

CITY OF LAWRENCE
Common Council
October 4, 2021
Regular Meeting

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

MEMBERS BY ZOOM: Tom Shevlot

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO BY ZOOM: Clerk Kathleen Walton

ALSO PRESENT: Attorney Kristina Wheeler (Bose McKinney & Evans LLP)

STAFF PRESENT: Police Chief Hofmann, Fire Chief Batalis, Park Superintendent Martin, Director of Engineering Venugopalan, Human Resource Director Jackson, and members of the Jerry Harkness family

STAFF BY ZOOM: None

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 Freeman asked the FHRA or Administration to respond to the email that was sent out on September 24, 2021, by the residents of Lawrence Village at the Fort. They were requesting that someone replace the dead trees along Birtz Road and to plant sycamore trees in the new open space at the corner of Birtz Road and Rising Road. She went on to mention potholes along Shadeland Way at the bend of the former Orchard Apartments. She sought clarification as to who is responsible for that section of road. Are any re-paving projects scheduled for that area? As the fort continues to beautify its appearance, one area is lagging behind. This is the Spring Valley Cemetery located at 5730 N. Post Road. There are tall weeds and grass growing in and along the fence line. This is an active cemetery that is managed privately. This issue was brought to my attention by a resident of Boston Commons. Councilor Denney reported that the Indiana Department of Transportation has begun public meetings regarding the addition of raised medians along Pendleton Pike. So far, the concept includes medians with raised flower beds that add an element of beautification to the project. A description of the plan can be found on the INDOT website. The Lawrence Park Foundation held its Fall Festival event on Sunday, October 3, 2021. It was a wonderful event. He thanked the board for their hard work. Councilor Shevlot announced that he had attended the unveiling of a monument in honor of Major General Ronald Brooks. He was the final commander of Fort Benjamin Harrison who remained active in the community for the more than two decades after his retirement from the Army. The event was well attended and nicely conducted by the Mayor and the Administration.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Councilor Freeman moved to approve the minutes of the regular meetings on September 7, 2021, and September 15, 2021. Councilor Wells seconded the motion. By a roll call vote, the motion carried by a unanimous vote of the Council.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS 10-4-21: Councilor Freeman moved to approve Payroll Claims for \$903,017.18 [September 15, 2021, payroll] and Invoices [for vendors] as presented today [for \$595,208.92]. Councilor Denney seconded the motion. By a roll call vote, the motion to approve the vouchers carried unanimously.

The Council then paused briefly to personally greet members of the Harkness family who had attended the meeting.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES: Councilor Denney said the Administration, Budget, and Finance Committee met on September 27, 2021. Because it was a lengthy meeting, it was continued until October 4, 2021. At that time, several issues remained unresolved, so the meeting was adjourned. Councilor Chavis then again expressed her concerns about disrespect among members of the council at meetings. She repeated once again that expressions of disrespect would not be tolerated. Councilor Giles reported that no Code Committee meeting had yet been scheduled.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Proposal No. 9, 2021, amending the Lawrence Municipal Code to establish an all-way intersection at Bogey Drive, Half Mile Drive and High Grass Lane, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Chavis assigned Proposal No. 9, 2021 to the Code Committee.

Proposal No. 10, 2021, amending the Lawrence Municipal Code regarding requirements for City towing providers, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Chavis assigned Proposal No. 10, 2021 to the Code Committee.

Proposal No. 12, 2021, appropriations and tax rates for the 2022 budget year, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Denney moved to amend Proposal No. 12, 2021. The motion was seconded by Councilor Whitfield. Following discussion, by a roll call vote, the motion carried by the following vote of the Council: Eight (8) aye votes and one (1) nay vote (Councilor Shevlot). There will be a public hearing on Proposal No. 12, 2021 on October 12, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.

Proposal No. 13, 2021, fixing salaries of appointed officers and employees of the City of Lawrence, Indiana for the year 2022, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Denney moved to amend Proposal No. 13, 2021. The motion was seconded by Councilor Rusomarov. By a roll call vote, the motion carried by the following vote of the Council: Eight (8) aye votes and one (1) nay vote (Councilor Shevlot).

Proposal No. 14, 2021, establishing compensation for elected officials for the year 2022, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Chavis assigned Proposal No. 14, 2021 to the Administration, Budget, and Finance Committee.

Proposal No. 15, 2021, fixing salaries of appointed officers and employees of the Police Department and Fire Department for the year 2022, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Denney moved to amend Proposal No. 15, 2021. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wells. Following discussion, by a roll call vote, the motion carried by the following vote of the Council: Seven (7) aye votes and two (2) nay votes (Councilors Shevlot and Russel).

Resolution No. 16, 2021, honoring Jerry Harkness for his service to the City of Lawrence and the State of Indiana, upon his passing, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Whitfield read Resolution No. 16, 2021 in its entirety. Councilor Whitfield moved to adopt Resolution No. 16, 2021. The motion was seconded by Councilor Giles. The motion carried unanimously by a roll call vote.

Councilor Chavis tabled the consideration of the council appointment to the Lawrence Plan Commission

NEW BUSINESS: Councilor Chavis said nominations for a member of the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) were open for consideration. Councilor Rusomaroff nominated Faith Alvarez. Councilor Chavis announced that, there being no further nominations, nominations were closed. By a roll call vote, Nine votes were cast, 9 votes for Faith Alvarez. Clerk Walton announced that Faith Alvarez was elected to the BZA.

Resolution No. 6, 2021, honoring Neal Gore's service to Lawrence Township Schools, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Denney read Resolution No. 6, 2021 in its entirety. Councilor Denney moved to adopt Resolution No. 6, 2021. The motion was seconded by Councilor Rusomaroff. The motion carried unanimously by a roll call vote.

Resolution No. 17, 2021, approving the sale of real property located at 7750 Oaklandon Road, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Chavis assigned Resolution No. 17, 2021 to the Administration, Budget, and Finance Committee.

ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS: None

CITIZENS COMMENTS: The following citizen addressed the Council:

- Police Chief Hofmann

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.

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. An audiotape is made which provides a detailed record.