

CITY OF LAWRENCE
Common Council
August 7, 2023
Public Assembly Room
Regular Meeting

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

MEMBERS PRESENT BY MICROSOFT TEAMS: Lisa Chavis

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO, BY MICROSOFT TEAMS: None

ALSO PRESENT: Clerk Kathleen Walton, and Attorney Kristina Wheeler (Bose McKinney & Evans LLP)

STAFF PRESENT: Chief of Staff Korn, Controller Douthit, Police Chief Bigsbee, Fire Chief Batalis, and Firefighter Rehmel

STAFF BY MICROSOFT TEAMS: None

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

COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: Councilor Shevlot asked that a moment of silence take place in memory of Joe Davenport, long time member of the City of Lawrence Street Department. Mr. Davenport spent 30 years working in the Street Department in a variety of positions that brought him into regular contact with citizens throughout the city. He also served 29 years as a member of the Lawrence Volunteer Fire Department. Councilor Whitfield acknowledged the great job that went into the planning and execution of this year's National Night Out. Councilor Wells asked for his name to be removed from the ongoing lawsuit involving the fire chief. In response, attorney Wheeler informed Councilor Wells that his name can not be removed because the lawsuit was filed by the mayor. Councilor Rusomaroff recognized Oaklandon Meadows resident Deb Hughes for her successful efforts to recruit volunteers from the neighborhood to paint various parking areas.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Councilor Whitfield moved to approve the minutes of the regular meetings on July 10, 2023, and July 19, 2023, Councilor Freeman seconded the motion. By a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS 8-7-23: Councilor Freeman moved to approve Payroll Claims for \$976,249.14 [July 15, 2023, payroll], and Invoices [for vendors] as presented today [for \$1,455,787.48]. Councilor Denney seconded the motion. By a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES: None

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Resolution No. 9, 2023, to amend the City of Lawrence's second amended ARP Fund Plan, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Shevlot withdrew his sponsorship of Resolution No. 9, 2023.

Proposal No. 7, 2023, to appropriate from the ARP Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund in 2023 for purposes that fulfill the intent of the American Rescue Plan Act, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Shevlot withdrew his sponsorship of Proposal No. 7, 2023.

NEW BUSINESS: Proposal No. 8, 2023, repealing certain secondary business permit fees in Title 4, Articles 1 and 2 of the Lawrence Municipal Code, was introduced and read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Giles assigned Proposal No. 8, 2023 to the Code Committee.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m., by the unanimous vote of the Council.

William T. Giles, President

Kathleen A. Walton, Clerk

These minutes are not intended to be verbatim. They are a summary of discussions held, except for the motions. An audiotape is made which provides a detailed record.