

CITY OF LAWRENCE
Common Council
January 15, 2025
Regular Meeting

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

MEMBERS BY MICROSOFT TEAMS: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO, BY MICROSOFT TEAMS: None

ALSO PRESENT: Clerk Adkisson, Michael Johnson, Frost Brown Todd

STAFF PRESENT: Keith Johnson, Greg Goodnight, Jami Weinrich and LeAndre Level.

STAFF BY MICROSOFT TEAMS: None

President Cramer called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

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

President Cramer 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 Freeman mentioned a constituent by the name of Patty, who sent an email with her concerns regarding speeding vehicles in the school zone on 56th Street. Councilor Freeman also stated she believes Patty has also spoken to the Police Chief Bigsbee regarding this issue. Councilor Wells stated his district #2, which is in the older part of Lawrence and is actually the original Lawrence. Councilor Wells also mentioned the biggest problem in his district is the zoning and code enforcement. The issue is, when someone does not comply with the proper zoning, there's no enforcement. In the beginning of the year, the administration hired two lobbyist firms, and I was told that one of the things that they were going to focus on was getting the legislature to all allow the City of Lawrence to control their zoning enforcement. Councilor Wells also mentioned he's received several complaints from neighbors and local restaurant facilities regarding the food trailers. Setting up on just about every empty lot and every corner, next to a brick and mortar. The councilor also mentioned he was told by Lawrence's DPW they're working on an ordinance and Board of Health permits. Councilor Giles had a comment to share with the Council regarding heavy trash pickup. But before his comment he stated he was particularly concerned about this and warned the administration. Councilor Giles read an email that was sent by one of his constituents. The message read; I left a message, and no one is responding to

the amount of trash that is on my street it needs to be addressed because it's an eye sore. Is there anything you can do I'm on 48th in Atwell. I live on Atwell and there are three to four houses that have heavy trash that just been sitting there for months. I don't think there's a pickup until May so what can we do? Thank you. Councilor Giles stated, he told her that he would express that in a public form to the DPW.

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS OR RESOLUTIONS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES REGULAR MEETING 1-9-2025

Councilor Chavis made a motion to approve the minutes. Councilor Robinson 2nd the motion. The roll call vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS: Councilor Masur stated the councilors have a question regarding payroll claims that appeared on the vouchers. They all wanted to be sure they weren't approving an amount of almost a million dollars if this was a duplicate payroll claim. Councilor Chavis asked if there's anyone from the administration that could address this concern. No one was available so the councilors did not approve the vouchers dated 1/15/2025. She also stated the controller or someone from the administration need to attend the council meeting for any questions that may occur. Councilor Chavis moved a motion to table the approval of the vouchers for 1/15/2025. Councilor Jennings 2nd the motion. was tabled until the next common council meeting. The roll call was taken, motion moved unanimously. Approval of vouchers (1/15/2025) was tabled until the next common Council meeting.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Consideration of Council appointments to the Redevelopment Commission. Councilor Chavis moved to nominate Sarah Whitaker, Council Jennings 2nd the move. Councilor Masur moved to nominate Michael Townsend. The nominees for this appointment are as follows:

1. Michael Townsend – (9) ayes. Unanimous.
2. Sarah Whittiker – (9) ayes. Unanimous.

Consideration of Council appointments to the Board of Zoning Appeals. Councilor Chavis moved to nominate Faith Alvarez, Councilor Jennings 2nd the move. Councilor Robinson moved to nominate Eugene West, Councilor Jennings 2nd the move. Councilor Robinson moved to nominate Karen Celestino-Horseman, Councilor Freeman 2nd the move.

The nominees for this appointment are as follows:

1. Faith Alvaez – 9 (ayes). Unanimous
2. Karen Celestino-Horseman. 9 (ayes). Unanimous.
3. Eugene West. 9 (ayes). Unanimous.

Consideration of Council appointments to the Board of Zoning Appeals – Alternate. Councilor Masur moved to nominate Chelle Carey, Councilor Jennings 2nd the move. The nominee for this appointment is as follows:

1. Chelle Carey – 9 (ayes) – Unanimous

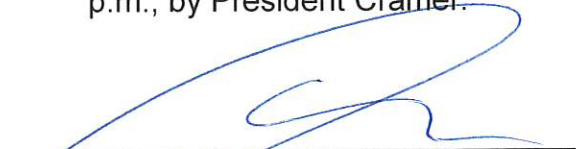
Re-zoning – 24-ZON-01 (**Advertised Public Hearing**). Madame Clerk read the petition number along with the address of the property for the rezoning petition.

President Cramer, stated the petition was an advertised public hearing that has been noticed for tonight's meeting anyone wishing to speak tonight please stand and raise your right hand, do you swear or affirm that the testimony you're about to give is the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. The president officially opened up the floor for the public hearing. Paul Puzzello stated he was representing the owner of the property. He provided information and indicated along with the drawings that were filed, the purpose of needing the property to be rezoned from C3 to D3. The owner plans to build a duplex on the property, which currently has a single-family structure on it now. Mr. Puzzello provided answers to the councilor's questions. Keith Johnson, who is a representative for the Whitfield Administration approached the podium and stated the administration is in total support of the petition. President Cramer, asked before closing the public hearing if there's anyone who is not in favor of the petition to come forward and state why they're not. No one spoke against the petition. Councilor Jennings moved to approve 24-ZON-01, Councilor Chavis 2nd the move. The vote was taken, and motion carried unanimously.

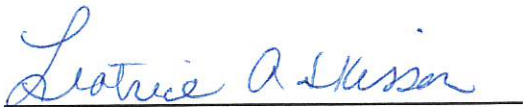
COMMENTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION: Greg Goodnight, Chief of Staff, wanted to first address the question that Councilor Wells had regarding the food trucks in the city. He stated he is trying to understand who's responsible for the food truck issues. He is sure that Mayor Whitfield be willing to work with the council on any food truck ordinances they would like to see happen. Councilor Chavis mentioned she recently received information about where surrounding communities like Noblesville are starting to clamp down on the food trucks. Councilor Wells stated the brick, and mortars are in competition with these foods' trucks. Councilor Giles stated he is in support of the food trucks due to most restaurants in the city closing at 9 pm and it's hard to find a bite to eat after this time. Greg stated to Councilor Giles to please have the constituent that is having an issue with the trash in his district, to please to reach out to him regarding this matter. The council also discussed with Mr. Goodnight the importance of having the controller or someone from that department to attend the council meetings to answer questions, like the one they had that night. Le'Andre Level, congratulated President Cramer on his new role as Council President. Mr. Level mentioned he placed on everyone's desk a copy of this year's city's events. The majority of these events are led by Jami Weinrich, City Events Director along with Roman Coffey. There are more events on the calendar than last year. There will be more innovative things and elevating our social media. Some of these events will be partnered with the community and the school district.

COMMENTS FROM THE CITIZENS: Daniel Rapp, 5718 Wallingwood Drive, Lawrence, IN. Mr. Rapp stated this is the 3rd time he has mentioned to the council regarding the December Financial Monthly Report which has not been posted to the city's website. He was also asking about the 2025 Adopted Budget not being posted.

ADJOURNMENT: Councilor Cramer called for adjournment. There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m., by President Cramer.



Zach Cramer, President



Leatrice Adkisson, Clerk

These minutes are not intended to be verbatim. They are a summary of discussions held, except for the motions.