

CITY OF LAWRENCE
Common Council
June 1, 2026
Regular Meeting

MEMBERS' PRESENT: Councilors Carlos Jennings, Kristie Krone, Tracy Boyd, Zach Cramer, Rick Wells, Tyrrell Giles, Liz Masur, Sherron Freeman and Betty Robinson

MEMBERS BY MICROSOFT TEAMS: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO, BY MICROSOFT TEAMS: Mayor Whitfield

ALSO PRESENT: Clerk Adkisson; Caylin Cook and Zach Myers of McCarter & English, LLP

STAFF PRESENT: Jami Weirich and Renea Rafala

STAFF BY MICROSOFT TEAMS: Chief Curtis Bigsbee and Shawn Fugate

Council President Zach Cramer called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

Council members and attendees stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call was taken. Nine (9) council members were present. President Cramer recognized there was a quorum. A quorum was confirmed.

Present:

- Councilor Wells
- Councilor Freeman
- Councilor Robinson
- Councilor Jennings
- Councilor Krone
- Councilor Cramer
- Councilor Boyd
- Councilor Masur
- Councilor Giles

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 & SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS OR RESOLUTIONS:

Councilor Giles

Read a prepared statement regarding Proposal No. 3, 2025 concerning leave benefits for first responders. Key points included:

- Council unanimously approved the proposal at the previous meeting.
- The ordinance ensures firefighters and police officers receive leave benefits agreed upon in October 2024.
- Council supports efforts to improve recruitment, retention, and wellness of first responders.
- Concern was expressed regarding statements made by Controller Terry Faulkner on April 15, 2026, suggesting the ordinance could bankrupt the city.
- Council noted the administration had previously provided financial information supporting the changes and that the Mayor subsequently stated the city remained financially strong.

- Council intends to continue reviewing the city's fiscal condition and looks forward to administration cooperation.

Councilor Freeman

- Thanked the administration for organizing the recent Health Fair.
- Highlighted community resources and the CARE program referenced in utility bill communications.

Councilor Masur

- Recognized Taylor Stout for conducting the City's tree canopy study.
- Noted the importance of urban forestry for public health and economic development.

Councilor Boyd

- Echoed appreciation of the Health Fair.
- Noted participating vendors were hiring.
- Commended the administration's leadership and resolution of recent issues.

Councilor Jennings

- Supported Councilor Giles' remarks.
- Stated labor unions provided requested data regarding first responder benefits.
- Expressed concern that claims regarding financial hardship were not supported by documentation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF 05-20-2026

A motion was made by **Councilor Jennings** and seconded by **Councilor Boyd** to approve the minutes of the regular meeting minutes from May 20, 2026.

- Councilor Wells – Yay
- Councilor Freeman – Yay
- Councilor Robinson – Yay
- Councilor Jennings – Yay
- Councilor Krone – Yay
- Councilor Cramer – Yay
- Councilor Boyd – Yay
- Councilor Masur – Yay
- Councilor Giles – Yay

- **Result:** Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF PAY CLAIM VOUCHERS 06-01-2026:

Payroll Claims for [May 30, 2026] \$1,196,197.90 and payroll claims for [May 15, 2026] \$1,109,827.35. Invoices [for vendors] as presented today for \$2,168,745.32.

A motion was made by **Councilor Giles** and seconded by **Councilor Boyd** to approve pay claim vouchers.

- Councilor Wells – Yay
- Councilor Robinson – Yay
- Councilor Jennings – Yay
- Councilor Krone – Yay

- Councilor Cramer – Yay
 - Councilor Boyd – Yay
 - Councilor Freeman – Yay
 - Councilor Giles – Yay
 - Councilor Masur – Yay
- **Result:** Motion carried 8–1 (Approved).

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Proposal No. 1, 2026

Title: Ordinance amending the Municipal Code regarding Common Council approval of expenditures for professional service contracts.

The proposal remains before the Committee of the Whole and will return to Council at a later date.

NEW BUSINES:

Rezoning Petition 26-LZO-03

Property Address: 8530 Carroll Road

Public Hearing

The Council adopted hearing procedures. Motion made by Councilor Jennings and seconded by Councilor Krone. Motion passed unanimously.

Petitioner Presentation

The property owner requested rezoning from DA to D3 zoning classification to:

- Divide an approximately three-acre parcel into two residential lots.
- Align zoning with surrounding residential properties.
- Facilitate future residential sales and development.

The petitioner noted staff support had already been received from Indianapolis subject to rezoning approval.

Public Comment

- No speakers appeared in favor or opposition.
- No virtual comments were received.

Staff Report

Renae Rafala, Director of Public Works:

- Recommended approval.
- Confirmed surrounding properties are zoned D3.
- Explained the parcel would later require replatting through Indianapolis.
- Stated the proposed lot sizes would be approximately 1.1 and 1.2 acres.

Council discussion included questions regarding future platting and property tax implications.

COMMENTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION:

Jami Weirich – Director of City Events

Reported:

- Successful Health Fair attendance and participation.
- Approximately 400 attendees at the first Film at the Fort event.
- Farmers Market scheduled to begin Thursday and continue through October 1.
- Clarified procedures regarding the CARE response program.

Public Works Update

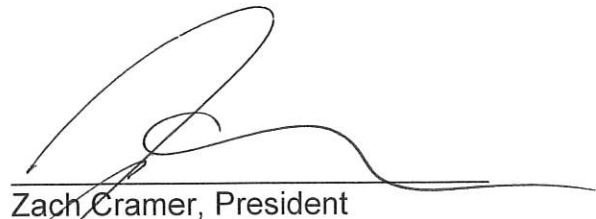
Council was advised:

- The 75th Street and Oaklandon Road intersection will close beginning June 8 and remain closed until approximately mid-August.
- Detour and traffic information has been publicly distributed.
- The completed project will maintain neighborhood access with revised traffic patterns.


CITIZEN COMMENTS:

No citizen comments were presented.

ADJOURNMENT: President Cramer called for adjournment. There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 6:43 p.m., by President Cramer.



Zach Cramer, President



Leatrice Adkisson, Clerk

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