Common Council

**City of Lawrence**

**April 17, 2019**

**Regular Meeting**

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

ALSO PRESENT: Clerk Kathleen Walton and Attorney Jeffery Earl (Bose McKinney & Evans LLP)

STAFF PRESENT: Controller/Deputy Mayor Fenwick, Police Chief Hofmann, Fire Chief Batalis, Deputy Fire Chief Hardie, Battalion Chief Funk, Captain Steele, Lieutenant Shrout, Sergeant Easterday, Officer Wise, Chaplain Keaton and several police officers and firefighters were present.

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

COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: Council President Chavis called on Fire Chief Batalis who came forward to recognize 2 Lawrence Police Officers for their actions on December 17, 2018. That date marks one of the largest fires in the City’s history. Two alarms were sounded during the course of the afternoon. Sergeant Tracy Easterday was passing the Benjamin Court Apartment complex on Lee Road when he noticed smoke coming from one of the buildings. He immediately reported a fire in progress and drove to the entrance closest to the fire. He entered the building and went to the 3rd floor and began a systematic evacuation of each room. Smoke was very dense, and Sergeant Easterday successfully emptied the apartments without any oxygen supply. Shortly afterwards, Officer Joshua Wise arrived and began evacuating the 2nd floor of the building. He discovered a resident who was confined to a wheelchair and was unable to leave on his own. Officer Wise then picked the man up and carried him down the stairs to safety. Deputy Fire Chief Hardie then read 2 citations honoring each officer. Each police officer received a plaque commemorating his achievement. The officers received a standing ovation from the Council and the audience.

Councilor Jones added his personal congratulations to both police officers. He mentioned that a citizen who lives at 12467 Doe Lane had called him with a concern about a gap in the road surface between his driveway and the street. Councilor Jones then asked whether the “inter local agreement” had been signed. He also asked if the action plan for Canterbury Apartments has been completed. He recognized Connor Allton, a boy scout who is attending the meeting as part of his requirements for a merit badge. Councilor Wells revisited the report by Police Chief Hofmann from the last meeting concerning questions about an animal shelter. Councilor Wells noted that he was “not prepared” to respond to Police Chief Hofmann at that time. He then listed several questions for which he sought answers. Among these were the identities of veterinarians that Police Chief Hofmann had spoken to. Also, Councilor Wells clarified his understanding of the role of the $50,000 feasibility study about an animal shelter that he and other members of the council had voted down earlier.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS: Councilor Freeman moved to approve Payroll Claims for $852,929.06 [March 31, 2019 payroll] and Invoices [for vendors] as presented today [for $242,786.40]. The motion was seconded by Councilor Chavis. Following discussion that

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included Controller Fenwick, by a show of hands, the motion to approve the vouchers carried by a unanimous vote of the Council.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned, at 6:48 p.m., by the unanimous vote of the Council.

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Lisa Chavis. President Kathleen A. Walton, Clerk