

CITY OF LAWRENCE
Common Council
April 5, 2021
Regular Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: None

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

ALSO BY ZOOM: Attorney Kristina Wheeler (Bose McKinney & Evans LLP), Judy Byron (Arts for Lawrence), Bruce Donaldson (Barnes & Thornburg LLP), Scott Marchisin, Jake Wagle, Jarvis Jointer (Quality of Life) and Attorney Bruce Hugon

ALSO PRESENT: Clerk Kathleen Walton

STAFF PRESENT: Mayor Collier, CFO/Deputy Mayor Fenwick, Fire Chief Batalis, Deputy Fire Chief Wallace and several firefighters

STAFF BY ZOOM: Police Chief Hofmann, 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 Russel repeated a question she received from a constituent about construction in the area of Fox Road and Pennycroft. Is that a City of Lawrence or City of Indianapolis project? The concern is that the constructions affects access to Echo Point. Director of Engineering Venugopalan indicated that it is a City of Indianapolis project. Councilor Freeman reported that she had received inquiries from constituents about the caterers serving both the Sterrett Center and Jenn Air Park. Councilor Chavis asked for an update from the Parks Department to be presented at the May meeting. That update will appear on the agenda for the meeting and will provide formal feedback about the Parks Department. Mayor Collier informed the council that 4 caterers responded to the initial request for proposals. Ultimately only 3 provided responsive proposals: Porter Books & Bread, Chef Suzanne and Fitzgerald's catering. Councilor Rusomaroff reported concerns in her district about unleashed dogs attacking residents and people driving too fast. She asked for more regulations on those issues. She went on to read an announcement about an online meeting concerning the proposed Fort Ben Library. It is to be held on Thursday, April 8, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. Councilor Chavis asked that the announcement be placed on the City website. Councilor Denney announced that Trace Yates, Executive Director of the Parks Foundation, will present an update on its activities at the May council meeting. So far, there have been 2 successful food distribution events, and he thanked Park Superintendent Martin and the Park Department for their efforts. Council Shevlot expressed appreciation to Director of Economic Development Zuerner for his comprehensive update report for March 2021. He went on to ask for a schedule of street paving projects to include where there will be. In response, Director of Engineering Venugopalan told the council that a \$500,000 Community Crossing Grant will help fund the program. He also said he will provide a list of paving projects. Council Shevlot concluded by complimenting the Administration for the new City Park Signs that have recently appeared. He described them as "beautiful". Councilor Chavis reminded everyone that the Parks update is now scheduled for May. Therefore, the street update

will be scheduled for the June meeting. Councilor Chavis went on to ask that the June briefing address questions about street cleanliness and concerns about trash and debris.

Director of Economic Development Zuerner gave an update on various projects:

- Franklin Road/Pendleton Pike corridor. Three years to develop those properties.
- In 2024 INDOT is redoing Pendleton Pike from I465 to 56th Street. The project will include medians landscaped with trees and shrubs.
- Clarification of property located at 56th Street and Pendleton Pike. The property is being prepared for sale and development.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Councilor Whitfield moved to approve the minutes of the regular meetings on March 1, 2021 and March 17, 2021. Councilor Freeman seconded the motion. By a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS 4-5-21: Councilor Chavis moved to approve Payroll Claims for \$986,001.16 [March 15, 2021 payroll], Payroll Claims for \$923,445.22 [March 30, 2021 payroll] and invoices [for vendors] as presented today [for \$666,736.15]. Councilor Russel seconded the motion. By a roll call vote, the motion to approve the vouchers carried unanimously.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES: Councilor Denney said the Administration, Budget and Finance Committee met tonight and discussed Proposal No. 2, 2021 and Resolution No. 3, 2021. They recommended a do pass for Proposal No. 2, 2021 and a do pass with an amendment for Resolution No. 3, 2021.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Resolution No. 2, 2021, approving a form of lease and taking other actions regarding the proposed lease (new fire station), was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Denney discussed an amendment to Resolution No. 2, 2021. Following discussion among Controller Fenwick, Fire Chief Batalis and councilors, Councilor Denney moved to accept Resolution No. 2, 2021 in place of the original resolution. The motion to amend Resolution No. 2, 2021 was seconded by Councilor Wells. By a roll call vote, the motion carried by the following vote of the council: Eight (8) aye votes and one (1) nay vote (Councilor Shevlot) Councilor Russel moved to adopt Amended Resolution No. 2, 2021. The motion was seconded by Councilor Freeman. By a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Proposal No. 2, 2021, establishing a 2021 budget for the City of Lawrence Storm Water Management District, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Shevlot moved to adopt Proposal No. 2, 2021. Councilor Denney seconded the motion. By a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 3, 2021, approving the form of lease between the City of Lawrence, Indiana and Arts for Lawrence for the Visual Arts Center Building, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Russel moved to accept Resolution No. 3, 2021 in place of the original resolution. The motion to amend Resolution No. 3, 2021 was seconded by Councilor Denney. By a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Councilor Rusomaroff moved to adopt Amended Resolution No. 3, 2021. The motion was seconded by Councilor Russel. By a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

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NEW BUSINESS: None

ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS: Mayor Collier introduced Judy Byron, the Executive Director for the “Arts for Lawrence” organization. She reported that the long-anticipated opening of the Lawrence Cultural Campus will take place on Saturday, May 22, 2021. Additionally, there will be a VIP event the evening before.

CITIZENS COMMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:51 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, with the exception of the motions. An audiotape is made which provides a detailed record.