

CITY OF LAWRENCE
Common Council
October 5, 2026
Regular Meeting

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

MEMBERS BY MICROSOFT TEAMS: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO, BY MICROSOFT TEAMS: Mayor Whitfield, and Brent Addington

ALSO PRESENT: Chief Bigsbee, Chief Wallace, Clerk Adkisson, Zach Myers and Kaylin Cook of McCarter & English, LLP

STAFF PRESENT: Jami Weirich, Terri Falker, Eric Martin, Greg Goodnight, Lisa Harvey, Janette Jackson, Jim Heneghan, Kyle Kovert, Shawna Derrickson, and Jim Perron.

STAFF BY MICROSOFT TEAMS: Amber Finley, and Shawn Fugate

President Zach Cramer called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Council members and attendees stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Council President announced that **Nine (9) council members were present**, establishing a quorum.

The meeting was declared properly noticed in accordance with the **Indiana Open Door Law**. Copies of the agenda and citizen comment sign-in sheets were made available at Six council members were present in person.

COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS & SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS OR RESOLUTIONS:

Councilor Carlos Jennings

Councilor Jennings reported receiving a constituent complaint concerning Comcast cable installation across a sidewalk, street curb, and easement. The cable had reportedly remained in place for approximately three months.

The councilor contacted Comcast and subsequently discussed the matter with the Department of Public Works (DPW). Renee Rock of DPW reported a similar situation in another neighborhood involving a cable installation extending into a manhole.

Following correspondence and requests from DPW, the issue was resolved. Councilor Jennings thanked DPW and Renea Rafala for their assistance and stated that city infrastructure should not be used in that manner.

Council Member Liz Masur

Councilor Liz Masur announced that she and her husband would be relocating to southeastern Ohio in November to be closer to family and employment opportunities. She stated that the Marion County Democratic caucus would need to select her replacement within 30 days.

Councilor Masur expressed appreciation for the opportunity to serve on the Lawrence City Council and represent the community. She expressed confidence in the administration and Council and identified several areas she hoped the city would continue to address, including:

- Improving safety and environmental conditions along Pendleton Pike.
- Addressing disparities in life expectancy within the community.
- Expanding the use of electric vehicles and equipment to reduce costs and environmental impacts.
- Addressing homelessness, including participation in the January 2027 Point-in-Time Count.
- Exploring innovative approaches to increasing affordable housing.
- Considering redevelopment opportunities involving the former Ivy Tech property.
- Working with MSD Lawrence Township to address hazardous conditions associated with school drop-off and pickup.
- Continuing to expand bicycle and pedestrian trails.
- Working with the City of Indianapolis regarding IndyGo service and neighborhood needs.
- Advancing the community garden at Richard Street Park.
- Increasing native plantings to assist with flooding concerns.
- Removing invasive Bradford/Callery pear trees in Crystal Pointe.
- Maintaining a focus on sustainability and balancing economic growth, environmental stewardship, and social well-being.

Council Member Masur concluded by encouraging the Council to remain open to new ideas and approaches rather than relying solely on the status quo.

The Council and members of the audience applauded her service.

Council Member Tyrrell Giles

Councilor Giles thanked Councilor Masur for her service and stated that she would be missed.

Council Member Giles also recognized the Lawrence Police Department and Chief Bigsbee for their response to a recent incident involving two children who were struck. He noted that, according to publicly reported information, the Lawrence Police Department worked in coordination with the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department and used camera technology to assist in apprehending a suspect.

Council Member Giles commended the police department for its work in protecting residents and children.

The Council and audience applauded.

She expressed concerns regarding individuals being left in the neighborhood, individuals found unconscious on private property or sidewalks, requests for money at residents' homes, emergency response activity, and buses traveling at high speeds through the neighborhood during late hours.

Ms. Sapp asked the City to work with neighborhood residents, IndyGo, and the Mayor's Office to identify and implement tangible solutions before conditions worsen.

Daniel Rapp — 5718 Wallingwood Drive

Daniel Rapp addressed the Council regarding government transparency.

Mr. Rapp raised two concerns:

1. He stated that the minutes from August **31, 2026, City Council meeting** had not been posted online even though they had reportedly been approved approximately one month earlier. He requested that the minutes be posted.
2. He questioned discrepancies he observed between the City's August financial statements and the approved 2026 budget. He cited general fund revenue and expenditure figures and questioned whether the approved budget was balanced.

Mr. Rapp also stated that he had been unable to locate the approved 2026 budget on the City's website. He requested clarification regarding the City's financial figures and how the City intended to address what he characterized as a deficit.

J.D. Masur – 6203 Carrington, 46236

J.D. Masur spoke in recognition of Council Member Liz Masur and her service to the city.

He noted that Liz Masur previously worked as a teacher and taught dual-credit courses that he said saved Lawrence family's substantial tuition expenses. He praised her efforts to bring a cost-conscious perspective to the Council and noted the City's purchase of an electric vehicle.

Mr. Masur encouraged the Council to continue considering cost-effective and environmentally responsible initiatives. He also encouraged Council members to remember two principles he attributed to Liz's father: **courage and kindness**.

He thanked Council Member Masur for her service.

The Council and audience applauded.

Chris Mitchell – 5825 Birtz Road, 46216

Chris Mitchell, a resident of Bert's Road who moved to the neighborhood in 2024, addressed concerns regarding the Purple Line and its impact on nearby residents.

Mr. Mitchell described an incident in which a woman who had gotten off the Purple Line approached his home on a cold night seeking shelter.

He stated that the experience highlighted the difficulties faced by individuals who are dropped off in the neighborhood late at night without an apparent place to go.

He described additional concerns involving nighttime disturbances and individuals moving through residential properties.

Mr. Mitchell stated that he and his wife operate Rock Steady Boxing and emphasized their desire to help people and provide solutions. He asked the city to have a broader conversation about how to address the gap between public transportation service and the needs of individuals who are left in the neighborhood.

Charles Turner — 5822 Wheeler Road, 46216

Charles Turner, who lives across from the Purple Line bus station, addressed concerns regarding community involvement in government decisions.

Mr. Turner stated that residents should be involved in decisions affecting their neighborhoods and expressed concern that residents did not have sufficient input when the Purple Line was established.

He also raised concerns regarding parks and green spaces, the future of the former Ivy Tech property, and traffic and pedestrian safety in the area.

Specific concerns included:

- Stop signs being obscured by overgrown trees.
- School buses and other vehicles travel at excessive speeds.
- Purple Line buses travel through the neighborhood.
- Insufficient or poorly positioned signage on Wheeler Road.
- The need for City officials to communicate directly with neighborhood residents regarding appropriate placement of signs and other safety measures.

Mr. Turner also expressed concern following the recent incident involving children being struck and urged the city to address neighborhood safety proactively.

Lisa Legan — 9110 Hawkins Road, 46216

Lisa Legan, a new resident of the Residences of Lawrence Village, reiterated concerns expressed by other residents regarding the Purple Line.

Ms. Legan questioned why the Purple Line was routed through the residential neighborhood rather than along its outskirts. She expressed concern about buses traveling through the neighborhood throughout the day and into late hours.

She also reported concerns regarding individuals entering yards, walking around homes, and sitting on residents' porches.

Ms. Legan requested that the city respond to residents' correspondence and give the matter priority.

Council Member Kristie Krone

Councilor Kristie Krone discussed a constituent's concern regarding a drainage issue in District 6. She stated that she visited the property to better understand the concern and discovered that Mr. Heneghan had also responded to the issue.

Council Member Krone thanked Mr. Heneghan for his prompt response and assistance.

No additional Council members requested to speak.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR FIRST OF MONTH MEETING OF 10-5-2026

A motion was made by **Councilor Freeman** and seconded by **Councilor Masur** to approve the minutes of the regular mid-month meeting, September 16, 2026.

Vote: Unanimously.

Vote: Approved 9-0.

- **Result:** Motion carried.

A motion was made by **Councilor Freeman** and seconded by **Councilor Jennings** to approve the minutes of the special meeting, August 31, 2026.

Vote: Unanimously.

Vote: Approved 8-0.

- **Result:** Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF PAY CLAIM VOUCHERS 10-5-2026:

Payroll Claims for [August 28, 2026] \$1,306,323.32 and payroll claims for [September 15, 2026] \$1,242,607.96. Invoices [for vendors] as presented today for \$2,611,928.92.

A motion was made by **Councilor Robinson** and seconded by **Councilor Jennings** to approve pay claim vouchers.

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

Result: Motion carried 8–1 (Approved).

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE:

A Finance Committee meeting was held earlier in the day. Council members discussed questions concerning the City's budget. The Deputy Controller and Controller were present and responded to questions from Council members.

No additional committee reports were presented.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

The Clerk read the title of Proposal No. 1, 2026:

An ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Lawrence, Indiana, amending Title 1, Article 1, Chapter 2, Section 12 of the Municipal Code regarding Common Council approval of expenditures of professional service contracts.

Proposal No. 1, 2026, remains before the **Committee of the Whole** for consideration and will be brought back before the full Council when appropriate.

The Clerk read the title of Proposal No. 3, 2026:

An Ordinance Of The Common Council Of The City Of Lawrence, Indiana Adopting A Code Of Ethics.

Proposal No. 3, 2026 also remains before the **Committee of the Whole** for consideration and will be brought back before the full Council when appropriate.

NEW BUSINESS: None

ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS: None

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

The President stated that citizens' comments would be limited to three minutes and requested that each speaker state their name and address for the record.

Dona Sapp — 9101 Rising Road, 46216

Dona Sapp, a resident of the Residences of Lawrence Village, addressed the Council regarding ongoing incidents and public safety concerns associated with the **IndyGo Purple Line bus stop and charging station on Wheeler Road.**

Ms. Sapp stated that residents had communicated concerns through neighborhood correspondence and had received limited responses from City officials and IndyGo. She acknowledged that issues involving addiction, mental illness, and homelessness are complex societal problems but stated that neighborhood residents are not equipped to provide crisis intervention.

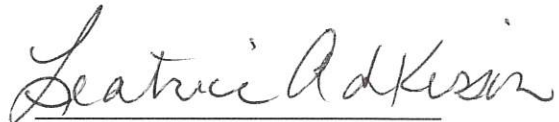
Jim Etherington — 5819 Buskirk Drive, 46216

Jim Heatherington, a retired Lawrence North teacher and current basketball coach, addressed concerns regarding the Purple Line area.

Mr. Heatherington described several incidents involving individuals near residences, including public urination, individuals on porches, and an encounter in which he was approached by a man while placing a child in a vehicle.

He expressed concern that a more serious incident could occur if current conditions continue. He recommended that the Lawrence Police Department have a presence near the final Purple Line run of the evening to ensure that the area is cleared and to help prevent a potentially serious incident.

ADJOURNMENT: President Cramer called for adjournment. There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:01 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.

1

2

3

4

5