

CITY OF LAWRENCE
Common Council
October 7, 2024
Regular Meeting

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

MEMBERS BY MICROSOFT TEAMS: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO, BY MICROSOFT TEAMS: None

ALSO PRESENT: Clerk Adkisson, Michael Allen and Carrie Dohrman of (Frost Brown Todd)

STAFF PRESENT: Jami Weirich, Humphrey Nagila, Zach Brown, Eric Martin, Police Chief Bigsbee, Janette Jackson, Niki Simmons, Jim Heneghan, Shawn Fugate, and Police Captain Tracey Cantrell.

STAFF BY MICROSOFT TEAMS: Renea Rafala and Chris Wilburn

President Robinson called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

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

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 Wells made mention of other issues surrounding the new medians in the city. He also mentioned the conversation and the question he had with his insurance carrier, State Farm. His question was, if a driver, trying to make a left turn on Pendelton Pike, at the green arrow, to execute a U-turn, while the traffic to the left of that driver, which gets a green arrow to turn right, there could possibly be a head on collision. He stated his carrier made reference they have paid claims on this type of incident. He also asked for the opportunity for the council to speak with the lobbyists, retained by the city, when the budget has been resolved. Councilor Wells also mentioned reading an article in the newspaper about a shortfall in the Stormwater Budget. He would like to hear an explanation on this issue.

Councilor Freeman mentioned she would like the council appointees on the different boards to come before the full Common Council quarterly, with a report, at the Council's first meeting of the month. This would allow the council to have an update on the various boards.

Councilor Cramer stated his frustration and distrust in the city's controller with this budget process. He also stated questions asked of the controller have been met with delays and incomplete answers or refusals. Unfortunately, his action is ruining the public's trust in this budget's process. Councilor Cramer also stated, councilors, as stewards of this city, we owe the citizens, transparency, and balanced budget that truly reflects the needs of our city. He goes on to say, We, the councilor's commitment is and always will be to the citizens we serve.

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS OR RESOLUTIONS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES REGULAR MEETING 9-18-2024

Councilor Chavis made a motion to approve the minutes. Councilor Jennings 2nd the motion. Roll call was taken, and motion carried unanimously, 8 (ayes), Councilors Chavis, Giles, Cramer, Robinson, Jennings, Freeman, Masur and Krone. 1 (nay) Councilor Wels.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS 10-7-2024: Councilor Chavis made the motion to approve Payroll Claims for \$1,029,261.91 [September 15, 2024, payroll] and Invoices [for vendors] as presented today [for \$1,593,263.35]. Councilor Jennings 2nd the motion. Councilors Cramer and President Robinson had questions regarding vendor invoices. Controller Nagila and Chief Bigsbee responded to their questions. Roll call vote was taken, and motion carried 7 (ayes), Councilors Robinson, Chavis, Giles, Jennings, Freeman, Krone and Masur. 1 (abstaining) Councilor Cramer and 1 (nay) Councilor Wells.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES: President Robinson stated, as chair for the Committee of The Whole, which met on September 24, 2024, and has recommended a favorable recommendation for Resolution No. 8, 2024, with amendments. The Committee of The Whole, which met on September 24, 2024 and has recommended a favorable recommendation for Resolution No. 9, 2024. The Committee of The Whole, which met on September 25, 2024 and no official action was taken at that meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: Amendment to Ordinance No. 7, 2024 – An Ordinance Of The Common Council Of The City Of Lawrence, Indiana Amending The Lawrence Municipal Code To Establish All-Way Stop Intersections At High View Court And Winding Creek Place, Pine Grove Court And Winding Creek Drive, And West Ridge Circle And Winding Creek Place.

This amendment to Ordinance No. 7, 2024 was read on record. President Robinson stated, the Common Council adopted this ordinance at the July 17th, 2024, meeting. Upon further review the Common Council has determined the intersection now has an excessive and unnecessary number of stop signs. This ordinance will be referred to the Committee of the Whole. Councilor Chavis moved a motion to table the amendment to Ordinance No. 7, 2024 that was referred to the Committee of the Whole, so that the council can focus on the budget, and the other resolutions that need the council's attention. Councilor Cramer 2nd the motion. Councilor Wells asked if this amendment could go to the Rules and Code Committee. President Robinson stated it can go to the code committee.

Resolution No. 10, 2024 - A Resolution Of The Common Council Of The City Of Lawrence, Indiana Concerning Approval Of Transfer Of Funds.

Proposal No. 12, 2024 - An Ordinance Fixing Salaries Of Appointed Officers And Employees Of The Police Department And The Fire Department For The Year 2025.

Proposal No. 13, 2024 - An Ordinance Establishing Compensation For Elected Officials For The City Of Lawrence, Indiana For The Year 2025, And Providing A Time When The Same Shall Take Effect.

Proposal No. 14, 2024 - An Ordinance Fixing Salaries Of Appointed Officers And Employees Of The City Of Lawrence, Indiana For The Year 2025.

Proposal No. 15, 2024 - Additional Appropriation Ordinance For The Year 2024.

Proposal No. 16, 2024 - Ordinance For Appropriations and Tax Rates For The Year 2025.

The above resolutions and proposals were read in the record and were referred to the Committee of the Whole for consideration.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Resolution No. 8, 2024 - A Resolution Of The Common Council Of The City Of Lawrence, Indiana Concerning Approval Of Collective Bargaining Agreement Between The City Of Lawrence And The Fraternal Order Of Police, Lodge 159 Effective January 1, 2025.

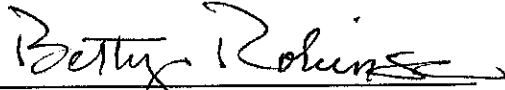
Resolution No. 9, 2024 - A Resolution Of The Common Council Of The City Of Lawrence, Indiana Concerning Approval Of Collective Bargaining Agreement Between The City Of Lawrence And The Lawrence Professional Firefighters Association, Local 416 Effective January 1, 2025.

The above Resolutions and Proposals were read in the record and were sent to the Committee of the Whole for consideration.

COMMENTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION: Zach Brown, Chief of Staff, asked a question regarding Resolutions No. 8 and No. 9. He stated it was his understanding these resolutions made it out of the Committee of the Whole with a favorable recommendation. He asked for clarification on why they were sent back to the committee. President Robinson stated to Mr. Brown, there were questions that needed a response. Councilor Chavis also mentioned those outstanding questions pertain to the budget and can only be answered by the controller. The questions were related to debt services and the amount. Also, the propose increase for 2025 not only for public safety but also for civil and elected officials, and specifically where they would be coming from. The Controller, Humphrey Nagila stated he would take note of her question and get that information to her. Councilor Giles asked about a fund that is generating negative revenue, which is the public safety fund. He wanted to know how that fund would be sustainable in 2025. The controller responded with; money would be taken from the General Fund Reserve to make up that negative revenue as it always has been made. There were other questions that were asked by Councilors Chavis and Councilor Giles of Mr. Nagila, the City Controller. Councilor Jennings stated that the more data that's provided, the easier the new councilors can learn.

COMMENTS FROM THE CITIZENS: None

ADJOURNMENT: Councilors Chavis moved motion for adjournment. Councilor Cramer 2nd the motion. There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 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.