CITY OF LAWRENCE

 **Common Council**

# April 1, 2019

**Regular Meeting**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Council Members 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 Jeffery Earl (Bose McKinney & Evans LLP)

STAFF PRESENT: Police Chief Hofmann was present.

Council Vice President Tom Shevlot called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. and announced a quorum was present.

COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: Councilor Shevlot asked Police Chief Hofmann to give an update on animal services and response to animal incidents. Police Chief Hofmann gave a deeper evaluation of the statistics regarding animals transported to the Indianapolis Animal Control Services (IACS) facility at 2600 South Harding Street in the past two years, ranging from January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2018. In the time frame, there were a total of 126 animals brought to IACS intake door from citizens of Lawrence or by Lawrence Animal Control Officers. 82 were adopted, 28 were returned to their owner, 10 were humanely euthanized, 2 were sent to foster homes, 2 were cats that were a part of the trap, neuter, return (TNR) program and 2 died in transport, after suffering life-threatening injuries before being picked-up. These numbers show 91% of animals transported to IACS from Lawrence were ultimately place in healthy situations and were not euthanized. In 2015 the concept of opening an animal shelter in Lawrence was discussed. The safety and welfare of our pets and other stray animals is a priority and a public safety concern. The City employs a full-time animal control officer and a part-time animal control officer. The average cost per month to transport animals to IACS is $300. Mayor Collier’s preliminary research in 2016 revealed the cost to open an animal shelter in Lawrence would be astronomical, when compared to the $300/ a month we currently spend for shelter services. Estimates of the cost to open a Lawrence shelter are: $160,000 in salaries for staff, $70,000 to $90,000 in employee benefits, overtime compensation should be expected, $150 a month for water and electricity, $1,000 a month for food, medicine, health care, cost of supplies, facility security and maintenance, insurance policies, the cost to renovate properties in Lawrence could exceed thousands of dollars and $150 a month for pest control. Police Chief Hofmann provided 17 websites where source information was obtained. Councilor Shevlot recommended that, further questions remain about the animal shelter, they should be directed toward the City attorney or Police Chief Hofmann. Councilor Jones thanked Jim Heneghan for cleaning out the sewer drains at 49th Street and Mitchner Avenue. Councilor Jones recognized Mrs. Ashcraft for saving $276,000 in the change orders for the new police station. He also asked the question what can be done to hire more police officers. Councilor Giles mentioned that stormwater drainage issues persist in certain areas, specifically at 48th Street and Mitchner Avenue. He mentioned that he had video of the problem. That said, he reported that 4 drains had been cleaned out and that they were working properly, and water had dissipated. Councilor Wells noted that 48th Street and Mitchner Avenue is in his district. He thanked Police Chief Hofmann for the information about animal shelter issues but repeated that he disagreed with the numbers.

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

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS: Councilor Giles moved to approve Payroll Claims for $921,414.34 [March 15, 2019 payroll] and Invoices [for vendors] as presented today [for $724,962.89]. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hall. Following discussion, by a show of hands, the motion to approve the vouchers carried by the following vote of the Council: Five (5) aye votes and two (2) nay votes (Councilors Jones and Wells).

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS: None

CITIZENS COMMENTS: The following citizen addressed the Council:

* Linda Moore, 4909 Leone Drive

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