

CITY OF LAWRENCE
Common Council
October 12, 2021
Special Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lisa Chavis, Tom Shevlot, Deborah Whitfield, William Tyrrell Giles, Shawn Denney, and Lauren Russel

MEMBERS BY ZOOM: Sherron Freeman and Rick Wells

MEMBERS ABSENT: Maria Rusomaroff

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

STAFF PRESENT: Mayor Collier, Controller Douthit, Police Chief Hofmann, Deputy Police Chief Bigsbee, Captain Steele, Captain Schneider, Captain Cline, Fire Chief Batalis, Deputy Fire Chief Wallace, Deputy Fire Chief Hardie, Economic Development Director Zuerner, Park Superintendent Martin, Administrative Assistant Rothenbush, Director of Communications Wolfe, Utility Superintendent Salsbery, Utility employees, Deputy Chief of Staff Murphy, Deputy Chief of Staff Korn, Director of Engineering Srikanth Venugopalan, Director of Streets Heneghan, Human Resource Director Jackson, Administrative Assistant Rafala, DPW employees, and several firefighters and police officers

STAFF BY ZOOM: Captain Cantrell

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

In her opening comments, Councilor Chavis noted that the majority of the Common Council feels good about the fact that they had passed a balanced budget in the past and had provided pay raises to all city employees. Additionally, pay increases were also provided to public safety personnel using ARP funds despite the negotiations for a zero percent pay increase in their contracts. “Now that’s winning!”

After her opening comments, Councilor Chavis read Resolution No. 18, 2021 in its entirety and reported that it will be considered at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING: Pursuant to advertising, Councilor Chavis opened the floor for the public hearing concerning Proposal No. 12, 2021. Councilor Chavis called for comment and testimony. The following citizens addressed the Council:

- Mayor Collier, 11050 Hermosa Drive
- Fire Chief Batalis
- Police Chief Hofmann, The Otis
- Utility Superintendent Salsbery, 5653 Wallingwood Drive
- Pamela Anderson, 6722 Silver Tree Drive
- Renea Rafala, 7414 E. 47th Street
- Judy Byron, 5762 Lawton Loop W. Drive
- Deputy Fire Chief Hardie, 10810 Indian Lake Blvd
- Nick Rehmel, 10940 Limbach Court

- Tom Ashcraft, 5880 Boy Scout Road
- Mel Keaton, 12322 Cobblestone Court

Thereupon, the public hearing was closed.

At the conclusion of the public hearing, Councilor Chavis responded to numerous questions about what had changed in the budget process this year. She cited a change in controllers as the primary reason because the lack of clarity stalled the budget process. She repeated that the Council has traditionally supported public safety pay increases. Because of the change in controllers, she said it was difficult to have their questions answered and to obtain information. She said that the Council wants to do the right thing for the right reasons and that Resolution No. 18, 2021, which she read earlier, clearly affirms Council support for public safety.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 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.