

CITY OF LAWRENCE
Common Council
December 18, 2024
Regular Meeting

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

MEMBERS BY MICROSOFT TEAMS: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO, BY MICROSOFT TEAMS: Sarah Bartolo

ALSO PRESENT: Clerk Adkisson and Michael Allen, Frost Brown Todd

STAFF PRESENT: Chief of Staff, Greg Goodnight, Jami Weirich, and Deputy Chief of Staff, LeAndre Level

STAFF BY MICROSOFT TEAMS: Fire Chief Bob Wallace and Police Chief Curtis Bigsbee

President Robinson called the meeting to order at 6:32 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 at the back of the room along with a sign-up sheet for comments from the citizens.

COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: Councilor Cramer, read a statement asking the other councilors to consider appropriating funds to have a Forensic Audit conducted regarding the city's finances. (statement attached) Councilor Krone stated she's had conversations with a few of her constituents. Her constituent, Dan Newman, lives in Admirals Landing, has asked, what does the city plan to do with the landscaping along Pendleton Pike. Councilor Krone also noted, this is something that is asked to her by several people, in passing. Another constituent of Councilor Krone, Alex Etherington, that lives in Indian Pointe, is distressed by motorists using, his neighborhood, Indian Lake at 75th Street as a cut through, to avoid the backup of traffic at 79th Sunnyside during the morning and evening hours. Upon a visit to the area by Councilor Krone and Police Captain Cantrell, it was determined that having sidewalks would definitely benefit this community. Andrew Betcher, who lives in Geist Valley Estate, asked Councilor Krone what the timeline of completion of the street renovations, which was announced in April of 2024. Councilor Freeman, stated Brandon Warren, contacted her regarding the congestion of traffic at 63rd & Lee Road. Councilor Freeman explained this comes from students being picked up from the 2 schools in this area. He wanted to know if the city plans to address this issue, possibly turning the intersection into a roundabout. Councilor Robinson, read a statement regarding information received about the city's finances. (statement attached)

Councilor Wells stated he has a concern about the limit for expenditures, that would need councils' approval was raised to \$50,000 from \$5,000. He also stated one of the reasons the civilian salary did not pass is due to the uncertainty of the city's finances.

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS OR RESOLUTIONS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES REGULAR MEETING 12-2-2024

Councilor Chavis made a motion to approve the minutes. Councilor Jennings 2nd the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS 12-18-2024: Councilor Jennings made the motion to approve Payroll Claims for \$922,384.91 [November 27, 2024] and \$1,079,367.37 [December 13, 2024, payroll] and Invoices [for vendors] as presented today [for \$803,306.28]. Councilor Krone 2nd the motion. A roll call vote was given, the motion carried with 8 (ayes) Councilors, Chavis, Cramer, Robinson, Jennings, Freeman, Krone, Giles and Masur. 1 (nay) Councilor Wells.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES: Councilor Giles reported, as Chairperson of the Public Works Committee, the board voted on a favorable recommendation for Proposal No. 20, 2024.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Councilor Chavis moved a motion to suspend the rules and pass Proposal No. 20, 2024 on 1st reading. Cramer 2nd the move. Motion passed unanimously.

Proposal No. 20, 2024 – An Ordinance Of The Common Council Of The City Of Lawrence, Indiana To Repeal And Replace Title 5, Article 2, Chapter 6 Of The Lawrence Municipal Code Regarding Storm Water Management And Sediment Control, And Eliminate Conflicting Provisions, Including Title 5, Article 2, Chapter 7 Regarding Illicit Discharge Detection And Elimination. This proposal was read in the record. Renea Rafala, Operations Manager for Public Works, provided information regarding this proposal. She explained this proposal is an update to our current ordinance. She stated the goal for this update is to reduce or eliminate pollution that enters into our streams, rivers, lakes and other bodies of water. Councilor Cramer moved a motion to approve this proposal. Councilor Jennings 2nd the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

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 announced this proposal was brought back for ratification. Councilor Chavis moved a motion to ratify this proposal. Councilor Jennings 2nd the motion. Councilor Chavis noted the 2 positions that are to remain in this ratified proposal are Chief of Staff and Deputy Chief of Staff, along with the council not approving the 3% salary increase for civilian staff. Councilor Jennings moved motion on the ratified proposal. Councilor Chavis 2nd the motion. Roll call vote was taken, (8) ayes, Councilors Giles, Chavis, Cramer, Robinson, Jennings, Freeman, Krone, Masur. 1(nay) Councilor Wells. Motion passed 8 – 1.

NEW BUSINESS:

Approval of 2025 meeting schedule. Councilor Chavis made a motion to approve the 2025 meeting schedule. Councilor Krone 2nd the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION: Deputy Chief, Mr. Level announced on behalf of the Whitfield Administration, wanted to express disappointment at the council's vote to deny the pay increase for dedicated civilian employees. Chief of Staff, Greg Goodnight, gave the council an update from Baker Tilly, whom is currently providing assistance in the controller's office. (statement attached)

COMMENTS FROM THE CITIZENS: Ian Singleton, 7746 Winding Creek Drive. Mr. Singleton wanted to thank the council for their hard work for the year and wish them all a Happy New Year.

ADJOURNMENT: Councilors Cramer moved motion for adjournment. Councilor Giles 2nd the motion. There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:01 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.