No. 7, 2024 was read in the record. President Robinson announced on behalf of the council she would be referring this resolution to Council of the Whole for consideration.

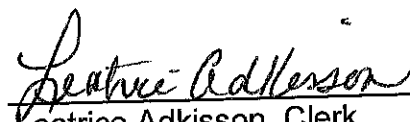
COMMENTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION: None

COMMENTS FROM THE CITIZENS: Brad Klopfenstein, president of the Greater Lawrence Chamber of Commerce, 5674 Lawton Loop West Drive. Mr. Klopfenstein extended an invite to a luncheon on Tuesday, September 17th at the State Park Inn. DNR Director, Dan Bortner will be the guest speaker. Also on Thursday, September 19th, the Chamber is hosting The State of the Schools Luncheon with Superintendent, Smith, at the Administration Bldg. Sunnyside Road.

Daniel Rapp, 5718 Wallingwood Drive. He has concerns on the transparency of the budget and believes things are being held from the citizens.

ADJOURNMENT: Councilors Cramer moved motion for adjournment. Councilor Wells 2nd the motion. There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 6:48 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.