

**Common Council
City of Lawrence
February 19, 2020
Regular Meeting**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Council Members Lisa Chavis, William Tyrrell Giles, Sherron Freeman, Rick Wells, Shawn Denney, Maria Rusomaroff, Lauren Russel and Deborah Whitfield were present

ALSO PRESENT: Clerk Kathleen Walton

STAFF PRESENT: Controller/Deputy Mayor Fenwick and Police Chief Hofmann were present.

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

COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: Councilor Freeman reported that she had asked whether the installation of a street light at the corner of Pendleton Pike and Sunnyside Road would improve safety at that location. In response to her question, DPW reported that crashes at that location occur primarily in the daylight. Furthermore, the intersection is so large that a street light would do no good. She also expressed uncertainty about whether property owners are aware that they must keep branches clear of sidewalks back to a distance of 10 feet. She concluded by asking for a report about what the City of Lawrence is doing to control violence. In response, Councilor Chavis informed the Council that Councilor Whitfield and the Public Safety Committee would be looking into that issue. Councilor Whitfield reminded everyone that the annual City of Lawrence Black History Month Celebration will be held at 6pm on Thursday, February 27, 2020 at the Sterrett Center. Doors will open at 5:30pm. Councilor Denney acknowledged the Lawrence Township School District for promoting excellence in general. For instance, the district is currently hosting a College Fair at Lawrence Central High School with an emphasis on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU). Councilor Wells repeated his request for information about the status of the crime watch program. He seeks clarification because of the promotion of the crime watch director. He went on to again express concern about the conditions of the roads, detours, and sewer projects within his district. He specifically noted the increased traffic caused by the Franklin Road bypass into the Samuel Records addition and the fact that the roads are deteriorating because of the extra traffic. He acknowledged that he understands that the entire project will be completed by the end of August. After he concluded his comments, Councilor Chavis reported that Elia James has been attending crime watch meetings in her present role.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS: Councilor Rusomaroff moved to approve Payroll Claims for \$948,618.15 [January 15, 2020} payroll] and Invoices [for vendors] as presented today [for \$1,016,732.97]. The motion was seconded by Councilor Denney. By a show of hands, the motion to approve the vouchers carried by a unanimous vote of the Council.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

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ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned, at 6:38 p.m., by the unanimous vote of the Council.

Lisa Chavis, President

Kathleen A. Walton, Clerk