CITY OF LAWRENCE

 **Common Council**

# March 4, 2019

**Regular Meeting**

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

ALSO PRESENT: Clerk Kathleen Walton and Attorney Christina Bruno (Bose McKinney & Evans LLP)

STAFF PRESENT: Controller/Deputy Mayor Fenwick, City Attorney Hopper, Police Chief Hofmann, Deputy Police Chief Bigsbee, Fire Chief Batalis, Battalion Chief Cox, Park Superintendent Martin, Utility Superintendent Salsbery, Director of Public Works and Code Enforcement Anthony, Streets Director Heneghan, Sergeant Ashcraft and Sergeant Raftery were present.

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

There was an update on the status of storm water projects in the City of Lawrence by Mike Massone, Indy Stormwater rep for the Northeast side of Marion County. He discussed the history of the stormwater district from 2001 to present, upcoming projects and revenue collected. Mr. Massone responded to questions from the Council.

COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: Councilor Chavis asked Controller Fenwick to give an update on the additional cost of the new police station. Controller Fenwick said the Board of Works approved the change orders for the project on February 28, 2019. They did not know about unsuitable soil until excavating began. $12.9 million is the total cost with the amendments. Councilor Chavis asked the Council to email Controller Fenwick any questions regarding the project. Councilor Chavis asked Police Chief Hofmann to give an update on transporting animals to Indianapolis. Police Chief Hofmann said 89 animals (77 dogs and 12 cats) were transported to Indianapolis in 2018, 114 animals were transported in 2017. The average cost per month to transport animals to Indianapolis is $300. Police Chief Hofmann gave an update on the shooting incident on Friday, March 1, 2019 at Shoppers World at 8311 Pendleton Pike. Councilor Chavis asked if anyone from the Administration could address Councilor Wells’ questions about the animal shelter and the barriers at the intersection at 46th Street and Franklin Road. Utility Superintendent Salsbery discussed the traffic concerns. They will be abandoning the piece of road this year. The pavement will be removed, and a sidewalk will be installed. There was no update on the animal shelter. Councilor Freeman said she attended a Kensington Farms crime watch meeting on February 25, 2019. Police Chief Hofmann, Deputy Police Chief Bigsbee, Chaplain Keaton and Crime Watch Director Sanchez were present. The Chief stated the City of Lawrence has 100 officers including full-time officers, reserves, arson, SWAT and medics, but there are only 62 Lawrence police officers for 2019. She asked if we need to look at a “special public safety tax” in Lawrence. She requested the 2020 budget include hiring more police officers. She went on to ask what the City of Lawrence and business owners can do to prevent crimes such as the shooting that occurred Friday evening at Esquire Plaza on Pendleton Pike. Councilor Jones thanked Jim Heneghan, Utility Superintendent Salsbery and DPW for filling pot holes and unclogging sewers in the rain. Councilor Jones piggybacked on Councilor Wells’ concerns about 46th Street and Franklin Road. He asked about the time table to fix the road. Councilor Jones piggybacked on Councilor Freeman’s concerns about the number of police

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officers. He said there were 64 officers in 2016 and now 62. We need to hire more officers. Councilor Jones urged Superintendent Salsbery for a plan for stormwater west of Franklin Road, Especially 50th Street and Mitchner Avenue. A gentleman in that area has had 8 claims. He said we need an action plan for Canterbury Apartments. He said he attended the February 28, 2019 Board of Works meeting where the proposed changes totaling $725,000 for the police station were discussed. He gave kudos to the board member who asked questions. Councilor Jones requested an inquiry, an ethics board, for Dave Freeman’s vote on February 28, 2019. He is the chairman of the Board of Works and a superintendent for Garmong Construction Services. Councilor Parker thanked LPD for doing a great job. We could use more police officers but would like to challenge everyone to do more. We can’t hire enough police officers to prevent crime, especially with our youth. We need to look at what we can do and what other communities are doing. Councilor Wells followed up on Councilor Jones’ comments about the Board of Works meeting on February 28, 2019. He praised Mrs. Ashcraft for doing her homework. He was disappointed that some of the bills were emails. He said he understands the City paid $20,000 for water. Councilor Chavis stopped his comments and asked that all councilors direct these types of questions to department heads for answers and clarity. Councilor Jones called for a point of order. He said Councilor Wells has 5 minutes to speak. Councilor Chavis allowed Councilor Wells to continue with his comments without questions for the Administration. Councilor Wells said he was surprised and disappointed that the chairman of the Board of Works is an employee of Garmong Construction Services and said an attorney needs to investigate that issue. He said the chairman was rude to citizens. We can do better.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Councilor Shevlot moved to approve the minutes of the regular meetings on February 4, 2019 and February 20, 2019. The motion was seconded by Councilor Parker and carried by a unanimous vote of the Council. Councilor Giles moved to approve the minutes of the special meeting on February 4, 2019. The motion was seconded by Councilor Shevlot and carried by a unanimous vote of the Council.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS: Councilor Freeman moved to approve Payroll Claims for $967,241.88 [February 15, 2019 payroll] and Invoices [for vendors] as presented today [for $816,668.56]. The motion was seconded by Councilor Parker. By a show of hands, the motion to approve the vouchers carried by a unanimous vote of the Council.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES: Councilor Jones said the Code Committee met and discussed Proposal No. 2, 2019. They recommended a do pass for Proposal No. 2, 2019 with amendments. Councilor Parker informed the Council that a Zoning Committee meeting was held tonight at 6:15 p.m. to consider Petition No. 2019-ZON-013, 10410 East 52nd Street. Councilor Parker moved on behalf of the Zoning Committee, that the Council hear Petition No. 2019-ZON-013 at a Special Council meeting on April 1, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. Councilor Jones seconded the motion. By a show of hands, the vote carried by the unanimous vote of the Council.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Proposal No. 2, 2019, amending the Lawrence Municipal Code concerning fees and charges related to the removal, storage, and related services pertaining to vehicles, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Shevlot moved to accept Proposal No. 2, 2019 in place of the original proposal. The motion to amend Proposal No. 2, 2019 was seconded by Councilor Giles and carried by a unanimous vote of the Council. Councilor Shevlot

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moved to adopt amended Proposal No. 2, 2019. The motion was seconded by Councilor Giles and carried by Seven (7) aye votes and one (1) nay vote (Councilor Wells).

NEW BUSINESS: Proposal No. 3, 2019, amending the Lawrence Municipal Code to establish an all-way stop intersection at Lawrence Village Parkway and Otis Avenue, was introduced and read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Chavis assigned Proposal No. 3, 2019 to the Code Committee.

ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS: None

CITIZENS COMMENTS: The following citizen addressed the Council:

* Kevin Miller, 7620 E. 49th Street
* Linda Moore, 4909 Leone Drive
* Bill Nelson
* Tracy Ashcraft, 5880 Boy Scout Road
* Devon Ashcraft, 5228 Boy Scout Road
* Carlton Curry, 11230 Winding Wood Court
* Tom Ashcraft, 5880 Boy Scout Road
* Paul Oler, 10831 Indian Lake Blvd

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:07 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.