

CITY OF LAWRENCE

Common Council

March 4, 2024

Regular Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rick Wells, Zach Cramer, Kristie Krone, Sherron Freeman, Carlos Jennings, Betty Robinson, and Liz Masur

MEMBERS BY MICROSOFT TEAMS: Lisa Chavis

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO, BY MICROSOFT TEAMS: None

ALSO PRESENT: Clerk Leatrice Adkisson, Scott Krapf, Cheri Storms, Jaye Miller, JD Masur

STAFF PRESENT: Deputy Chief of Staff LeAndre Level

STAFF BY MICROSOFT TEAMS: None

Council President Betty Robinson called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

The pledge of allegiance was administered, followed by a prayer given by Councilor Jennings.

Councilor Robinson recognized there was a quorum. It was also recognized there were extra copies of the agenda located in the back of the room along with a sign-up sheet for comments from the citizens.

COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: Councilor Cramer stated he had the pleasure of attending the City of Lawrence Black History Month Celebration at the Reset Center. He extended his sincere appreciation for all of the volunteers, vendors, participants, and organizers who played an integral role in the event.

Councilor Krone stated she had the pleasure of speaking with one of her constituents in District 6, Mr. Lexi. He contacted her with the request of installing 4 or 5 (No Parking) ordinance 29 signs in his neighborhood of Fountain Springs off 63rd Street off of Lee Road. He's witnessed some serious safety concerns. Currently there aren't any signs, and parked cars are causing a safety issue for school buses pick-up and drop-offs, as well as with delivery drivers. Mr. Lexi hopes placing (No Parking) Ordinance 29 signs throughout the neighborhood will make the neighborhood streets safer.

Councilor Wells asked to take a moment to address the administration regarding the streets at 46th and VanCleave. He continued by saying that the trucks from Browns Oil are consistently making turns down 46th street as well as VanCleave. Now one of the corners is completely gone. It has a huge hole, which is about a foot deep. Councilor Wells asked the administration to give this issue some attention.

Councilor Robinson shared her meeting with Paul Wanner, City of Lawrence Utilities Director. This meeting was regarding the Energy and Winter Assistance Program, also the Moratorium Program. Madame President continued to say that Lawrence is not a partner with any of these Utility Assistance Programs. After the meeting Mr. Wanner and Madam President agreed they both would contact United Way and John Bonner to see if the City of Lawrence can become a partner.

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS OR RESOLUTIONS: Congratulations were given to the Lawrence Central High School Girls Basketball team, The Lady Bears for winning the State Championship. Congratulations were also given to Coach Lampley for being the first African American woman to win a state championship. Councilor Giles suggested inviting these young ladies, Coach Lampley, and presenting them with a resolution.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Regular Meeting 2-21-2024

Councilor Wells motioned to approve the minutes. Councilor Jennings 2nd the motion. Roll Call vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS 3-4-2024: Councilor Cramer moved to approve Payroll Claims for \$1,078,620.93 [February 15, 2024, payroll] and Invoices [for vendors] as presented today [for \$735,027.85]. Councilor Jennings seconded the motion. By a roll call vote, the motion was carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: A presentation was given to the council by Cheri Storm, Director of Pet Friendly Services of Indiana. This group is affiliated with the "Pet Friendly" license plate distributed by the Indiana State DMV. This group operates a statewide financial assistance program. Fundraisers are given to provide free spay neuter surgeries for animal shelters, rescue and community cat programs. The group is primarily funded by the license plate program. They are partnered with 100 veterinarians to do the surgeries and Pet Friendly pays the bills. Ms. Storm mentions that one of those vets is a mobile clinic. Its name is mobile vet. Last year mobile vet held 130 spay neuter clinics in 34 communities which fixed 12,030 cats. A budget of \$1,000 is provided generally per clinic unless grant funding is also provided. This funding also provides a discount on a case-by-case basis. The cost is \$100 for vetting and spay neuter. Videos of these clinics can be watched on YouTube. Once the cats are fixed it stops female cats from going into heat which keeps her from crying profusely. It helps the male cats from having strong urine smell. Pet Friendly would like to start hosting pet clinics in Lawrence. Ms. Storms states that Sandy with Public Vet plans to reach out to Eric Martin, Director of Parks. The group eventually would like to work with the mobile home parks. This is where you'll find a ton of cats because of their great housing under the skirts of the mobile homes. Most residents in these parks don't have access to a low cost spay neuter and this is where help is needed from the City of Lawrence. This is a cat clinic only because dogs can be a little more difficult. With dogs coming in all sizes, the medicine needed for the dogs are based on sizes. Whereas cats are uniform in size. Ms. Storms goes on to say there is a nationwide shortage of veterinarians and it's impacting animal welfare tremendously. Ms. Storm provided the council with information on where to find nearby low-cost spay neuter clinics. She also provided them with a pamphlet of additional information regarding these clinics. Councilor Wells asked Ms. Storm how many times she anticipates having the mobile cat clinic in the City of Lawrence. She replied they can come routinely and if more are needed, they can accommodate. Madam Presidents states to Ms. Storm that a commitment must be made that each vet is licensed who is performing the surgeries. She also asked Ms. Storm how the area would be sterilized. Ms. Storm explains they will sterilize the area where the surgeries would be held. Councilor Cramer asked if the requested \$1,000 to \$2,000 per clinic is for the cost of the veterinarian or to provide discounted services. Ms. Storms replied when the clinic is held in the mobile park the budget that may be needed from the city is a \$1,000 to \$2,000 and they will, Pet Friendly would be providing a \$1,000. She states these animals in the mobile park will be unowned, they will be cared for but there will not be people with deep pockets. She also stated there will be multiple animals. Councilor Giles asked Ms. Storms if those cats are not owned are their colonies there, she replied that is correct. Councilor Freeman asked Ms. Storm does the city has to provide the location or the building for these procedures. She replied to it would be nice if it could. Madame President asked, Ms. Storms how are these clinics advertised, she replied through Facebook. Councilor Giles asked Ms. Storm what the discounted price is, she replied it depends on a case-by-case basis but usually \$30 or \$50. Councilor Cramer asked Ms. Storms does the balance of a discounted service comes from the money given by the city, she replied yes.

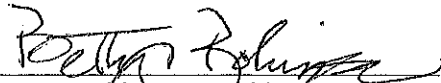
Proposal No. 1 2024 was moved to be tabled until the next meeting. The motion was made by Councilor Giles. Councilor Wells seconded the motion. Roll Call vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

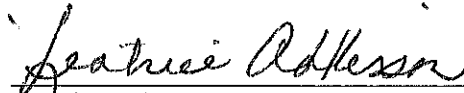
COMMENTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION: Deputy Chief of Staff, LeAndre Level thanked everyone for participating in the city's Black History Month Celebration. The administration has gotten great feedback from the public and the press. He stated that are more events to come. In the end of March there will be a Spring Fling. Once it's finalized more information will be sent. Also, on April 8th the city will have an event in connection with the total eclipse. The administration will share more information at a later date. The mayor also congratulated the Lady Bears of Lawrence Central High School Basketball team on their State Championship win.

COMMENTS FROM THE CITIZENS: None

Councilor Giles made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Jennings 2nd the motion.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m., by President Robinson.


Betty Robinson, President


Leatrice Adkisson, Clerk

These minutes are not intended to be verbatim. They are a summary of discussions held, except for the motions.

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