

**CITY OF LAWRENCE  
Common Council  
February 19, 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: Evan Scott and Brent Addington

ALSO PRESENT: Clerk Adkisson and Michael Allen (Frost Brown Todd)

STAFF PRESENT: Greg Goodnight, Jami Weinrich, Eric Martin, Humphrey Nagila, Chief Bigsbee, Shawn Fugate, Jim Perron, and LeAndre Level.

STAFF BY MICROSOFT TEAMS: Chris Wilburn, Robert Wallace and Renea Rafala.

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 expressed concerns about a curvy section of the road on Sunnyside. There have been quite a few cars that have hit the guardrail causing the city to make repairs. Councilor Freeman's question was, is it possible for the city to sue the insurance company of these drivers for the repair. Councilor Freeman also voiced her concerns regarding the Lawrence Utilities water billing. The concern is that people have not received their water bills. There is also the issue of the bills due date being changed without the residents' notice along with not being able to pay the bill in person. Councilor Wells mentioned he has been in conversation with INDOT regarding the medians on Pendleton Pike. These medians have really made it difficult for a few of the mobile home businesses on the street. Councilor Wells also asked a question of the administration regarding the issue with the bouncing of his check. He also stated the screenshot, of the city's account number, etc. was put in public last year and doesn't understand why it would affect the accounts now.

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS OR RESOLUTIONS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES REGULAR MEETING 1-9-2025

Councilor Jennings made a motion to approve the minutes. Councilor Freeman 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The roll call vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS 1-31-2025: Council Councilor Jennings moved to approve vouchers and claims. The motion was seconded by Councilor Giles. Payroll Claims for \$1,132,692.41 [January 31, 2025, payroll] and Invoices [for vendors] as presented today [for \$5,718,598.38]. Roll call was taken, (8) ayes, Councilors Giles, Chavis, Robinson, Cramer, Jennings, Freeman, Krone and Masur. (1) nay, Councilor Wells. Upon further review of the vouchers, the 8 councilors that approved the claims did not sign them due to the fact the almost \$7,000,000.00 payroll and vendors payments (\$6,851,290.79) was too high.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES: Councilor Freeman announced to the full council that the Public Safety Committee met earlier in the day and voted on a favorable recommendation for Proposal No. 1, 2025.

Councilor Chavis also announced to the full council that the Administration, Budget and Finance Committee met earlier in day and discussion began on the December monthly and the 2024-year end budget. The discussion was tabled until the next mid-month Administration, Budget and Finance Committee meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: January 15, 2025 - Signing of Vouchers, Approval of Claims and Authorization of Payment. This is a request from the administration of the councilors to sign the claim vouchers dated January 15, 2025. Councilor Chavis moved a motion to table this request until the next meeting due to the councilors not receiving the updated coversheet for the January 15, 2025 claims. Councilor Jennings 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Proposal No. 1, 2025 - An Ordinance Of The Common Council Of The City Of Lawrence, Indiana Amending Ordinance No. 10, 2024, An Ordinance Fixing Salaries Of Appointed Officers And Employees Of The Police Department And The Fire Department For The Year 2025. Proposal was read in the record. Councilor Chavis asked if the council's legal team reviewed the updated proposal to be sure what needed to be addressed was. It was confirmed the team did review the proposal. Councilor Wells asked if the approval of this proposal would give raises. LeAndre Level explained it would not, and the updates were already budgeted in the 2025 budget. Councilor Robinson moved a motion to approve this proposal. Councilor Jennings 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS: Controller's Office request for the Lawrence Common Council to void outstanding checks issued before 12/31/2022. LeAndre Level explained there is an internal policy along with SBOA and state statute that requires this process to take place that went into effective June of 2017. This process is for the councilors to void all outstanding checks. Councilor Giles asked for more clarity on the process and why. Humphrey Nagila, the city's controller, explained the state does not give clarification how to proceed once checks are voided. He also explained, once the checks become 2 years old, they need to be removed

from the system. Councilor Giles asked the question; would those checks go to the state's unclaimed money. Councilor Chavis mentioned at least one or maybe more on the list of checks requested to be voided are to banks and to Marion County Superior Court. She stated these 2 alone are worth a phone call being made. She also followed up with the questions, if there are any exclusions to the policy and if there is a mechanism to put them in suspense. President Cramer announced he will be referring this process to the Administration, Budget and Finance Committee for further discussion.

Proposal No. 2, 2025 - An Ordinance Of Th2e Common Council Of The City Of Lawrence, Indiana Amending Title 1, Article 1, Chapter 2, Section 12 Of The Municipal Code Regarding Common Council Approval On Expenditures Of Professional Service Contracts. This proposal was read in the record. President Cramer announced he will be referring this proposal to the Committee of the Whole for further discussion.

COMMENTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION: Police Chief Curtis Bigsbee read a statement that was released to the media regarding the recent incident with a Lawrence Police Officer at the Walmart located on Pendleton Pike. After the statement was read Councilor Giles asked the Chief if the officers involved were on administrative leave. (Please see attached statement)

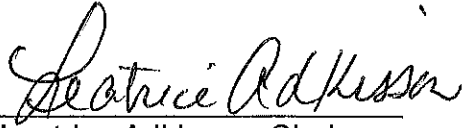
COMMENTS FROM THE CITIZENS: Charles C. Knapp Jr., 5728 Wallingwood Drive, Lawrence, IN 46226-1341. Mr. Knapp addressed to the council his concerns, along with his neighbors, about a phone tower being proposed to be put up in their neighborhood. Mr. Knapp also provided the council with a letter written by a local realtor, Mary Mueller. (Please see the attached letter).

Daniel Rapp, 5718 Wallingwood Drive, Lawrence, IN. Mr. Rapp had a comment regarding Proposal No. 1, 2025. He stated he had 2 concerns with the proposal. His concerns are the proposal states a change in wages for a few police officers. He's also concerned if these extra wages were included in the 2025 budget and if the increase will be retroactive.

ADJOURNMENT: Councilor Cramer called for adjournment. There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 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.

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