

CITY OF LAWRENCE

Common Council

March 20, 2024

Regular Meeting

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

MEMBERS BY MICROSOFT TEAMS:

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO, BY MICROSOFT TEAMS: None

ALSO PRESENT: Leatrice Adkisson, Scott Krapf, Jaye Miller, Shawn Jennings, Scott Carr, Carrie Doehrmann, Michael Allen, Oscar Gutierrez, Carey Wisner, Corry Halcomb, Brad Klopfenstein, Kristin Buechler and Dan Rapp

STAFF PRESENT: Zach Brown, LeAndre Level, Humphrey Nagila

STAFF BY MICROSOFT TEAMS: None

Council President Betty Robinson called the meeting to order at 6:29 p.m.

The pledge of allegiance was administered, followed by a prayer given by Councilor Chavis.

Councilor 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.

Councilor Robinson also stated that the Ratification of Contracts will be presented to the Finance Committee, and the bills for these contracts will be paid.

COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: Councilor Freeman stated she would like to welcome Dunkin Donuts to the Lawrence Family. Located at 9910 Pendleton Pike. We appreciate them choosing the City of Lawrence. Councilor Freeman also stated she has a complaint from one of her constituents. Her constituent is affiliated with Foamcraft, Inc. which is located inside an industrial park, at 9230 Harrison Park Court. The semi-truck drivers are having issues with getting in and out of the business due to cars parked on the edge of the street. The company is asking the council to consider placing “no parking” signs in the area.

Councilor Masur stated she has 3 comments, which are listed below:

- 1) I want to thank the City of Lawrence First Responders who dealt quickly and professionally with a dog attack on Twyckenham Drive on March 8. It is a comfort to know that the Lawrence Police Department and Animal Control are able to spring into action so speedily! Thank you!
- 2) Ms. Kristin in Kensington Farms has lobbied for a 4-way stop sign at Kensworth and Chadworth to reduce speeding in the neighborhood. I agree with her that action needs to be taken to slow down traffic. We’re asking for this to be sent to the code committee.
- 3) So excited about the Spring Fling at Community Park on Saturday, March 30.

Councilor Krone mentioned that last week there was a shooting at Land Shark Night Club in Board Ripple. Six people were shot and one of the victims was a resident of Lawrence, who succumbed to his injuries. His name was Tim Brown, and he was a graduate of Lawrence North High School. Mr. Brown formerly worked at Lawrence Central High School as an instructional assistant and a wrestling coach. Councilor Krone asked for a moment of silence for Tim Brown.

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS OR RESOLUTIONS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Regular Meeting 3-4-2024

Councilor Chavis motioned to approve the minutes. Councilor Cramer 2nd the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS 3-20-2024: Councilor Chavis moved to approve Payroll Claims for \$1,077,696.13 [February 29, 2024, payroll] and Invoices [for vendors] as presented today [for \$1,327,017.82]. Councilor Jennings seconded the motion. Motion was carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Proposal No. 1, 2024 - An Ordinance of The Common Council of The City of Lawrence, Indiana Amending Title1, Article 1, Chapter 2, Section 12 of The Municipal Code Regarding Common Council Approval of Expenditures of Professional Service Contracts. The proposal was read into record by the clerk. Madame President stated that on behalf of the Common Council she would be referring Proposal No. 1. 2024 to the Administration Budget and Finance Committee for consideration and recommendations.

Mr. Oscar Gutierrez, 2185 Hangu Drive, Westfield, Indiana, of Bondy Consulting, presented the Common Council with a PowerPoint presentation.

COMMENTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION: Deputy Chief of Staff, LeAndre Level announced the administration comments as follows:

- **Jami Weirich**- Director of Communications for City Events, City Events Planner. Jami was the Membership Director for the Ft. Ben YMCA and has a wealth of knowledge and experience working with community partners and hosting events. We are excited to join our city.
- **Spring Fling** – On March 30th, The City of Lawrence, Maddie Smiles and Benjamin Harrison YMCA will host the annual Spring Fling Easter Egg Hunt at Community Park in Lawrence. Ages: 3-10. Residents can sign up on the Ft. Ben YMCA website.
- **Women’s History Month**: The city is recognizing several powerful women in Lawrence, Police, Fire, business leaders, and elected officials.
- **Total Eclipse** – April 8th – **Headliner, Queen Delphine & The Crown Jewels**, Join us at Lawrence Community Park on April 8, from 12 pm to 6 pm, as we bring you an afternoon of food, live music, and family-friendly activities under the total solar eclipse. Admission for this event is FREE! The Lawrence Chamber has provided the public with a limited number of free solar glasses to the public on the day of the Eclipse.
- **Signage Meeting**: To address community request for NEW signage. LPD, DPW, and Streets for recommendations. Aim to bundle those requests and pass them through the Council.
- **Dept Tours**: Schedule tours with Utilities, Police, Fire, and other Depts. This opportunity for Councilors to learn about each department is especially insightful when Budget Session comes in the Fall.

Dept Updates:

- Street Dept, Jim Heneghan, Hot mix is in and our Street crew is working to fill potholes throughout the City.

COMMENTS FROM THE CITIZENS: Carey Weiser, 4721 Mehaffey Street, addressed the Common Council regarding a male youth home that is located in her neighborhood. Since January, Ms. Weiser and her family have dealt with someone from this home, who has said foul language to them. The owner of this home, Ben Matthews, housed 2 young men in this home that was involved in altercation. One was 18 and the other 12. The older guy beat the 12-year-old kid. Police captain Cantrell has been made aware of the issues from this home being a neighborhood nuisance. Councilor Wells stated this home is across the street from his residence and he never thought he would see a penal institution put in a residential neighborhood. Councilor Wells also stated he is getting absolutely no help from the City of Indianapolis in this matter. The City of Indianapolis currently controls the zoning in the City of Lawrence.

Kristin and Aiden Buechler, 6258 Chadworth Ct. Her complaint to the Common Council is there are some trees that block the road at Chadworth Ct, in Kensington Farms and cars come around that corner a little too fast. She stated, we've had instances over the past couple of years with our kids who are bike riders, with cars coming around that corner. She wants the Common Council to consider making that corner a 4-way stop.

Daneil Rapp, 5718 Wallingwood Dr., he is looking for transparency with an item on the agenda, Ratification of Contracts. He would like to know the vendor's name, address and dollar amount of these contracts. He is looking for more clarification on these city contracts.

Cory Halcomb, 8301 East 47th Street, Mr. Halcomb has the complaint as Ms. Weiser regarding a neighbor terrorizing the neighborhood. He is asking for help from this individual who he has called the police on at least 10 times, and nothing is being done. He has witnessed 4 accidents that this guy has almost caused due to him driving at a fast speed. Mr. Halcomb stated he is a disabled vet and is looking for help from the Council because they have exhausted all avenues.

Councilor Wells made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Jennings 2nd the motion.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:37 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.