

CITY OF LAWRENCE
Common Council
May 3, 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), Ray Cox and several coaches and staff from MSDLT

ALSO PRESENT: Clerk Kathleen Walton

STAFF PRESENT: Mayor Collier, CFO/Deputy Mayor Fenwick, Fire Chief Batalis, Deputy Fire Chief Hardie, Park Superintendent Martin and several firefighters

STAFF BY ZOOM: Police Chief Hofmann

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 discussed the public notice for the public hearing concerning the construction of a new station #38. She asked that the notice for future hearing addressing the fire station and other issues be placed on the City website for greater exposure. She then asked how SB 392, which concerns zoning, affects the City of Lawrence and the Common Council. (Mayor Collier addressed this issue later in the meeting). She went on to remind everyone that May is Mental Health Awareness Month. The Indianapolis Colts have launched a new initiative entitled “Kicking the Stigma”, which seeks to address the challenges brought about by mental illness. For mental health resources, please call Indiana 2-1-1 or connect to the Indiana Regional Recovery Hub website at: indianarecoverynetwork.org and please support our local mental health organizations such as National Alliance of Mental Illness of Greater Indiana and Mental Health America of Indiana. Councilor Wells noted that there is an announcement on Facebook about a meeting to discuss Explorer Park. He asked for more information about the meeting. Park Superintendent Martin responded that the meeting will be held this Thursday at 3p.m. at Explorer Park. Councilor Wells concluded by asking about the possibility of installing a traffic light at the corner of 52nd Street and Mithoeffer Road.

Park Superintendent, Eric Martin, and Lawrence Park Board President, Jeff Vest, then presented an update on City Park activities. They highlighted 3 areas:

- Projects
 - The Master Plan is complete
 - Alexander Park will feature a new playground
 - A new fitness trail went in Lawrence Community Park
 - Expanded grant request for 63rd Street and Lee Road
 - The Cultural Campus Grand Opening will be on Saturday, May 22, 2021.
 - Landscaping for the Sterrett Center
 - New signage displaying the City logo at the entrance to all parks (completed)

- Programming
 - 980 players in OYO Baseball
 - 275 players at Fall Creek Baseball
 - 1,000 players at F. C. Pride soccer
 - Alexander Park adult softball
 - Senior activities
 - Carnival and Fireworks on July 3rd
- Catering Contracts
 - 14 companies expressed an interest in competing for catering contracts. A sub-committee established the parameters for performance.
 - Requests for Proposals mailed on December 1, 2020.
 - A pre-bid meeting was held on December 8, 2020.
 - The bids closed on December 15, 2020. 4 bids were received; one was rejected for being incomplete.
 - The 3 vendors selected were: Chef Suzanne; Fitzgerald's catering; Porter Books and Bread.

Mr. Vest made the following additional points:

- The final stages of the Civic Plaza project are scheduled for work in 2022. The project costs are estimated at about 1.2 million dollars. The FHRA and a grant from the land and water conservation fund have contributed to this phase of the project. Civic Plaza will become a central gathering area for the City of Lawrence.
- Fall Creek Softball and Community Park Baseball leagues have combined.
- The kitchens at Jenn Park and the Sterrett Center have been renovated.

Park Superintendent Martin and Lawrence Park Board President, Jeff Vest responded to questions from the Council. A common concern expressed was that caterer options reflect the diversity of the community.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Councilor Freeman moved to approve the minutes of the regular meetings on April 5, 2021 and April 21, 2021. Councilor Rusomaroff seconded the motion. By a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS 5-3-21: Councilor Denney moved to approve Invoices [for vendors] as presented today [for \$156,043.22]. Councilor Whitfield seconded the motion. By a roll call vote, the motion to approve the vouchers carried unanimously.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES: None

PUBLIC HEARING: Pursuant to advertising, Councilor Chavis opened the floor for the first public hearing regarding preliminary determination to enter into financing lease (Fire Station 38 Project), and introduction of preliminary determination resolution. Councilor Chavis called for comment and testimony. There were no public comments. Thereupon, the public hearing was closed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Resolution No. 4, 2021, honoring the Lawrence North High School 2021 Girls Varsity Basketball Team, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Denney emphasized that there has been a high level of success for boys and girls teams representing MSDLT. He specifically recognized the successes of teams representing LNHS. Resolution No. 4, 2021 recognizes the girls' varsity basketball team for its victory in the 2019-2020 Class 4A Girls State Basketball Championship. Councilor Russel moved to adopt Resolution No. 4, 2021. The motion was seconded by Councilor Denney. By a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 5, 2021, honoring the Lawrence North High School 2021 Boys Varsity Basketball Team, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Resolution No. 5, 2021 recognizes the boys' varsity basketball team for its achievement as state runner up in the 2020-2021 Class 4A Boys State Basketball Championship. Councilor Russel moved to adopt Resolution No. 5, 2021. The motion was seconded by Councilor Whitfield. By a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. After the resolutions were adopted, LNHS Coaches made comments in support of both teams. They then thanked the Common Council for recognizing the successes of both teams.

Resolution No. 7, 2021, making a preliminary determination to enter into lease to finance fire station project, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Chavis assigned Resolution No. 7, 2021 to the Administration, Budget and Finance Committee.

Proposal No. 3, 2021, appropriating additional funds and amending the 2021 budget as approved by the Common Council with respect to the General Fund, MVH Fund, EMS Fund, Administrative Services Fund, and Garage Fund, was introduced and read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Chavis assigned Proposal No. 3, 2021 to the Administration, Budget and Finance Committee.

ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS: Mayor Collier emphasized his earlier email announcement that Controller Fenwick has been offered an incredible employment opportunity. His last day with the City of Lawrence will be June 11, 2021. In response to the earlier question about SB 392, he reported that the Common Council will now be directly involved in making zoning decisions. Additionally, the Common Council will have 3 appointees on the Board of Zoning Appeals. These will replace Indianapolis appointees from the past. The Mayor committed to providing the Common Council with an email detailing the specifics.

CITIZENS COMMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 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.