Common Council

**City of Lawrence**

**September 20, 2017**

**Regular Meeting**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Council Members Joe Williams, Lisa Chavis, Sherron Freeman, Bob Jones, Elizabeth Wheeler, Tom Shevlot, William Tyrrell Giles and Rick Wells were present

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

STAFF PRESENT: Mayor Collier, Controller/Deputy Mayor Fenwick, Deputy Controller Streeter, Corporation Counsel Johnson, Deputy Police Chief Bigsbee, Fire Chief Batalis, Deputy Fire Chief Hardie, Deputy Fire Chief Wallace, Park Superintendent Martin, Utility Superintendent Salsbery, Human Resource Director Steans, Director of Public Works and Code Enforcement Anthony, Director of Crime Prevention Sokol, and several city employees were present.

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

COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: Councilor Freeman suggested Republic Services transfer their 5% profits from recycling and trash and use it to plant flowers, trees and shrubs in Lawrence Parks. She further asked that Republic Services send a flyer/mailer every 6 months advertising what is available to residents promoting Lawrence Parks. She also proposed an anti-litter campaign to be held next spring. She inquired about any success in getting funds for Lawrence Parks from the City of Indianapolis. She noted Indianapolis Parks are conducting face lifts to their park system. In response, Mayor Collier provided this background: under the agreement establishing Unigov, Lawrence and other communities were identified as excluded cities. Governance responsibilities were distributed between the City of Indianapolis/Marion County and those excluded cities. There is no evidence that the City of Indianapolis should be held responsible for Lawrence Parks. Councilor Shevlot mentioned that the parking lot and landscaping looks great at the Lawrence Government Center. Councilor Jones thanked Director of Public Works and Code Enforcement Anthony for his assistance with DPW issues. He noted the city website does not currently display meeting schedules. Councilor Wells asked why an animal vehicle was operating at 6pm, after what he thought were normal working hours. Deputy Chief Bigsbee reported that the working hours for animal control are a full time officer on Monday thru Friday and a part time officer 6pm to 10pm.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS: Councilor Freeman moved to approve Invoices [for vendors] as presented today [for $517,835.20]. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wheeler. By a show of hands, the motion to approve the vouchers carried by a unanimous vote of the Council.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES: Councilor Wheeler said the Code Committee will meet on September 28, 2017 and discuss Proposal No. 14, 2017. Councilor Giles said the Administration, Budget and Finance Committee met and recommended a do pass for Proposals 15, 16, 17, 18, and 19, 2017.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Proposal No. 14, 2017, amending the Municipal Code of the City of Lawrence, Indiana regarding the removal of weeds and rank vegetation, remains in the Code Committee.

Common Council

September 20, 2017

Page 2

Proposal No. 15, 2017, appropriations and tax rates for the 2018 budget year, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Williams said there will be a public hearing on Proposal No. 15, 2017 on October 2, 2017 at 6:30pm.

Proposal No. 16, 2017, fixing salaries of appointed officers and employees of the City of Lawrence, Indiana, for the year 2018, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Chavis moved to adopt Proposal No. 16, 2017. The motion was seconded by Councilor Giles. Following discussion, by a show of hands, the motion carried by the following vote of the Council: Seven (7) aye votes and one (1) nay vote (Councilor Wells).

Proposal No. 17, 2017, fixing salaries of appointed officers and employees of the Police Department and the Fire Department for the year 2018, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Following discussion, Councilor Williams re-assigned Proposal No. 17, 2017 to the Administration, Budget and Finance Committee.

Proposal No. 18, 2017, amending the Municipal Code of the City of Lawrence, Indiana regarding employee benefits and overtime, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Giles moved to adopt Proposal No. 18, 2017. The motion was seconded by Councilor Chavis. Following discussion among several councilors and Controller Fenwick, the motion failed by the following vote of the Council: Three (3) aye votes (Councilors Giles, Shevlot and Chavis) and five (5) nay votes (Councilors Jones, Wheeler, Williams, Freeman and Wells).

Proposal No. 19, 2017, transferring unused and unencumbered tax levy funds to the General Fund, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Giles moved to adopt Proposal No. 19, 2017. The motion was seconded by Councilor Shevlot. Following discussion, the motion failed by the following vote of the Council: Four (4) aye votes (Councilors Shevlot, Giles, Chavis and Wheeler), three (3) nay votes (Councilors Jones, Freeman and Wells) and one (1) abstention (Councilor Williams).

NEW BUSINESS: None

ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS: Mayor Collier addressed the Council. He focused his comments on the legality of Proposal No. 19, 2017 and the misinformation surrounding the intent and the content of Proposal No. 18, 2017. For instance, none of the proposed actions affect current employees, no matter the rumors to the contrary. Furthermore, no time is being taken away.

Following the defeat of Proposals 18, and 19, 2017, several councilors discussed the consequences of those actions.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned, at 7:20 p.m., by the unanimous vote of the Council.

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Joe Williams. President Kathleen A. Walton, Clerk