CITY OF LAWRENCE

 **Common Council**

# June 3, 2019

**Regular Meeting**

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

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

STAFF PRESENT: Mayor Collier, Controller/Deputy Mayor Fenwick, Police Chief Hofmann, Deputy Police Chief Bigsbee, Fire Chief Batalis and Deputy Fire Chief Wallace were present.

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

Boy Scout Troop #686, from Geist Christian Church, opened the meeting by leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

There was a Blue Star Banner presentation.

COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: Councilor Jones recognized Boy Scout Troop #686 from Geist Christian Church who were in attendance. They are working on their communication merit badge. Councilor Chavis spoke on behalf of Councilor Hall. He is working on identifying funding for trails in Lawrence.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Councilor Parker moved to approve the minutes of the regular meetings on May 6, 2019 and May 15, 2019. The motion was seconded by Councilor Freeman and carried by a unanimous vote of the Council.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS: Councilor Freeman moved to approve Payroll Claims for $876,478.54 [May 15, 2019 payroll] and Invoices [for vendors] as presented today [for $730,841.06]. The motion was seconded by Councilor Shevlot. By a show of hands, the motion to approve the vouchers carried by a unanimous vote of the Council.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Proposal No. 4, 2019, amending the Lawrence Municipal Code to establish an all-way stop intersection at Oakland Hills Court and Oakland Hills Drive, was introduced and read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Chavis assigned Proposal No. 4, 2019 to the Code Committee.

ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS: Police Chief Hofmann provided an overview of law enforcement efforts within the City of Lawrence. He reminded the Council that the overwhelming majority of those who go about their daily lives working, living, or visiting the City of Lawrence, do so without the fear of being targeted by criminals or violent crimes. He then noted that usually, but not always, those individuals engaged in unlawful activities are the

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ones caught up in incidents of violence. Those participating in illegal activities are living risky lives. There is danger in the lifestyles they are pursuing. One of those risks is that they can become injured or worse. Another risk is that of being arrested and entered into the criminal justice system. He assured the Council that LPD responds to every incident immediately regardless of the circumstances under which they occur. That fact increases the risk of those committing crimes and increases the safety of Lawrence citizens.

As was demonstrated last week in response to the criminal homicide at 56th Street and Boy Scout Road, the men and women of LPD work tirelessly to prevent, respond to, investigate, crimes that do occur. In the wake of that incident LPD officers and detectives worked non-stop to identify and arrest those responsible. They are in custody now.

The process to hire and train a new police officer takes nearly a year. Last Fall the City of Lawrence hired 9 new police officers to fill vacant positions and replace retired officers. Those 9 new officers are now fully trained and functioning on their own. We now deploy 14 officers per shift in the operations division.

LPD has a close partnership with the Marion County Prosecutors Office. We work daily with a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney to ensure the most appropriate charges are filed. LPD also is embedded with the Central Indiana Metropolitan Drug Task Force. Detectives from that unit assisted in the 56th Street and Boy Scout Road incident. Along with the LPD Swat Team they recently arrested numerous drug suspects in a Lawrence home and dismantled a serious methamphetamine operation.

In the near future LPD will launch a special summer effort to confront violent crime and focus on street level drug possession cases, illegal fire arms, and the arrest of individuals named in judicially issued arrest warrants. Efforts will be targeted on densely populated apartment complexes and other public places where crime is occurring or is likely to occur. As always, their activities will be video, and audio recorded by the LPD body-worn cameras.

Additionally, LPD collaborates with the Marion County Sheriff’s Office, and Marion County Probation Division to conduct probation sweeps. LPD is also a member of the Indianapolis Violence Reduction Partnership, and works closely with the FBI and ATF, and the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of Indiana. LPD also is engaged with the new Indianapolis Crime Gun Information Center, which is a cross jurisdictional effort. As with all communities within Central Indiana and elsewhere, the City of Lawrence is not immune from violent crime and other criminal activity. LPD will continue to pursue relentlessly those persons who have chosen criminal lifestyles and who knowingly and intentionally engage in illegal activities, that can result in violence and homicides.

Controller/Deputy Mayor Fenwick gave an update to the Council about the SBOA audit. They are auditing the 2018 financials. Results should be coming soon.

CITIZENS COMMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 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.