CITY OF LAWRENCE

 **Common Council**

# October 1, 2018

**Regular Meeting**

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

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

STAFF PRESENT: Controller/Deputy Mayor Fenwick, Corporation Counsel Johnson, Police Chief Hofmann, Fire Chief Batalis, Utility Superintendent Salsbery, Assistant Utility Superintendent Wanner, Director of Public Works and Code Enforcement Anthony and Streets Director Heneghan were present.

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 Williams reported that he had received calls from several constituents about yet another shooting in his council district. He said that only one LPD officer was dispatched to the scene because the beer fest was going on at civic plaza. He expressed hope that this was not the case. He also reported numerous complaints about property crimes such as tire slashing and broken windows. Because of these incidents, he asked about getting more police officers and DPW workers. Councilor Freeman reported that there is a new flashing light by St. Mary’s Child Care Center at 9230 Hawkins Road. All drivers should be aware of that traffic control measure. She also reported that her constituents are confused about when to dial 911 or 311 in an emergency. They do, however, understand that the non-emergency number is 317-545-7575. She also said that she has heard that the Indiana Supreme Court ruled that as of September 24, 2018 CSX trains can no longer be ticketed by the City of Lawrence for parking on the tracks for more than 10 minutes. She went on to express the hope that funds have been set aside in this year’s budget to help keep Lawrence beautiful. She noted that grant money is never free, and that the City will usually have to provide 20% of total project funding. She expressed concern that the City is doing a lot of development on the Fort but not in old Lawrence. She asked that someone from the City explain why there is building going on at the Fort. She did express the understanding that money flows from two different pots: FHRA and the City of Lawrence. Councilor Jones thanked Jim Heneghan for quickly removing a couch from the right-of-way. It took only about 10 minutes to complete that task. Councilor Wells expressed concerns about vacant houses with weeds and tall grass. He called such places “negligent” and called for someone to keep a close eye on these properties. He then asked if the budget was going to be discussed that evening. Councilor Chavis responded that it would be discussed. He concluded by asking Police Chief Hofmann for clarification of an email sent to Virgil Aldridge. Councilor Williams asked Controller Fenwick about community block grants that the Mayor had discussed in previous meetings. He asked specifically if the City of Lawrence had applied for community block grants. Controller Fenwick responded that they had, specifically for paving thru community-crossing grants. Controller Fenwick reminded everyone that such grants carry a 50/50 matching requirement. Councilor Giles pointed out that some grant money is available for asset mapping. Controller Fenwick agreed and reported that the City had already applied for the annual program. Councilor Williams again asked about sidewalk repairs and the time frame for fixing them. Mr. Heneghan reported a specific plan was not yet in place and that they were trying to do something different. Councilor Chavis informed everyone that, during the Finance

Common Council

October 1, 2018

Page 2

Committee report later in the meeting, Councilor Giles would provide specific budget information and answer questions.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Councilor Freeman moved to approve the minutes of the regular meetings on September 4, 2018 and September 19, 2018 and special meeting on September 4, 2018. The motion was seconded by Councilor Parker and carried by a unanimous vote of the Council.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS: Councilor Shevlot moved to approve Payroll Claims for $878,550.09 [September 15, 2018 payroll] and Invoices [for vendors] as presented today [for $1,441,931.20]. The motion was seconded by Councilor Freeman. By a show of hands, the motion to approve the vouchers carried by a unanimous vote of the Council.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES: Councilor Williams said that the Code Committee met and discussed Proposal No. 12, 2018 and Proposal No. 13, 2018. The Committee recommended a do pass for Proposal No. 12, 2018 and Proposal No. 13, 2018. Proposal No. 7, 2018 remains in the Code Committee for further review. Councilor Giles said the Administration, Budget and Finance Committee met and discussed Proposal No. 14, 2018, Proposal No. 15, 2018, Proposal No. 16, 2018, Proposal No. 17, 2018 and Proposal No. 18, 2018. The committee recommended a do pass for all proposals. Proposal No. 15, 2018 needs to be amended. Discussion followed about the reasons for salary ranges rather than for specific salaries. It was explained that salary ranges allowed greater flexibility in personnel management and that specific salaries are available thru Gateway. Councilor Wells asked if this was the first public discussion of the 2019 budget. Councilor Chavis reminded him that there had been Finance Committee meetings where budget issues were discussed, and questions answered. Controller Fenwick pointed out that this is the 3rd year in a row that the budget process has followed precisely the state-mandated path. Councilor Giles confirmed that the City’s adherence to that path, instead of hiring outside consultants, has saved the City $250,000 a year for a total of $750,000 to date. There was a discussion among the council members and Controller Fenwick regarding the remaining proposals passed out of the Finance Committee.

PUBLIC HEARING: Pursuant to advertising, Councilor Chavis opened the floor for the public hearing concerning Proposal No. 18, 2018. Councilor Chavis called for comment and testimony. There were no public comments. Thereupon, the public hearing was closed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Proposal No. 7, 2018, amending the Municipal Code of the City of Lawrence, Indiana, to adopt a new Chapter of Title 3, Article 3 to establish standards for private event security and fines for public nuisances, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Proposal No. 7, 2018 remains in the Code Committee for 30 more days.

Proposal No. 12, 2018, amending the Municipal Code of the City of Lawrence, Indiana regarding discipline and promotions, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Parker moved to adopt Proposal No. 12, 2018. The motion was seconded by Councilor Williams and carried by a unanimous vote of the council.

Common Council

October 1, 2018

Page 3

Proposal No. 13, 2018, establishing an advance curfew for minors in the City of Lawrence, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Williams moved to adopt Proposal No. 13, 2018. The motion was seconded by Councilor Parker. A discussion followed. At the end of that discussion, the vote to adopt Proposal No. 13, 2018 carried with seven (7) aye votes and one (1) nay vote (Councilor Giles).

Proposal No. 14, 2018, fixing salaries of appointed officers and employees of the Police Department and the Fire Department for the year 2019, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Shevlot moved to adopt Proposal No. 14, 2018. The motion was seconded by Councilor Giles and carried by the following vote of the Council: Six (6) aye votes and two (2) nay votes (Councilors Wells and Williams).

Proposal No. 15, 2018, fixing salaries of appointed officers and employees of the City of Lawrence, Indiana for the year 2019, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Shevlot moved to accept Proposal No. 15, 2018 in place of the original proposal. The motion to amend Proposal No. 15, 2018 was seconded by Councilor Parker. A discussion followed among Councilors, Police Chief Hofmann and Utility Superintendent Salsbery. During that discussion and referring to Councilor Williams’ report of a shooting and limited police response, Police Chief Hofmann responded by saying that there had been no shooting incidents during the period of interest. Following discussion, the motion carried by Five (5) aye votes (Councilors Chavis, Giles, Freeman, Parker and Shevlot) and three (3) nay votes (Councilors Jones, Wells and Williams). Councilor Shevlot moved to adopt amended Proposal No. 15, 2018. The motion was seconded by Councilor Giles and carried by Five (5) aye votes (Councilors Chavis, Giles, Freeman, Parker and Shevlot) and three (3) nay votes (Councilors Jones, Wells and Williams).

Proposal No. 16, 2018, 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. 16, 2018. The motion was seconded by Councilor Chavis and carried by a unanimous vote of the council.

Proposal No. 17, 2018, amending the Municipal Code of the City of Lawrence, Indiana regarding employee benefits and overtime, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. A discussion followed. At the end of that discussion, Councilor Jones moved to send Proposal No. 17, 2018 back to the Administration, Budget and Finance Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wells. The motion failed by Two (2) aye votes (Councilors Jones and Wells) and six (6) nay votes. Councilor Giles moved to adopt Proposal No. 17, 2018. The motion was seconded by Councilor Shevlot and carried by Six (6) aye votes and two (2) nay votes (Councilors Wells and Jones).

Proposal No. 18, 2018, appropriations and tax rates for the 2019 budget year, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Proposal No. 18, 2018 remains in the Administration, Budget and Finance Committee.

NEW BUSINESS: None

ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS: Controller/Deputy Mayor Fenwick addressed the Council. He said S&P Global Ratings has raised its rating for the City of Lawrence Utility two notches

Common Council

October 1, 2018

Page 4

from “BBB” to “A-“and issued a positive outlook. It will save the City $3.5 million. New online billing has been launched for the Utility.

CITIZENS COMMENTS: The following citizens addressed the Council:

* Linda Moore, 4909 Leone Drive

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 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.