CITY OF LAWRENCE

 **Common Council**

# January 2, 2018

**Regular Meeting**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Council Members Lisa Chavis, Elizabeth Wheeler, Joe Williams, Sherron Freeman, Tom Shevlot, Bob Jones, William Tyrrell Giles, 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, Captain Cantrell, Fire Chief Batalis and Park Superintendent Martin were present.

Councilor Williams asked everyone to participate in a moment of silence for George Keller, who recently passed away. He was a member of the Common Council for 8 consecutive terms and a total of 32 continuous years from January 1, 1972 to January 1, 2004.

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

The election of President of the Lawrence Common Council was opened for nominations. Councilor Williams nominated Lisa Chavis. Councilor Williams announced that, there being no further nominations, nominations were closed. Paper ballots were distributed for voting. The Clerk tallied the votes. Nine votes were cast, 9 votes for Lisa Chavis. The Clerk announced that Lisa Chavis was elected President of the Common Council.

At the conclusion of the vote, Councilor Williams offered to vacate the chair so that Councilor Chavis could assume her new position. Councilor Chavis responded by inviting Councilor Williams to remain in place and conduct the business of this meeting.

The election of Vice President of the Lawrence Common Council was opened for nominations.

Councilor Parker nominated Elizabeth Wheeler. Councilor Williams announced that, there being no further nominations, nominations were closed. Paper ballots were distributed for voting. The Clerk tallied the votes. Nine votes were cast, 9 votes for Elizabeth Wheeler. The Clerk announced that Elizabeth Wheeler was elected Vice President of the Common Council.

COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: Councilor Freeman asked if the Fort Harrison and Indian Lake well filled improvement project included the pipe to be replaced in the Indian Lake area and mentioned she hasn’t received feedback from her comments on December 20, 2017. Councilor Jones applauded the police officers who were involved in the incident on December 26, 2017. It was handled very professionally.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Councilor Freeman moved to approve the minutes of the regular meetings on December 4, 2017 and December 20, 2017. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wheeler and carried by a unanimous vote of the Council.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS: None

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REPORTS OF COMMITTEES: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Resolution No. 10, 2017, authorizing the City of Lawrence to proceed with the Lawrence police station and take all actions required by law, remains in the Committee of the Whole.

Resolution No. 11, 2017, honoring Carl Erlenbaugh for service to the community of Lawrence, Indiana upon his passing, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Giles moved to adopt Resolution No. 11, 2017. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wheeler and carried by a unanimous vote of the Council. Councilor Giles acknowledged the presence of several people in the audience in honor of Mr. Erlenbaugh. Mr. Erlenbaugh worked with the Lawrence United Methodist Church youth core group.

Proposal No. 24, 2017, amending the Municipal Code of the City of Lawrence, Indiana with respect to disability retiree stipend benefits, remains in the Administration, Budget and Finance Committee.

Proposal No. 25, 2017, amending the Municipal Code of the City of Lawrence, Indiana with respect to the City’s credit card policy, remains in the Administration, Budget and Finance Committee.

NEW BUSINESS: None

ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS: Mayor Collier addressed the Council. Among other things he discussed:

* Additional staffing at Fire Station #40
* He reported that the $50,000 originally put into the 2018 budget was removed to fund a feasibility study for an animal shelter.
* The City spent $50,000 on street lighting in 2017. That will double to $100,000 in 2018.
* He reviewed briefly economic development during 2017 and looked ahead to 2018 initiatives.
* He thanked Councilor Joe Williams for recognizing Mr. Keller who gave many years of service to the community.
* The Mayor reinforced the earlier comments by Councilor Jones concerning the police action shooting on December 26, 2017.

CITIZENS COMMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 6:47 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.