

**CITY OF LAWRENCE**  
**Common Council**  
**June 1, 2020**  
**Regular Meeting**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Council Members Lisa Chavis and Rick Wells

BY ZOOM: Councilors Tom Shevlot, William Tyrrell Giles, Sherron Freeman, Shawn Denney, Maria Rusomaroff, Lauren Russel, Deborah Whitfield and Attorney Kristina Wheeler (Bose McKinney & Evans LLP)

ALSO PRESENT: Clerk Kathleen Walton

STAFF PRESENT: Mayor Collier, Controller/Deputy Mayor Fenwick, Fire Chief Batalis, and Public Information Officer Beyer were present.

ALSO PRESENT BY ZOOM: Police Chief Hofmann

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

COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: Councilor Rusomaroff read a thank you note from Community North Hospital regarding the participation of City of Lawrence first responders in a parade recognizing the hospital staff. The note also expressed gratitude for a thank you basket from the Lawrence Common Council. Councilor Wells thanked Director of Streets Heneghan for the work addressing flooding on Mitchner and 49<sup>th</sup> Streets. Though the drains are still not working completely, the response was very expeditious. He went on to say that, he had received several calls about a gathering in Lawrence Park on Saturday, May 30, 2020. He alleged that LPD showed up but took no action. As a result, neighbors in the area were afraid. He thought LPD should have taken positive action. In response, Councilor Chavis reported that she had spoken with various leaders within the City. They reported to her that they were aware of the situation at Lawrence Park and that it had disbanded quickly. She went on to say that, the Administration would address the situation later in the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Councilor Rusomaroff moved to approve the minutes of the regular meetings on May 4, 2020 and May 20, 2020. Councilor Freeman seconded the motion. By a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS 6-1-20: Councilor Whitfield moved to approve Payroll Claims for \$891,083.40 [May 15, 2020} payroll] and Invoices [for vendors] as presented today [for \$696,479.97]. Councilor Freeman 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 at 5:30 p.m. and discussed Proposal No. 6, 2020. They recommended a do pass for Proposal No. 6, 2020.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Proposal No. 6, 2020, amending the police and fire and civil salary ordinances to provide for a one-time stipend to compensate essential front line employees for services provided during the public emergency declaration, was read only by title by Clerk

Walton. Councilor Whitfield moved to adopt Proposal No. 6, 2020. Councilor Russel seconded the motion. Following discussion, by a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS: Resolution No. 7, 2020, approving an amending declaratory resolution of the Redevelopment Commission, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Chavis assigned Resolution No. 7, 2020 to the Economic Development Committee. They will meet on June 17, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

Proposal No. 7, 2020, amending prior bond ordinances authorizing the issuance of certain waterworks revenue bonds of the City and repealing ordinances inconsistent herewith, was introduced and read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Chavis assigned Proposal No. 7, 2020 to the Administration, Budget and Finance Committee. They will meet on June 17, 2020 at 5 p.m.

ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS: Mayor Collier provided an update on various happenings in the City:

- All City buildings are re-opened to the public as of June 1, 2020. Every building will be sanitized every Friday. All of these steps follow the governor's executive order.
- Community baseball and softball programs begin practice this week.
- As a reminder, all July 4<sup>th</sup> activities are cancelled. The City is planning a community celebration on Saturday, September 5, 2020. Details are forthcoming.
- The Mayor expressed gratitude to Councilors Whitfield and Russel for spearheading Ordinance No. 6, 2020.
- The Mayor said that he was in constant communication with Police Chief Hofmann about conditions in downtown Indianapolis and throughout Marion County. At all times, the Lawrence Police Department was ready to respond to any situation.
- The Mayor recommended that people should view the thoughtful comments on Facebook as posted by Officer Charlie Kingery.
- The Mayor then read a statement from Police Chief Hofmann. The full statement is attached to these minutes.

Police Chief Hofmann arose to address the questions about activity in Lawrence Community Park. He noted that it had been a challenging evening throughout Marion County. As a precautionary measure, the Lawrence Police Department had developed tactical plans to respond to various situations. He emphasized that Lawrence was not affected like downtown Indianapolis. There was, however, a birthday party being celebrated in Lawrence Community Park. It began in the afternoon and, by 9:45pm, had ended. Everyone returned to their homes with no incidents. These are the facts of the situation. These facts were mischaracterized on Facebook. Police Chief Hofmann then thanked the full Council for passing the additional stipend. He expressed gratitude for Council confidence in the Police Department.

Fire Chief Batalis thanked the Mayor, Controller, and the Common Council for providing the additional stipend. He characterized it as a nice gesture and truly appreciated. He went on to report that, until now, 26 members of the Lawrence Fire Department have been quarantined over COVID-19 concerns.

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Council President Chavis reminded everyone that social media platforms could serve as good resources. However, they can also spread harmful misinformation. If Council members are not sure about information they have received, contact President Chavis and she will seek to find an accurate answer. It is her goal to dispel misinformation.

CITIZENS COMMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m., by the unanimous vote of the Council.

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Lisa Chavis, President

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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.