

CITY OF LAWRENCE
Common Council
January 3, 2022
Regular Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lisa Chavis, Shawn Denney, Tom Shevlot, Sherron Freeman, William Tyrrell Giles, Lauren Russel, Maria Rusomaroff, Deborah Whitfield, and Rick Wells

MEMBERS BY ZOOM: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO BY ZOOM: Attorney Kristina Wheeler (Bose McKinney & Evans LLP)

ALSO PRESENT: Clerk Kathleen Walton

STAFF PRESENT: Controller Douthit, Deputy Controller Nagila, Police Chief Hofmann, Deputy Chief of Staff Korn, and Park Superintendent Martin

STAFF BY ZOOM: None

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

The election of Vice President of the Lawrence Common Council was opened for nominations. Councilor Wells nominated Shawn Denney. Councilor Russel nominated Tom Shevlot. Councilor Chavis announced that, there being no further nominations, nominations were closed. Paper ballots were distributed for voting. Clerk Walton tallied the votes. Nine votes were cast, 7 votes for Shawn Denney (Councilors Chavis, Giles, Freeman, Denney, Wells, Rusomaroff, and Whitfield) and 2 votes for Tom Shevlot (Councilors Shevlot and Russel). Clerk Walton announced that Shawn Denney was elected Vice President of the Common Council.

COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: Councilor Freeman noted there had been a story in the media about the sheriff's department transportation of prisoners from excluded cities. She asked for an update on how that affects the City of Lawrence. Police Chief Hofmann provided background on the situation. He said that a lack of funding and staffing in the sheriff's department had resulted in a decision to end the transportation of prisoners from excluded cities. Police Chief Hofmann said that the law enforcement agencies within the excluded cities held a news conference and discussed the issue with the sheriff's department. As a result, the sheriff's department has agreed to continue to transport criminals based on outstanding warrants or one of approximately twenty-nine violent crimes. He reminded the council that the responsibility for resolving the situation rests with the Marion County Sheriff, the Mayor of Indianapolis, the City County Council, and the Indianapolis Controller. As a consequence of the situation, the following steps are in process:

- The LPD paddy wagon, now some 26 years old, is now refurbished and is parked inside at the police station.
- Officers will only arrest the most dangerous criminals; others will receive a summons to appear in court.
- The need for more police officers is greater than ever. The city continues to grow. All residents of the City, new and established, require the best-possible public safety protection.

In response, Councilor Whitfield thanked the Police Department for its support of the City of Lawrence.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Councilor Freeman moved to approve the minutes of the regular meetings on December 6, 2021, and December 15, 2021. Councilor Wells seconded the motion. By a show of hands, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS 1-3-22: Councilor Denney moved to approve Payroll Claims for \$1,113,788.46 [December 15, 2021, payroll], Payroll Claims for \$112,562.74 [December 17, 2021, payroll] and Invoices [for vendors] as presented today [for \$850,451.44]. Councilor Freeman seconded the motion. By a show of hands, the motion to approve the vouchers carried unanimously.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Proposal No. 10, 2021, amending the Lawrence Municipal Code regarding requirements for City towing providers, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Chavis said Proposal No. 10, 2021 remains in the Code Committee.

Councilor Chavis tabled the consideration of the council appointment to the Lawrence Plan Commission. It will be removed from unfinished business.

Resolution No. 20, 2021, providing funding to the INSPIRE Program, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Chavis said Resolution No. 20, 2021 remains in the Administration, Budget, and Finance Committee.

Resolution No. 21, 2021, providing funding to the “Laundry & More” Program, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Chavis said Resolution No. 21, 2021 remains in the Administration, Budget, and Finance Committee

Resolution No. 22, 2021, providing funding to the “Aktion Club” of the Kiwanis Club of Lawrence, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Chavis said Resolution No. 22, 2021 remains in the Administration, Budget, and Finance Committee.

Resolution No. 23, 2021, providing funding to the Arts for Lawrence, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Chavis said Resolution No. 23, 2021 remains in the Administration, Budget, and Finance Committee.

NEW BUSINESS: Councilor Chavis said nominations for members of the Redevelopment Commission were open for consideration. Councilor Giles nominated Cheryl Sullivan.

Councilor Freeman nominated Melissa Swindell. Councilor Chavis announced that, there being no further nominations, nominations were closed. Clerk Walton distributed paper ballots. Clerk Walton tallied the votes. Eighteen votes were cast, 9 votes for Cheryl Sullivan and 9 votes for Melissa Swindell. Clerk Walton announced that Cheryl Sullivan and Melissa Swindell were elected to the Redevelopment Commission.

Councilor Chavis said nominations for members of the Fort Harrison Reuse Authority were open for consideration. Councilor Rusomaroff nominated Russell Brown. Councilor Freeman nominated Karen Horth Powers. Councilor Chavis announced that, there being no further nominations, nominations were closed. Clerk Walton distributed paper ballots. Clerk Walton tallied the votes. Eighteen votes were cast, 9 votes for Russell Brown and 9 votes for Karen Horth Powers. Clerk Walton announced that Russell Brown and Karen Horth Powers were elected to the Fort Harrison Reuse Authority.

Councilor Chavis said nominations for members of the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) were open for consideration. Councilor Rusomaroff nominated James Masur and Faith Alvarez. Councilor Denney nominated Trace Yates. Councilor Shevlot nominated Desmond Woods. Councilor Chavis announced that, there being no further nominations, nominations were closed. Clerk Walton distributed paper ballots. Clerk Walton tallied the votes. Twenty-seven votes were cast, 9 votes for James Masur, 2 votes for Desmond Woods, 7 votes for Trace Yates, and 9 votes for Faith Alvarez. Clerk Walton announced that James Masur, Trace Yates, and Faith Alvarez were elected to the BZA.

Councilor Chavis said nominations for a member of the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) as an alternate were open for consideration. Councilor Denney nominated Chelle Carey. Councilor Russel nominated Desmond Woods. Councilor Chavis announced that, there being no further nominations, nominations were closed. Clerk Walton distributed paper ballots. Clerk Walton tallied the votes. Nine votes were cast, 7 votes for Chelle Carey and 2 votes for Desmond Woods. Clerk Walton announced that Chelle Carey was elected as the alternate to the BZA.

ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS: Controller Douthit introduced Deputy Controller Humphrey Nagila. Mr. Nagila will be appearing more often in front of the council because of Controller Douthit's class schedule. Moving forward, the goal will be to provide the vouchers at least 5 days in advance. Mr. Nagila will then be available at the meeting to answer questions. Additionally, a second goal is to provide quarterly financial updates.

CITIZENS COMMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:03 p.m., by the unanimous vote of the Council.

Lisa Chavis, President

Kathleen A. Walton, Clerk

These minutes are not intended to be verbatim. They are a summary of discussions held, except for the motions. An audiotape is made which provides a detailed record.