CITY OF LAWRENCE

 **Common Council**

# October 2, 2017

**Regular Meeting**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Council Members Joe Williams, Lisa Chavis, Sherron Freeman, Elizabeth Wheeler, Tom Shevlot, Bob Jones, William Tyrrell Giles, Rick Wells and Becky Parker and 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, Police Chief Hofmann, Deputy Police Chief Bigsbee, Fire Chief Batalis, Park Superintendent Martin and Tom Speer were present.

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

Councilor Williams asked everyone to participate in a moment of silence for those affected by the events in Las Vegas on Sunday evening.

There was a Blue Star Banner presentation.

COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: Councilor Freeman thanked the Fire Department for staging “Fire Ops 101”, an orientation program for City officials. Councilor Giles acknowledged Controller Fenwick and Deputy Controller Streeter for their efforts to move the City forward. Councilor Shevlot welcomed Becky Parker to the Common Council. He also expressed his views on the failure to pass Proposals 18, and 19, 2017 during recent council meetings. Councilor Wells asked that something be done to make sure that the doors to the city building are unlocked during times of scheduled meetings. In recent months, it has been necessary to prop open those doors with orange traffic cones to allow entrance to the meetings. Additionally, there have been complaints from the citizens at home that they are unable to hear the meetings. He also called for better communication among members of the council and the administration about budget issues and other concerns. Councilor Williams asked for details about funding he understood had been given to the City. In response, Mayor Collier confirmed that 2 of 4 proposed projects will be funded this year.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Councilor Freeman moved to approve the minutes of the regular meetings on September 5, 2017 and September 20, 2017. The motion was seconded by Councilor Chavis and carried by a unanimous vote of the Council.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS: Councilor Chavis moved to approve Payroll Claims for $767,411.54 [September 15, 2017 payroll] and Invoices [for vendors] as presented today [for $767,836.41]. The motion was seconded by Councilor Parker. 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 met and discussed Proposal No. 14, 2017. The Code Committee recommended a do pass for Proposal No. 14, 2017.

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Councilor Giles and Controller Fenwick discussed amendments to Proposal No. 17, 2017.

PUBLIC HEARING: Pursuant to advertising, Councilor Williams opened the floor for the public hearing concerning Proposal No. 15, 2017. Councilor Williams called for comment and testimony. Mr. Carlton Curry and Councilor Wells addressed the Council on the 2018 budget. Thereupon, the public hearing was closed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Proposal No. 14, 2017, amending the Municipal Code of the City of Lawrence, Indiana regarding the removal of weeds and rank vegetation, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Freeman moved to adopt Proposal No. 14, 2017. The motion was seconded by Councilor Jones. Following discussion among Councilors Wells, Freeman, Shevlot and Mayor Collier, by a show of hands, the motion carried by the following vote of the Council: Eight (8) aye votes and one (1) nay vote (Councilor Wells).

Proposal No. 15, 2017, appropriations and tax rates for the 2018 budget year, was introduced and read only by title by Clerk Walton. Thought Proposal No. 15, 2017 remains in the Administration, Budget and Finance Committee, Councilors Giles, Wells and Jones discussed various aspects of its content.

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. It remains in the Administration, Budget and Finance Committee pending modifications that will soon be circulated.

NEW BUSINESS: None

ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS: Mayor Collier addressed the Council. He discussed:

* Announced that the City had received an upgrade from Standard and Poor’s, raising its utility bond rate to BBB investment grade with a positive outlook.
* The City has received an award from INDOT in the sum of $301,252. The plan is to use the money to fund 2 projects.
* Indy Do Day on September 29, 2017 was a success.

CITIZENS COMMENTS: The following citizens addressed the Council:

* Lexic Green, 6604 Fountain Cove Court\
* Angelique Trice, 4803 N. Kitley Avenue

At the conclusion of the meeting, President Williams introduced Becky Parker who is the newest member of the Common Council. Councilor Parker responded by saying it was a great honor to be on the Council and she looks forward to working with fellow members of the Council.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m., by the unanimous vote of the Council.

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Joe Williams, 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.