

CITY OF LAWRENCE
Common Council
August 2, 2021
Regular Meeting

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

MEMBERS BY ZOOM: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Clerk Kathleen Walton, Attorney Kristina Wheeler (Bose McKinney & Evans LLP), Scott Marchisin and Randy Warman (American Structurepoint)

STAFF PRESENT: Controller Douthit, Police Chief Hofmann, Sergeant Raftery, Firefighter Rehmel, and Human Resource Director Jackson

STAFF BY ZOOM: None

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 Denney wished the Metropolitan School District of Lawrence Township a safe back to school tomorrow. IPS went back to school today. Councilor Rusomaroff thanked Director of Engineering Venugopalan for responding to questions about the lighting on 56th Street. Councilor Freeman asked who is responsible for code violations for high weeds and grass.

Police Chief Hofmann presented a status report on the state of affairs for the Lawrence Police Department. He distributed packets to the Council titled "Your Lawrence Police Department". Highlights included:

- LPD has responded to more than 35,000 incidents and calls for service so far in 2021. LPD has responded to 5 acts of criminal homicide in Lawrence this year.
- The 911 Communications Center is staffed with 13 fulltime employees, one vacancy, and 3 part time employees. 911 Operations are included as a critical part of the new police facility.
- The new LPD Headquarters Building has been fully functional for nearly 2 years now. It has delivered desperately needed resources to LPD employees and to surrounding local, state, and federal agencies. I consider our building here in Lawrence to be the premier law enforcement facility in the state.
- The LPD Training Center has been widely used by major well-known training groups, to include the IMPD Leadership Academy, Drug Recognition Expert School, National Tactical Officers Association, Sheepdog Guardian Consulting, Northeast Counterdrug Training Center to name just a few. Our hosting of these training courses and seminars has resulted in a cost savings of nearly \$9,000 because our officers often attend for free. An additional benefit is that the thousand of officers who travel to Lawrence for these events bring with them their marked police cars, and they typically patronize restaurants, hotels, convenience stores, and gas stations in our city. Obviously, such activity results in enhanced security and economic growth within our community.

- LPD continues to manage the COVID-19 pandemic environment with no disruption to law enforcement services.
- Our very successful Lawrence Police Cadet Program is thriving once again after the disruption in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Membership numbers are rebounding, and we recently swore in a group of new Cadets. They provide support wherever LPD is engaged within the community. A new feature of the program is the highly successful and well-received “Courtesy Patrol Unit” launched by our Cadets.
- We recently received grant funding for 8 new radar speed detectors and 10 portable breath test instruments for enhanced traffic safety enforcement. Additionally, we deployed 3 AED’s that are deployed on each shift. An additional grant of \$94,000 has funded “True Narc Field” analyzers. These devices allow officers in the field to test for unknown substances without risking their own safety. Each shift has one of these analyzers.
- Our Reserve Division continues to contribute significantly to public safety in Lawrence. So far this year the reserves have worked nearly 3,000 hours in a variety of situations. Our reserve officers, as you may know, work for us in an unpaid status. They donate their time and do a great job for us in uniform and in the Investigations Division.
- The LPD fleet of vehicles is doing well because of the care and attention applied to them by our officers. No new cars so far this year as we try to determine how funding will look for the second half of the year. More than 75% of the LPD fleet has been replaced in the past three years.
- We continue to be successful in planning for and managing a challenging menu of major public events with no significant threats to public safety. We are currently planning our annual Public Safety Community Day set for Saturday, August 14, 2021 from 10am to 2pm at Fire Station 40 at 59th and Lee Road. In addition to our very popular activities and displays at this event, we are as always preparing for “Wingin’ It with our First Responders” Wing-Eating Competition.
- You will recall that during the last year, we worked with the Common Council to draft and adopt the 2020 towing ordinance. This initiative updated our fees to align them with those in effect in surrounding communities and created new procedures for the efficient storage and release of vehicles. Last month we awarded the current towing contract to Zore’s towing.
- We are very fortunate now to have 9 volunteer chaplains who are coordinated by our full-time Public Safety Staff Chaplain Mel Keaton. Our chaplains provide a wide range of support to members of the community and to our LPD officers and staff. Our SWAT team has a chaplain dedicated to them. Two chaplains are always on call in Lawrence, 24 hours each day and every day.
- Our 2020-2021 Hiring Process culminated with the certification of an eligibility list from which we hope to fill our vacancies. We received 429 interest forms. After a rigorous collection of physical testing, written exam, oral interviews, and comprehensive background investigations, we have identified 13 qualified men and women ready to be sworn in. Our first hire will be a week from today, with three more coming in September.
- Among our new officers is a therapy K9 who has been training with the department since early May. “Hoss” has already established a record for improving morale and reducing stress around the department.

- LPD Crime Watch Coordinator Lisa Harvey and Deputy Chief Curtis Bigsbee have been very busy planning for the August 3, 2021 National Night Out activities. We will visit 16 neighborhoods and community groups. A full list of activities is posted on the City's website. This is one of the many similar events and activities in which Lisa participates throughout the City of Lawrence.

A copy of Chief Hofmann's entire report is attached.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Councilor Rusomaroff moved to approve the minutes of the regular meetings on June 7, 2021 and June 16, 2021. Councilor Whitfield seconded the motion. By a show of hands, the motion to approve the vouchers carried by a unanimous vote of the Council.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS 8-2-21: Councilor Shevlot moved to approve Payroll Claims for \$899,330.13 [July 15, 2021 payroll] and Invoices [for vendors] as presented today [for \$679,612.37]. Councilor Russel seconded the motion. Following discussion, among Controller Douthit, Scott Marchisin and several councilors there was a 5-minute recess. After the recess, discussion continued among all parties. After the discussion was completed, by a show of hands, councilors voted unanimously to approve the vouchers.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES: Councilor Denney said the Administration, Budget and Finance Committee met and discussed Resolution No 11, 2021. The committee recommended a do-pass.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Resolution No. 11, 2021, approval of Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Lawrence and the Lawrence Professional Firefighters Association, Local 416 effective January 1, 2021, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Denney moved to adopt Resolution No. 11, 2021. The motion was seconded by Councilor Russel and carried by a unanimous vote of the Council.

NEW BUSINESS: Proposal No. 6, 2021, amending the Lawrence Municipal Code to establish an all-way stop intersection at Cork Road and Cork Place, was introduced and read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Chavis assigned Proposal No. 6, 2021 to the Code Committee.

Proposal No. 7, 2021, amending the Civil Salary Ordinance to add City Attorney position, was introduced and read only by title by Clerk Walton. Council Chavis assigned Proposal No. 7, 2021 to the Administration, Budget, and Finance Committee.

Resolution No. 12, 2021, providing funding for habitats in Lawrence Parks, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Council Chavis assigned Resolution No. 12, 2021 to the Parks Committee.

Resolution No. 13, 2021, approval of Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Lawrence and the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 159, effective January 1, 2021, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Council Chavis assigned Proposal No. 7, 2021 to the Administration, Budget, and Finance Committee.

Resolution No. 14, 2021, concerning retention of Bose McKinney & Evans LLP as legal counsel for zoning matters, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Council Chavis assigned Proposal No. 7, 2021 to the Administration, Budget, and Finance Committee.

Proposal No. 8, 2021, amending the Lawrence Municipal Code to establish Juneteenth as a paid holiday, was introduced and read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Denney moved to suspend the rules and adopt Proposal No. 8, 2021 on first reading. The motion was seconded by Councilor Russel. By a show of hands, the motion carried unanimously. Councilor Russel moved to adopt Proposal No. 8, 2021. The motion was seconded by Councilor Whitfield. By a show of hands, the motion carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS: None

CITIZENS COMMENTS: The following citizens addressed the Council:

- Judy Logsdon, 5230 N. Franklin Road
- Bill Barron, 5222 N. Franklin Road
- Colleen Morgan, 8140 8140 Patton Drive
- Jo Ann Wallis, 5814 Long Lake Lane

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 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.