

CITY OF LAWRENCE
Common Council
September 21, 2022
Regular Meeting

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

MEMBERS BY ZOOM: Deborah Whitfield

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tom Shevlot

ALSO BY ZOOM: Attorney Kristina Wheeler (Bose McKinney & Evans LLP),

ALSO PRESENT: Clerk Kathleen Walton

STAFF PRESENT: Deputy Mayor Hofmann, Controller Douthit, Chief of Staff Korn, Police Chief Woodruff, Executive Assistant Wolfe, Fire Chief Batalis, Deputy Fire Chief Wallace, Battalion Chief Griffin, Firefighter Rehmel, Director of Engineering Venugopalan, IT Director Glass, and Park Superintendent Martin

STAFF BY ZOOM: None

Council President Lisa Chavis called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. and announced a quorum was present.

COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: Councilor Freeman congratulated City of Lawrence resident Mrs. Shawn Wright-Browner. She recently received the Tom Paul Outstanding Director of the Year Award. She is the Director of the J. Everett Light Career Center in Indianapolis, Indiana. She manages programs for high school students that enable them to explore their areas of interest. Many of the JELCC programs provide training for jobs currently in high demand. She also serves the community by serving on the City of Lawrence Board of Public Works. Councilor Freeman concluded by noting that she had visited Mrs. Shawn Wright-Browner in her home to congratulate her on her achievements. She also recognized the Arts For Lawrence: “A Night of Inspiration” held last Saturday at the Cultural Campus. It was a fantastic event, and outgoing Executive Director, Judy Byron, reported that she was “blown away” by all the hospitality offered. Councilor Freeman also recognized Lawrence North High School graduate and IU graduate Caleb Jones. He achieved one of his life-long goals by playing for the Green Bay Packers on Sunday night against the Chicago Bears at Lambeau Field. While a Wildcat, he wore #77, but now proudly wears #72 for the Packers. Lawrence is proud of Caleb’s achievements. She reports that she has received questions about the sale of the Sterrett Center. As the Administration will explain, the Sterrett Center is not for sale. Based on her discussions with Jim Heneghan about damaged light posts and glass globes that need to be replaced throughout the city, she has learned the total cost will be approximately \$15,000. Mr. Heneghan is working with the City of Indianapolis to identify which of the light posts and globes are in Indianapolis and which are the responsibility of the City of Lawrence. Some time during the past month, the butterfly bench was stolen from Kensington Farms sanctuary. She called on all residents to be aware of what is going on in their neighborhoods. They should then report any suspicious activity. She concluded by raising a persistent concern by neighbors in Watson Farms. Parents of students at Fall Creek Valley Middle School and Forest Glen continue to park in neighborhood cul-de-sacs as they wait for their children to be released from school. She is working on a proposal to address these concerns. Perhaps the MSDLT can assist in asking parents not to park in those areas.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS 9-21-22: Councilor Freeman moved to approve Payroll Claims for \$982,148.85 [August 31, 2022, payroll], Payroll Claims for \$919,020.91 [September 15, 2022, payroll], and Invoices [for vendors] as presented today [for \$1,684,542.05]. Councilor Rusomaroff seconded the motion. By a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Proposal No. 17, 2022, amending Title 1, Article 2, Chapter 2, Section 4, of the Municipal Code of the City of Lawrence redistricting Common Council district boundaries pursuant to Indiana Code 36-4-6-3, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Chavis assigned Proposal No. 17, 2022 to the Committee of the Whole.

Proposal No. 22, 2022, authorizing the issuance of the City of Lawrence, Indiana, Economic Development Revenue Bonds, and the lending of the proceeds thereof to KG Fort LLC and authorizing and approving other actions in respect thereto, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Chavis assigned Proposal No. 22, 2022 to the Administration, Budget, and Finance Committee.

Proposal No. 23, 2022, fixing salaries of appointed officers and employees of the City of Lawrence, Indiana for the year 2023, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Chavis assigned Proposal No. 23, 2022 to the Administration, Budget, and Finance Committee.

Proposal No. 24, 2022, establishing compensation for elected officials for the year 2023, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Chavis assigned Proposal No. 24, 2022 to the Administration, Budget, and Finance Committee.

Proposal No. 25, 2022, fixing salaries of appointed officers and employees of the Police Department and the Fire Department for the year 2023, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Chavis assigned Proposal No. 25, 2022 to the Administration, Budget, and Finance Committee.

Proposal No. 26, 2022, For appropriations and tax rates for the 2023 budget, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Chavis assigned Proposal No. 26, 2022 to the Administration, Budget, and Finance Committee.

NEW BUSINESS: None

After the reading of the various proposals by title, Councilor Chavis resumed the discussion of the proposed 2023 city budget that had begun in a Finance Committee meeting before the gathering of the Common Council. As many of the department heads were there, she asked that they clarify elements of their budgets to the Council. She concluded with the announcement of a Finance Committee meeting and a meeting of the Committee of the Whole on October 3, 2022, with the times to be determined.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:33 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, except for the motions.