

CITY OF LAWRENCE
Common Council
March 7, 2022
Regular Meeting

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

MEMBERS BY ZOOM: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO BY ZOOM: None

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

STAFF PRESENT: Mayor Collier, Controller Douthit, Deputy Controller Nagila, Chief of Staff Hofmann, Deputy Chief of Staff Murphy, Deputy Chief of Staff Korn, Fire Chief Batalis, Deputy Fire Chief Hardie, Deputy Fire Chief Wallace, Firefighter Rehmel, Sergeant Raftery, Sergeant Blythe, Director of Streets Heneghan, and Park Superintendent Martin

STAFF BY ZOOM: Police Chief Woodruff, Director of Economic Development Zuerner, and Director of Engineering Venugopalan

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 Rusomaroff expressed her condolences to Councilor Rick Wells and his extended family at the death of his sister Linda Treat. Linda was a long time, and well respected community leader who also served on the Lawrence Common Council. She also acknowledged the launch of a “Mini” bus service that is the creation of LaKeisha Jackson of the City County Council and the Lawrence Township Trustees Office. The service is intended to pick up residents in four zip code areas, including 46235, which covers Winding Ridge in the City of Lawrence. This includes part of her District #4. Councilor Freeman said that she appreciated the acknowledgement from Mayor Collier during his recent State of the City address. She also expressed appreciation to Council President Chavis for arranging for a table for members of the Common Council at the Greater Lawrence Chamber of Commerce event. She then reported that she and Councilor Rusomaroff attended an event at the Pathway Resource Center that is located at the Amber Woods Apartments on the far eastside of Indianapolis. The event was part of a project initiated by City County Council woman LaKeisha Jackson. It involved the “micro-transit” initiative described by Councilor Rusomaroff and is designed to fill transportation gaps facing residents of the Indianapolis Far Eastside community. The bus service will cost \$4 for a round trip. Additionally, the program will address many of the food insecurity and job access challenges that face many far-eastside residents. To register for the programs at The Pathway Resource Center, individuals may call 317-890-9817 or visit www.driven2success.info. She next said that she understands that the City of Lawrence is planning to conduct a job fair in the near future. She asked that the Common Council be kept informed about the details of the job fair and the scheduled date. She concluded by expressing concern about the safety issues that arise when traffic lights are not working. For instance, she noted that the traffic light at 46th Street and Post Road was not working when last she checked.

Later in his comments, Chief of Staff Hofmann reported that the traffic light in question has been returned to service. Councilor Giles thanked DPW for their efforts in filling potholes within the City of Lawrence especially those at the intersection of 46th Street and Shadeland Avenue. Councilor Whitfield echoed Councilor Giles in her expression of gratitude to DPW. Councilor Wells thanked everyone for their comments at the passing of his sister Linda Treat. He noted that she held a seat on the Common Council for 12 years. He specifically thanked Councilor Rusomaroff and Clerk Kathy Walton for their phone calls and attendance at the Board Ripple funeral home. He concluded by also thanking Mayor Collier for stopping by and paying his respects to Linda Treat.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Councilor Whitfield moved to approve the minutes of the regular meetings on February 7, 2022, and February 16, 2022. Councilor Freeman seconded the motion. By a show of hands, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS 3-7-22: Councilor Denney moved to approve Invoices [for vendors] as presented today [for \$1,084,095.86]. Councilor Freeman seconded the motion. By a show of hands, the motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES: Councilor Denney said the Administration, Budget, and Finance Committee met tonight, at 5:30pm and will meet on March 16, 2022, at 5:30pm. The committee recommended a do-pass for Proposals 5, 6, and 7, 2022. Councilor Chavis said the Committee of the Whole met on February 16, 2022. They discussed Resolution No. 1, 2022. Councilor Chavis said the Economic Development Committee met and recommended a do-pass for Resolution No. 3, 2022.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Resolution No. 1, 2022, adopt procedures for awarding community services grants from the Common Council of the City of Lawrence, Indiana, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Denney moved to adopt Resolution No. 1, 2022. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wells. Following discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 3, 2022, approving the sale of property owned by the Lawrence Redevelopment Commission, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Shevlot moved to adopt Resolution No. 3, 2022. The motion was seconded by Councilor Russel. Following discussion, by Deputy Chief of Staff Murphy, and representatives from Metronet, the motion carried by a vote of Eight (8) aye votes and One (1) nay vote (Councilor Giles).

Proposal No. 2, 20220, amending the 2022 civil salary ordinance, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Shevlot withdrew Proposal No. 2, 2022.

Proposal No. 3, 2022, amending the 2022 salary ordinance for appointed officers and employees of the Police Department and the Fire Department, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Shevlot withdrew Proposal No. 3, 2022.

Proposal No. 4, 2022, to appropriate from the ARP Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund for purposes that fulfill the intent of the American Rescue Plan Act, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Chavis assigned Proposal No. 4, 2022 to the Administration, Budget, and Finance Committee.

Resolution No. 4, 2022, to adopt a spending plan detailing the use of funding provided under the American Rescue Plan, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Chavis assigned Resolution No. 2, 2022 to the Administration, Budget, and Finance Committee.

Proposal No. 5, 2022, appropriating additional funds and amending the 2022 budget with respect to the General Fund, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Chavis assigned Proposal No. 5, 2022 to the Administration, Budget, and Finance Committee. There will be a public hearing on Proposal No. 5, 2022 on April 4, 2022, at 6:30pm.

Proposal No. 6, 2022, amending Proposal No. 16, 2021 regarding the Rainy Day Fund transfer, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Chavis assigned Proposal No. 6, 2022 to the Administration, Budget, and Finance Committee. There will be a public hearing on Proposal No. 6, 2022 on April 4, 2022, at 6:30pm.

Proposal No. 7, 2022, amending the Municipal Code of the City of Lawrence, Indiana regarding employee benefits and overtime, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Denney moved to accept Proposal No. 7, 2022 in place of the original proposal. The motion to amend Proposal No. 7, 2022 was seconded by Councilor Russel. By a show of hands, the motion carried unanimously. Councilor Denney moved to adopt Amended Proposal No. 7, 2022. The motion was seconded by Councilor Rusomaroff. By a show of hands, the motion carried unanimously.

Proposal No. 8, 2022, amending the ordinance fixing salaries of appointed officers and employees of the Police Department and the Fire Department for the year 2022, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Chavis assigned Proposal No. 8, 2022 to the Administration, Budget, and Finance Committee.

NEW BUSINESS: Resolution No. 7, 2022, approving the issuance of bonds of the City of Lawrence Redevelopment Commission, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Chavis assigned Resolution No. 7, 2022 to the Administration, Budget, and Finance Committee.

Proposal No. 9, 2022, amending Section 1-2-4-14 of the Lawrence Municipal Code (Severe Weather Condition Procedures), was introduced and read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Shevlot moved to suspend the rules and adopt Proposal No. 9, 2022 on first reading. The motion was seconded by Councilor Russel. By a show of hands, the motion carried unanimously. Councilor Russel moved to adopt Proposal No. 9, 2022. The motion was seconded by Councilor Rusomaroff. By a show of hands, the motion carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS: Mayor Collier acknowledged Councilor Freeman as an example of a truly effective member of the Common Council. He noted that he served four years on the Common Council with Linda Treat and always felt that it was an honor to serve with her. The Mayor then introduced the new Chief of Staff, Dave Hofmann.

Chief of Staff Hofmann said that it had been an honor to serve for 6 years as the Chief of the Lawrence Police Department. He then introduced Gary Woodruff as the new Chief of Police. He noted that Police Chief Woodruff has served for 22 years in the Lawrence Police Department and reported a seamless transition to Police Chief Woodruff. He concluded by saying that he looked forward to servicing as Chief of Staff.

Councilor Chavis thanked Chief of Staff Hofmann for his service as Chief of Police.

CITIZENS COMMENTS: The following citizens addressed the Council:

- Robert Schlafer, 10423 Rainbow Lane
- Laura Houston, 10116 Pendula Drive
- Colleen Bloemker, 7460 Rainbow Lane N.
- Jason Schlafer, 7440 Rainbow Lane N.
- Stacy Antrobus, 10345 Rainbow Lane
- John Kulner, 7408 River Birch Lane
- Jon Hilden, 7347 Rainbow Lane
- Sandy Schlafer, 10423 Rainbow Lane

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 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.