CITY OF LAWRENCE

 **Common Council**

# September 4, 2018

**Regular Meeting**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Council Members Lisa Chavis, Joe Williams, Sherron Freeman, William Tyrrell Giles, Tom Shevlot, 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, Fire Chief Batalis, Utility Superintendent Salsbery, Park Superintendent Martin, Director of Public Works and Code Enforcement Anthony and Streets Director Heneghan 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 she had received an email from a constituent saying they were tasting chlorine in their water. She forwarded the email to Utility Superintendent Salsbery. She went on to report lots of weeds and high grass at the following vacant commercial properties: 11060 Pendleton Pike, 11134 Pendleton Pike and 11135 Pendleton Pike. She believes action should be taken to correct those conditions. Councilor Parker requested further information from Police Chief Hofmann about the email concerning the clean up around the City with the assistance of the Department of Corrections. Specifically, she is wondering if the cleanup has been completed. Councilor Williams began by echoing Councilor Freeman’s comments and extended them to the property next to the Steak and Shake restaurant near the corner of Sunnyside Road and Pendleton Pike. He pointed out that this area is littered with all kinds of debris that require attention. He went on to say that he had been contacted by business owners who are not happy with services provided by the City of Lawrence. He has forwarded those complaints to the City legal office. Councilor Jones repeated the comments made by Councilors Freeman and Williams with the specific focus on the property near the Steak and Shake restaurant. He reminded everyone that he had been talking about the issue of code enforcement the past 3 months. He thanked the administration and recognized their efforts in staging the recent National Night Out. He thought it was a great opportunity to meet with members of the community. He went on to say that the Public Safety Day reflected the professionalism of LPD and LFD and how well they work together. Councilor Shevlot expressed appreciation for DPW handling a drainage issue in his neighborhood. Councilor Wells also raised specific examples of properties in District 2 that are neglected by their owners. One of his constituents in the audience had handed out photographs of those properties that showed tall grass, and roofs needing replacement. He asked that DPW conduct a follow up and address the issues reflected in the photographs. He went on to announce that District 2 is setting up a crime watch group. He expressed hope that code enforcement officers attend the meetings.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Councilor Parker moved to approve the minutes of the regular meetings on August 6, 2018 and August 15, 2018. The motion was seconded by Councilor Freeman and carried by a unanimous vote of the Council.

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APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS: Councilor Shevlot moved to approve Payroll Claims for $919,283.94 [August 15, 2018 payroll] and Invoices [for vendors] as presented today [for $1,221,260.47]. The motion was seconded by Councilor Freeman. Prior to the vote, Councilor Williams announced that he was abstaining because he was unable to open the files that had been sent to him because of technical difficulties. Thus, he was unable to review the vouchers. By a show of hands, the motion to approve the vouchers carried by the following vote of the Council: Seven (7) aye votes and one (1) abstention (Councilor Williams).

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES: Councilor Williams said the Code Committee met and discussed Proposal No. 7, 2018, Proposal No. 8, 2018, Proposal No. 9, 2018 and Proposal No. 10, 2018. The Committee recommended a do pass for Proposal No. 10, 2018. The Committee recommended a do not pass for Proposal No. 9, 2018. Proposal No. 7, 2018 and Proposal No. 8, 2018 remain in the Code Committee for further review. Councilor Giles said the Administration, Budget and Finance Committee met and discussed Proposal No. 11, 2018. The committee recommended a do pass for Proposal No. 11, 2018.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: 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 read only by title by Clerk Walton. Proposal No. 7, 2018 remains in 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 read only by title by Clerk Walton. Proposal No. 8, 2018 was withdrawn by Councilor Wells.

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 read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Giles moved to adopt Proposal No. 9, 2018. The motion was seconded by Councilor Chavis. An extensive discussion followed among several of the Councilors. These included both the process of introducing the proposal and its content. Following discussion, by a roll call vote, the motion failed by three (3) aye votes (Councilors Chavis, Giles and Shevlot) and five (5) nay votes (Councilors Freeman, Jones, Parker, Wells and Williams).

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 read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Parker moved to adopt Proposal No. 10, 2018. The motion was seconded by Councilor Williams and carried by a unanimous vote of the Council.

Proposal No. 11, 2018, amending the 2018 budget as approved by the Common Council with respect to the General Fund, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Shevlot moved to adopt Proposal No. 11, 2018. The motion was seconded by Councilor Jones. A discussion followed. During that discussion, Councilor Chavis encouraged all members of the Council to treat each other with respect. At the end of that discussion, the vote to adopt Proposal No. 11, 2018 carried with six (6) aye votes and two (2) nay votes (Councilors Wells and Williams).

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NEW BUSINESS: Proposal No. 12, 2018, amending the Municipal Code of the City of Lawrence, Indiana regarding discipline and promotions, was introduced and read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Chavis assigned Proposal No. 12, 2018 to the Code Committee.

Proposal No. 13, 2018, establishing an advance curfew for minors in the City of Lawrence, was introduced and read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Chavis assigned Proposal No. 12, 2018 to the Code Committee.

Proposal No. 14, 2018, fixing salaries of appointed officers and employees of the Police Department and the Fire Department for the year 2019, was introduced and read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Chavis assigned Proposal No. 14, 2018 to the Administration, Budget and Finance Committee.

Proposal No. 15, 2018, fixing salaries of appointed officers and employees of the City of Lawrence, Indiana for the year 2019, was introduced and read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Chavis assigned Proposal No. 15, 2018 to the Administration, Budget and Finance Committee.

Proposal No. 16, 2018, transferring unused and unencumbered tax levy funds to the General Fund, was introduced and read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Chavis assigned Proposal No. 16, 2018 to the Administration, Budget and Finance Committee.

Proposal No. 17, 2018, amending the Municipal Code of the City of Lawrence, Indiana regarding employee benefits and overtime, was introduced and read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Chavis assigned Proposal No. 17, 2018 to the Administration, Budget and Finance Committee.

Proposal No. 18, 2018, appropriations and tax rates for the 2019 budget year, was introduced and read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Chavis assigned Proposal No. 18, 2018 to the Administration, Budget and Finance Committee.

ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS: Mayor Collier expressed appreciation to Jim Heneghan and Paul Wanner for their successful efforts in responding to and correcting various concerns throughout the City. They have done exceptionally well in getting caught up with the work.

Controller Fenwick introduced the proposed 2019 budget by way of a video that highlighted the proposed 2019 budget. The Common Council was provided a 2019 proposed budget book and a citizen’s guide to the 2019 proposed budget. Controller Fenwick discussed the timeline for adopting the proposed 2019 budget. The public hearing for the 2019 budget will be on October 1, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

 CITIZENS COMMENTS: The following citizens addressed the Council:

* Linda Moore, 4909 Leone Drive
* Sue Reed, 4769 Vernon Avenue

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ADJOURNMENT: Prior to adjournment, Councilor Shevlot noted the passing of Deputy Controller Jason Streeter. He requested the meeting be adjourned in remembrance and appreciation for Deputy Controller Jason Streeter.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 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.