Common Council

**City of Lawrence**

**January 16, 2019**

**Regular Meeting**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Council Members Lisa Chavis, Tom Shevlot, William Tyrrell Giles, Bob Jones, Becky Parker and Rick Wells were present

ALSO PRESENT: Clerk Kathleen Walton and Attorney Kristina Wheeler (Bose McKinney & Evans LLP)

STAFF PRESENT: Controller/Deputy Mayor Fenwick, Corporation Counsel Johnson, Police Chief Hofmann, Fire Chief Batalis and Battalion Chief Griffin 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 Giles expressed appreciation to DPW, Street Department, Park Department and the Utility employees for snow removal. Councilor Wells requested an update on the Cultural Campus. Councilor Chavis said there will be an update on the project at the February 4, 2019 meeting. Councilor Jones echoed the sentiments of Councilor Giles’ comments about the snow removal. Councilor Chavis asked Police Chief Hofmann to provide an update on conditions at the Canterbury House Apartments. Police Chief Hofmann identified Herman Kittle as the owner of the apartment complex. There are various managers on duty at different times. There are 110 units housing 150 residents. The current occupancy rate is 92%. 2019 will see additional parking lot lights to increase security. They are also looking to hire a permanent property manager. The Chief has sought information on the screening of residents. He was assured that each resident under goes a vigorous background check. He was told that most problems are with guests who visit the residence. He announced that there is to be a crime watch meeting next week for families living in the Canterbury Apartments. The Chief acknowledged that he did not know for certain if the original tax breaks are still in place. The Chief observed that there are two entrances to the complex and that the owner is open to closing the north entrance so that there is just one way into and out of the facility. The owner is also looking at the prospects of installing cameras on the property. Chief Hofmann went on to provide a summary of 2018 crime statistics: there were 33 incidents reported during the year. Four were serious crimes with three murders and 1 other violent incident. These resulted in the deaths of 2 guests and one resident. The remaining 29 incidents included traffic violations, vehicle crashes and burglaries. Obviously, all concerned want those numbers to go down. Fire Chief Batalis then spoke about developments in the Benjamin Court Apartments in the wake of the recent fire. He reported that more than $10,000 had been raised through a “go fund me account”. That account is now closed. From those funds, checks for $430 each were written to 29 residents. Additionally, furniture has been delivered to displaced residents.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS: Councilor Parker moved to approve Payroll Claims for $879,928.08 [December 15, 2018 payroll], payroll Claims for $893,046.40 [December 31, 2018 payroll] and Invoices [for vendors] as presented today [for $1,818,852.16]. The motion was seconded by Councilor Giles. Following discussion, by a show of hands, the motion to approve the vouchers carried by a unanimous vote of the Council.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

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NEW BUSINESS: Councilor Chavis said nominations for members of the Redevelopment Commission were open for consideration. Councilor Giles nominated Ali Brown. Councilor Shevlot nominated Bruce Kimery. Councilor Chavis announced that, there being no further nominations, nominations were closed. Clerk Walton distributed paper ballots. The Clerk tallied the votes. Eleven votes were cast, 6 votes for Ali Brown and 5 votes for Bruce Kimery with one councilor choosing to vote for only one nomination (Councilor Wells). Clerk Walton announced that Bruce Kimery and Ali Brown were elected to the Redevelopment Commission.

Councilor Chavis said nominations for a member of the Economic Development Commission were open for consideration. Councilor Wells nominated Elaine Duszynski. Councilor Chavis announced that, there being no further nominations, nominations were closed. Clerk Walton distributed paper ballots. The Clerk tallied the votes. Nine votes were cast, 9 votes for Elaine Duszynski. Clerk Walton announced that Elaine Duszynski was elected to the Economic Development Commission.

Councilor Chavis said nominations for members of the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) were open for consideration. Councilor Jones nominated Arthur Duszynski and Mike Payton. Councilor Parker nominated Celeste Jaffe. Councilor Chavis announced that, there being no further nominations, nominations were closed. Clerk Walton distributed paper ballots. The Clerk tallied the votes. Eighteen votes were cast, 6 votes for Arthur Duszynski, 6 votes for Celeste Jaffe and 6 votes for Mike Payton. Clerk Walton announced that Arthur Duszynski, Celeste Jaffe and Mike Payton 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 Shevlot nominated Brent Addington. Councilor Chavis announced that, there being no further nominations, nominations were closed. Clerk Walton distributed paper ballots. The Clerk tallied the votes. Six votes were cast, 6 votes for Brent Addington. Clerk Walton announced that Brent Addington was elected as the alternate to the BZA.

Resolution No. 1, 2019, concerning retention of Bose McKinney & Evans LLP as legal counsel, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Giles moved to adopt Resolution No. 1, 2019. The motion was seconded by Councilor Parker. Following discussion, Resolution No. 1, 2019 carried by the following vote: Four (4) aye votes and two (2) nay votes (Councilors Wells and Jones).

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned, at 6:55 p.m., by the unanimous vote of the Council.

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Lisa Chavis. President Kathleen A. Walton, Clerk