

**CITY OF LAWRENCE**  
**Common Council**  
**August 16, 2023**  
**Public Assembly Room**  
**Regular Meeting**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom Shevlot, Rick Wells, Shawn Denney, Lauren Russel, Deborah Whitfield, and Sherron Freeman

MEMBERS PRESENT BY MICROSOFT TEAMS: Maria Rusomaroff

MEMBERS ABSENT: William Tyrrell Giles, and Lisa Chavis

ALSO BY MICROSOFT TEAMS: None

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

STAFF PRESENT: Chief of Staff Korn, Police Chief Bigsbee, and Firefighter Rehmel

STAFF BY MICROSOFT TEAMS: None

Council Vice President, Rick Wells, designated Councilor Tom Shevlot to conduct the Common Council meeting in the absence of Council President Giles.

Councilor Tom Shevlot called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and announced a quorum was present.

COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: Councilor Freeman reported that a constituent has expressed concern about the build up of trash on and around the football fields near 56<sup>th</sup> Street and Franklin Road. Specifically, who is responsible for picking up trash and ensuring that the fields are in a constant state of cleanliness. In the most recent case, it appears that traveling league teams left the fields with a mess. Councilor Freeman concluded with concern that some residents are having difficulty paying their utility bill at the kiosk. It is unclear how they can get help if they cannot operate the kiosk. They are therefore worried about having their water cut off if they are unable to pay their bill. Some have called Lawrence Utilities but have not had their calls answered. Councilor Russel asked if Safety Day, which was cancelled last Saturday because of weather, would be rescheduled. Chief of Staff Korn responded that it would not be rescheduled because there are so many events in the coming weeks and months. Councilor Rusomaroff thanked Director of Streets Heneghan and the Street Department for work on curb areas in front of fire hydrants. Councilor Shevlot reported that FHRA has no more lots to sell. The FHRA will continue to monitor the status of the developments to ensure various financial aspects, such as tax abatements, function properly.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS 8-16-23: Councilor Freeman moved to approve Payroll Claims for \$1,090,251.64 [June 30, 2023, payroll], and Invoices [for vendors] as presented today [for \$3,729,546.28]. Councilor Wells seconded the motion. By a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

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

NEW BUSINESS: Councilor Shevlot moved to approve the settlement agreement and stipulation of dismissal regarding the ongoing litigation. Councilor Rusomaroff seconded the motion. A discussion followed. Attorney Wheeler pointed out that a video discussing the issues appears on

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YouTube. The budget investigation report is a public document. Councilor Rusomaroff read a statement regarding the settlement between the Collier Administration and the Common Council after the investigation into the 2022 budget reversion. By a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Proposal No. 9, 2023, appropriating funds and amending the 2023 budget with respect to the General Fund, was introduced and read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Shevlot assigned Proposal No. 9, 2023 to the Administration, Budget, and Finance Committee

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 6:47 p.m., by the unanimous vote of the Council.

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William T. Giles, President

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Kathleen A. Walton, Clerk

These minutes are not intended to be verbatim. They are a summary of discussions held, except for the motions.