

**CITY OF LAWRENCE**  
**Common Council**  
**January 8, 2024**  
**Regular Meeting**

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

MEMBERS BY MICROSOFT TEAMS: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO BY MICROSOFT TEAMS: Mr. Ashcraft

ALSO PRESENT: Clerk Leatrice Adkisson

STAFF PRESENT: Deputy Chief of Staff LeAndre Level, Lawrence City Attorney Amber Finley, Executive Assistant to Mayor Whitfield Nikia, Fire Chief Robert (Bob) Wallace, Lawrence Police Department Chief Curtis Bigsbee, Parks Director Eric Martin, Streets Director Jim Heneghan, Communications Director Daniel Beyer, Interim Utilities Superintendent Paul Wanner and Interim Controller Humphrey Nagila.

STAFF BY MICROSOFT TEAMS: Chief of Staff Zachary Brown

Council President Tyrrell Giles called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. and announced a quorum was present.

The election of President of the Lawrence Common Council was opened for motion by Councilor Giles. Councilor Chavis motioned to nominate Betty Robinson. Councilor Jennings second the motion. It was moved for discussion, there weren't any. Roll call vote by show of hands. All in favor (Councilors Chavis, Giles, Freeman, Robinson, Wells, Jennings, Krone, Cramer, Masur). Any opposed, none. Motion carried unanimously. Councilor Giles congratulated Betty Robinson.

The election of Vice President of the Lawrence Common Council was opened for a motion by councilor Giles. Councilor Chavis motioned to nominate Sherron Freeman. Councilor Jennings second the motion. It was moved for discussion, there weren't any. Roll call vote by show of hands. All in favor (Councilors Chavis, Giles, Freeman, Jennings, Wells, Krone, Cramer, Masur, and Robinson) Any opposed, none. Motion carried unanimously.

At the conclusion of the vote, Councilor Giles vacated the chair, allowing Councilor Robinson to assume her new position. Councilor Robinson accepted and conducted the remainder of the meeting. Councilor Robinson thanked the councilors and the City of Lawrence on her new position as President of the Lawrence Common Council.

COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: Councilor Chavis asks that Frost Brown Todd, 111 Ohio Street, Indianapolis, IN represented by Carrie Doehrmann, 1745 N. Pennsylvania Street, Indianapolis, IN come forward to give a brief presentation. The new council will be seeking to hire new counsel. Councilor Chavis mentioned a conversation was had with Ice Miller. Along with Carrie was Scott Krapf, Denise (Barkdull) Lund and Michael Allen also of Frost Brown Todd. During the presentation Councilor Giles and Councilor Chavis had questions and expressed their concerns. Questions were answered by Carrie, Scott, Michael and Denise.

OTHER COUNCILOR COMMENT: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Councilor Wells made a motion moved to approve the minutes of the regular meetings on December 20, 2023. Councilor Giles seconded the motion. By a roll call vote, the motion was carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS: None

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS: LeAndre Level, a resident of Lawrence. He greets the councilors and goes on to congratulate President Robinson and Vice President Freeman. He will be speaking on behalf of the Whitfield Administration. He congratulates the new members of the Council. He states he will be happy to be the Liaison between the Council Office and Mayor Whitfield. He goes on to read Mayor Whitfield's Cabinet Appointments.

LeAndre introduces members of the Whitfield Administration. He also informed us that Mayor Whitfield sworn in 2 new Lawrence City Police Officers and 2 new Reserve Lawrence City Police Officers.

Junior Moreau  
Ben Turner  
Matt Miller  
Jessica Babb

He also mentions a note from the Police Chief that the city is in a hiring process now. More updates on a new class or hiring in April. He goes on to state from the Lawrence City Fire Department, the Mayor promoted and swear in Chief Tony Dowd, Deputy Chief of Administration and Lt. John Moore as Division Chief of EMS.

LeAndre states the Fire Chief also wanted to note to the Council that the Ambulance at Station #40 will be moving to another station for the next 10 days due to new flooring being installed. They should be back at Station #40 by January 18<sup>th</sup>.

He also states that DPW Director Jim Heneghan feels confident DPW is prepared for in the incoming mixed weather conditions this week. Communication will send out notice on when DPW will be deploying trucks into the communities.

LeAndre also informed the council that applications for the Ft. Ben Market went live today on our website until April 15<sup>th</sup>.

From the Parks Department there will be some playground equipment installation in the next few months. Lawrence Community Park will have some installations either this month or in February. A fenced installation will take place at Oaklandon Play Park in February.

Lawrence Utilities will send out notices regarding the updated payment portal program. More information will follow soon.

For upcoming events, the city has sponsored events for the month of January. Communications will be sent out soon for Black History Month in February.

FYI notes, the Clerk's Office will have Councilor's badges. Also note that the Administration, Department Heads and Staff will exclusively be communicating through City email accounts. Please contact Kevin Sandborn, in the IT Department, with any questions or issues with accessing your email account.

Upon conclusion of the Council Meeting the Mayor has invited all and Dept Heads to her office. to meet everyone to her office.

Councilor Giles had a question regarding the application process for the Police positions. Chief Bigsbee goes on to answer the Councilor's question.

CITIZENS COMMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:09 p.m., by the unanimous vote of the Council.

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Betty Robinson, President

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Leatrice Adkisson, Clerk

These minutes are not intended to be verbatim. They are a summary of discussions held, except for the motions. An audiotape is made which provides a detailed record.