

CITY OF LAWRENCE
Common Council
January 4, 2021
Regular Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lisa Chavis

MEMBERS BY ZOOM: Tom Shevlot, Sherron Freeman, William Tyrrell Giles, Lauren Russel, Maria Rusomaroff, Deborah Whitfield, Rick Wells and Shawn Denney

ALSO BY ZOOM: Attorney Kristina Wheeler (Bose McKinney & Evans LLP)

ALSO PRESENT: Clerk Kathleen Walton

STAFF PRESENT: None

STAFF BY ZOOM: CFO/Deputy Mayor Fenwick

Council President Lisa Chavis called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and announced a quorum was present.

The election of President of the Lawrence Common Council was opened for nominations. Councilor Chavis asked Clerk Walton to oversee the elections of the new Council President and Vice President. Councilor Whitfield nominated Lisa Chavis. Clerk Walton announced that, there being no further nominations, nominations were closed. By a roll call vote, Nine votes were cast, 9 votes for Lisa Chavis. Clerk Walton announced that Lisa Chavis was elected President of the Common Council.

The election of Vice President of the Lawrence Common Council was opened for nominations. Councilor Russel nominated Tom Shevlot. Clerk Walton announced that, there being no further nominations, nominations were closed. By a roll call vote, Nine votes were cast, 8 votes for Tom Shevlot and 1 no vote by Councilor Wells. Clerk Walton announced that Tom Shevlot was elected Vice President of the Common Council.

At the conclusion of the votes for Council President and Vice President, Councilor Chavis resumed her presidential duties.

COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Councilor Freeman moved to approve the minutes of the regular meetings on December 7, 2020 and December 16, 2020. Councilor Rusomaroff seconded the motion. By a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS 1-4-21: Councilor Freeman moved to approve Payroll Claims for \$994,437.22 [December 15, 2020 payroll] and Invoices [for vendors] as presented today [for \$588,621.00]. Councilor Russel seconded the motion. By a roll call vote, the motion to approve the vouchers carried unanimously.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Resolution No. 10, 2020, to adopt fiscal policy for discretionary funds of the Common Council, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Chavis said Resolution No. 10, 2020 remains in the Administration, Budget and Finance Committee.

NEW BUSINESS: Councilor Chavis said nominations for members of the Redevelopment Commission were open for consideration. Councilor Giles nominated Cheryl Sullivan. Councilor Freeman nominated Melissa Swindell. Councilor Chavis announced that, there being no further nominations, nominations were closed. By a roll call vote, Eighteen votes were cast, 9 votes for Cheryl Sullivan and 9 votes for Melissa Swindell. Clerk Walton announced that Cheryl Sullivan and Melissa Swindell were elected to the Redevelopment Commission.

Councilor Chavis said nominations for members of the Fort Harrison Reuse Authority were open for consideration. Councilor Freeman nominated Russell Brown. Councilor Giles nominated Karen Horth Powers. Councilor Chavis announced that, there being no further nominations, nominations were closed. By a roll call vote, Eighteen votes were cast, 9 votes for Russell Brown and 9 votes for Karen Horth Powers. Clerk Walton announced that Russell Brown and Karen Horth Powers were elected to the Fort Harrison Reuse Authority.

Councilor Chavis said nominations for members of the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) were open for consideration. Councilor Whitfield nominated Steven Hall. Councilor Denney nominated Eugene West. Councilor Shevlot nominated Desmond Woods. Councilor Chavis announced that, there being no further nominations, nominations were closed. By a roll call vote, Twenty-seven votes were cast, 9 votes for Steven Hall, 9 votes for Desmond Woods, and 9 votes for Eugene West. Clerk Walton announced that Steven Hall, Eugene West and Desmond Woods were elected to the BZA.

Councilor Chavis said nominations for a member of the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) as an alternate were open for consideration. Councilor Whitfield nominated Amber Denney. Councilor Chavis announced that, there being no further nominations, nominations were closed. By a roll call vote, Nine votes were cast, 9 votes for Amber Denney. Clerk Walton announced that Amber Denney was elected as the alternate to the BZA.

ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS: In his comments, CFO/Deputy Mayor Fenwick said:

- Expressed the hope that the year 2021 will prove to be less challenging than 2020.
- The city's Winterfest celebration proved to be a pleasant surprise, far exceeding expectations.
- There was a large turnout during the entire festival. The success was so great that hours at the skating rink were extended an additional week into the past weekend. Lessons learned from the event will make for an even better experience this year of 2021.
- Fox 59 television has added the Civic Plaza to their weather "rotation". Cameras are to be set up at 59th Street and Lee Road highlighting the crosswalks. Additional cameras are to be placed at the entrance to the State Park.

Councilor Whitfield asked about what plans are in the works for February's Black History month. To obtain an answer Councilor Chavis asked CFO/Deputy Mayor Fenwick for an email update on Black History month plans and those plans for any other upcoming events.

Common Council
January 4, 2021
Page 3

CITIZENS COMMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m., by the unanimous vote of the Council.

Lisa Chavis, President

Kathleen A. Walton, Clerk

These minutes are not intended to be verbatim. They are a summary of discussions held, with the exception of the motions. An audiotape is made which provides a detailed record.