CITY OF LAWRENCE

 **Common Council**

# August 6, 2018

**Regular Meeting**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Council Members Lisa Chavis, Joe Williams, Sherron Freeman, William Tyrrell Giles, Tom Shevlot, Elizabeth Wheeler, Bob Jones, Rick Wells, and Becky Parker and were present.

ALSO PRESENT: Clerk Kathleen Walton and Attorney Kristina Wheeler (Bose McKinney & Evans LLP)

STAFF PRESENT: Mayor Collier, Controller/Deputy Mayor Fenwick, Corporation Counsel Johnson, Police Chief Hofmann, Deputy Police Chief Bigsbee, Fire Chief Batalis, Public Information Officer Griffin and Director of Crime Prevention Sokol were present.

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

There was a Blue Star Banner presentation

COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: Councilor Freeman reported that she had submitted a request to Marion County DPW for the installation of a left-hand turn signal at the intersection of 56th Street and Harrison Park Drive. She asked that the City of Lawrence track the status of her request. She went on to thank Utility Superintendent, Scott Salsbery and Director of Public Works and Code Enforcement Bill Anthony, for sending a letter to Mr. Horne, a home owner, in the Kensington Farms Villas. The letter explained why excluded properties are not the responsibility of the City of Lawrence to maintain streets. It is an HOA responsibility. She discussed the condition of the interior section of the pipe at Indian Lake. She reported that no structural issues were discovered. Councilor Jones offered “kudos” to Mary Jo Rothenbush for her management of the Blue Star Banner Program. He also said that he had contacted Park Superintendent Eric Martin and thanked him for his quick work on a concern. He once again requested the names of the City’s 3 code enforcement officers. He expressed concern about high grass levels and litter near the Steak N Shake on Pendleton Pike and in other areas. He feels the system for code enforcement is not working for high grass and litter problems. Councilor Wells noted that, at the last meeting, he inquired about the cost of billboards funded by the City but had not received a response. He went on to discuss an email sent to him by a citizen stating that there should be no political booth and no political activity at the upcoming Safety Day event. Mayor Collier assured everyone that there would be no political booths at the Safety Day events. Councilor Giles said that he believes that the State of Indiana has the lowest voter turnout for both parties of any state. He believes as a general principal that community events should encourage voter registration and encourages the City of Lawrence to be civically involved. Councilor Williams noted what he sees as an increase in crime in the City and that he understood the concerns of both Councilors who spoke about the importance of Safety Day. He thanked the Mayor for ensuring that the event will be nonpolitical. He then repeated his concerns about various projects in his district. Councilor Chavis intervened and asked the Administration to address Councilor William’s concerns. In response, Mayor Collier said that he had sent an email to Councilors Chavis and Wheeler with the following information:

* The bridge on German Church Road is the responsibility of the City of Indianapolis, which is responsible for maintaining it and, if necessary, to reconstruct it.

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* As for the drainage issue at 56th Street and Carroll Road, a meeting at the site determined that the blockages must be removed immediately. McCordsville will widen the ditch as part of its soil conservation program.
* In response to Councilor Jones, he identified the 3 code enforcement individuals from DPW (Bill Anthony, Tom Halfaker and John Kopetsky) as well as other code enforcement individuals from other departments.
* In cases of high grass, contact DPW who will then visit the site and take actions.

Councilor Williams thanked the Mayor for the information and then shared other issues:

* There is a ditch running thru Doug Smith’s property that has not been maintained and is affecting the flow of water into his district. In response, Mayor Collier said that the City is unable to get onto private property to take action.
* The need remains for a walking path near 56th Street and German Church Road. He suggested the need for a voice in Indianapolis to advocate for this walking path.
* Councilor Williams has met with DPW to share his concerns about safety conditions in his district.
* Councilor Chavis then recognized the presence of Mo McReynolds who is the Indianapolis Mayor’s Neighborhood Advocate.
* Councilor Williams next reviewed the situation at 6262 White Rabbit Lane and 12437 Rose Haven Drive for damage to sidewalks. In response, the Mayor identified Jim Heneghan as the one to contact for assistance.
* Councilor Williams then raised new concerns: rash of vandalism in the Winding Ridge area; responding officers are not writing reports on such incidents, thought it only takes a few minutes to write such a report; the need for LED lighting to replace the existing illumination; the need for someone to contact Republic about trucks leaving subdivisions in his district that scatter litter and debris off the back of the truck; and the need for additional patrols to address speeders on 52nd Street.

Councilor Shevlot expressed appreciation for the cleanup centered on the 79th Street bridge crossing Fall Creek. He went on to note the effort put into various projects throughout the City.

Councilor Chavis echoed those comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Councilor Parker moved to approve the minutes of the regular meetings on July 2, 2018 and July 18, 2018. The motion was seconded by Councilor Freeman and carried by a unanimous vote of the Council.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS: Councilor Wheeler moved to approve Payroll Claims for $867,341.96 [July 15, 2018 payroll], Payroll Claims for $837,677.32 [July 31, 2018 payroll] and Invoices [for vendors] as presented today [for $3,700,903.57]. The motion was seconded by Councilor Parker. Following discussion, by a show of hands, the motion to approve the vouchers carried by a unanimous vote of the Council.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES: Councilor Wheeler informed the Council that a Zoning Committee meeting was held tonight at 5:15 p.m. to consider Petition No. 2018-ZON-076, 8932 East 42nd Street. Councilor Wheeler moved on behalf of the Zoning Committee, that the Council hear Petition No. 2018-ZON-076 at a Special Council meeting on September 4, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. Councilor Jones seconded the motion. By a show of hands, the vote carried by the unanimous

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vote of the Council. Councilor Williams said the Code Committee met and discussed Proposal No. 4, 2018 and Proposal No. 6 2018 and recommended a do pass with amendments.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Proposal No. 4, 2018, amending the Municipal Code of the City of Lawrence, Indiana to adopt a new chapter of Title 3, Article 3 to establish standards for the elimination of graffiti, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Jones moved to accept Proposal No. 4, 2018 in place of the original proposal. The motion to amend Proposal No. 4, 2018 was seconded by Councilor Williams and carried by a unanimous vote of the Council. Councilor Wheeler moved to adopt amended Proposal No. 4, 2018. The motion was seconded by Councilor Jones and carried by a unanimous vote of the Council.

Proposal No. 6, 2018, amending the Municipal Code of the City of Lawrence, Indiana regarding litter on private property, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Wheeler moved to accept Proposal No. 6, 2018 in place of the original proposal. The motion to amend Proposal No. 6, 2018 was seconded by Councilor Williams and carried by a unanimous vote of the Council. Councilor Wheeler moved to adopt amended Proposal No. 6, 2018. The motion was seconded by Councilor Giles and carried by a unanimous vote of the Council.

NEW BUSINESS: Resolution No. 6, 2018, concerning the joint application of the City of Lawrence and Arts for Lawrence for the Lilly Endowment strengthening Indianapolis through arts and cultural innovation grant, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Following discussion, Councilor Parker moved to adopt Resolution No. 6, 2018. The motion was seconded by Councilor Freeman and carried by the following vote of the Council: Eight (8) aye votes and one (1) nay vote (Councilor Wells).

Proposal No. 7, 2018, amending the Municipal Code of the City of Lawrence, Indiana, to adopt a

new Chapter of Title 3, Article 3 to establish standards for private event security and fines for public nuisances, was introduced and read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Chavis assigned Proposal No. 7, 2018 to the Code Committee.

Proposal No. 8, 2018, amending the Municipal Code of the City of Lawrence, Indiana, to reduce

the speed limits in the Wynfield Heights subdivision, was introduced and read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Chavis assigned Proposal No. 8, 2018 to the Code Committee.

Proposal No. 9, 2018, amending the Municipal Code of the City of Lawrence, Indiana, to adopt a new Chapter 11 of Article 2 of Title 4 to establish a landlord registration program, was introduced and read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Chavis assigned Proposal No. 9, 2018 to the Code Committee.

Proposal No. 10, 2018, amending the Municipal Code of the City of Lawrence, Indiana, Chapter 2 of Article 1 of Title 3 regarding retirement honor and recognition for members of the City of Lawrence Police Department Reserve Division, was introduced and read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Chavis assigned Proposal No. 10, 2018 to the Code Committee.

Proposal No. 11, 2018, amending the 2018 budget as approved by the Common Council with respect to the General Fund, was introduced and read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Chavis assigned Proposal No. 11, 2018 to the Administration, Budget and Finance Committee.

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ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS: Mayor Collier addressed the Council and discussed:

* He presented the 2018 GFOA Distinguished Budget Preparation Award for 2017-2018 fiscal year to Controller/Deputy Mayor Fenwick and Public Information Officer Griffin. The City of Lawrence was one of only 3 Indiana municipalities to receive this national award.
* On Monday, July 30, 2018 eight new police officers were sworn in.
* The Farmers Market is having record attendance and sales.
* Today was the first day of demolition for the area for the police headquarters.

CITIZENS COMMENTS: The following citizens addressed the Council:

* Linda Moore, 4909 Leone Drive
* Sue Reed, 4769 Vernon Avenue
* Joellen Reircharet, 10847 Tanbark

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m., by the unanimous vote of the Council.

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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.