

**CITY OF LAWRENCE**  
**Common Council**  
**April 7, 2025**  
**Regular Meeting**

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

MEMBERS BY MICROSOFT TEAMS: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO, BY MICROSOFT TEAMS: None.

ALSO PRESENT: Clerk Adkisson and Scott Krapf (Frost Brown Todd)

STAFF PRESENT: Jami Weinrich, Humphrey Nagila, LeAndre Level and Jim Perron

STAFF BY MICROSOFT TEAMS: Mayor Whitfield and Shawn Fugate.

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

The pledge of allegiance was administered, followed by a moment of silence.

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 that a constituent, Mrs. Miller, contacted her regarding a US flag that is ripped and worn at the Lawton Loop section. This area is owned by the Veterans, and the flag needs to be replaced. The flags in that area are typically 5x8 feet in size, along with an Indiana flag. Additionally, the flag rope was supposed to be fixed. Councilor Freeman asked if anyone could donate flags as the city is not responsible for this section. She emphasized that the area is managed by the Disabled Veterans or Veterans group, and they are seeking help with maintaining the flags. No immediate action was decided, but a call for volunteer help and flag donations was issued. Councilor Freeman also raised concerns about parking issues in Watson Farms, particularly during school drop-offs. On certain days, as many as 30 to 50 cars are double-parked, blocking driveways and mailboxes. Residents are facing difficulty accessing their driveways, and emergency services, like ambulances, could also have trouble reaching the area. One resident, who is pregnant, expressed concern about whether an ambulance could reach her in case of an emergency. Councilor Freeman stated she spoke with the Deputy Chief regarding the situation. The Deputy Chief visited the area and reported that the issue was less severe on the day of his visit. Further checks and actions are being considered. The Deputy Chief is investigating the matter further. The issue is ongoing, and residents are encouraged to report any instances.

Councilor Wells welcomed Chamber President Brad, who was present in the audience. He mentioned that he had compiled information from the Department of Public Works (DPW) and a prior conversation with Brad regarding food vendors and mobile food vendors. The DPW has put together some ideas regarding the permitting of food vendors. The main concern is ensuring that these vendors have proper health certifications, as many of them currently do not. Councilor Wells suggested that he, Leandre, and Brad meet to discuss these ideas further and develop a more concrete plan to present to the council. Councilor Wells noted that some local restaurant owners have expressed dissatisfaction with mobile food vendors operating nearby, viewing them as competition. Councilor Wells requested that the group meet after the meet to compile thoughts, finalize the information, and create a proposal to present to the council to move this issue forward.

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS OR RESOLUTIONS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES REGULAR MEETING 3-19-2025

Councilor Freeman made a motion to approve the minutes. Councilor Krone 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS 4-7-2025: Councilor Masur moved to approve vouchers and claims. The motion was seconded by Councilor Freeman. Payroll Claims for \$1,157,408.41 [February 28, 2025 payroll]. Payroll Claims for \$1,143,562.37 [March 15, 2025 payroll] and Invoices [for vendors] as presented today [for \$2,137,112.96]. Roll call for a vote was taken, (7) ayes Councilors Giles, Chavis, Robinson, Cramer, Freeman, Krone, and Masur. (1) nay Councilor Wells, Motion carried 7 – 1.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Resolution No. 2, 2025 - A Resolution Of The Common Council Of The City Of Lawrence, Indiana Opposing Any Tax Policy That Negatively Impacts Local Units Of Government Without A Corresponding Replacement Revenue Stream Implemented By The State Of Indiana. This resolution was read in the record by Clerk Adkisson. President Cramer asked for a motion. Councilor Chavis moved a motion to adopt the resolution. Councilor Krone 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

TIF Management Report – 2024 Presentation given by Andy Mouser, of Baker Tilly.  
(Presentation is attached)

Andy Mouser from Baker Tilly presented the TIF (Tax Increment Financing) Management Report for 2024. This report is prepared annually on behalf of the Redevelopment Commission and has to be submitted to the Department of Local Government Finance's Gateway website. A new requirement was introduced last year, requiring the report to also be presented to the city council.

The report includes information on spending by the Redevelopment Commission during the previous year (January-December 2024). The Redevelopment Commission also adopted a spending plan for 2025, which controls any future spending. The report covers the mechanics of TIFF areas, allowable uses of TIFF funds, and a summary of the city's TIFF allocation areas. Details were shared about the three TIFF allocation areas: Pendleton Pike, Monarch, and Meyer Plastics. The expiration dates for these areas are 2038 for Pendleton Pike, 2039 for Monarch, and 2043 for Meer Plastics. Financials were presented, showing revenues and expenditures for each TIFF area. It was noted that Pendleton Pike and Meer Plastics generate a surplus, while Monarch does not currently cover debt service due to the vacancy of the facility. The Redevelopment Commission's major expenditures were categorized, with most funds allocated for debt service payments. Existing fund balances were also reported, showing the balances for each TIFF area and associated bond-related funds. Information about outstanding debt obligations for each area was also included. Council members asked clarifying questions regarding the Monarch TIFF and its expiration. It was confirmed that the Monarch TIFF has not expired and will be in 2033. The report will be uploaded to the Gateway website before the deadline next week.

**COMMENTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION:** Deputy Chief of Staff LeAndre Level provided updates on various matters from the administration. Mr. Level address the traffic concerns raised earlier by Councilwoman Freeman. He stating the administration is in communication with the school district concerning the spillover traffic from Forest Glenn and Fall Creek Valley Middle School. The Lawrence Police and Code Enforcement are aware of the issue. An ordinance outlining no parking in the area is being enforced, and the school district is being made aware of the situation. It is expected that the traffic issues will decrease as the school year winds down in the next month. The Administration will continue to work with the school district to address the traffic concerns in the affected area.

Mr. Level addressed the concerns brought to the council regarding food trucks. He stated the administration has emphasized the importance of supporting both food trucks and local brick-and-mortar businesses. Further discussions with the City Council are necessary to determine the best approach. Mr. Level also gave the council a reminder of the upcoming events in Lawrence.

- **Spring Fling:** April 19th in partnership with the YMCA. Registration is available online for children aged toddlers to 10 years old.
- **Cleanup Day:** A city-wide cleanup will take place, encouraging neighborhoods and homeowners' associations to participate. Volunteers can join at Lawrence Community Park from 7:30 AM to noon.
- **State of the City Address:** The address will be held at the Government Center on April 23rd, followed by an inaugural Health and Wellness Fair on April 27th from 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM. The fair will feature mobile clinics and health resources. The goal is to address health disparities within the city, particularly between different neighborhoods.

Citizens Comments: Daniel Rapp, 5718 Wallingwood Drive, Lawrence, IN. Mr. Rapp raised concerns about procedural violations regarding the posting of the meeting agenda and resolution number two. He stated that the agenda was not published online in a timely manner, which may have prevented citizens from accessing it before the meeting.


The council's legal counsel, Scott Krapf, (Frost Brown Todd) addressed the issue, clarifying that the 48-hour requirement applies to meeting notices, not the agenda itself, and that agendas can be revised up to the time of the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: Councilor Cramer called for adjournment. There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:33. p.m., by President Cramer.



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Zach Cramer, President



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Leatrice Adkisson, Clerk

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