Common Council

**City of Lawrence**

**October 16, 2019**

**Regular Meeting**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Council Members Lisa Chavis, William Tyrrell Giles, Sherron Freeman, Becky Parker, Matt Hall and Rick Wells and were present

ALSO PRESENT: Clerk Kathleen Walton and Attorney Jonathan Hughes (Bose McKinney & Evans LLP)

STAFF PRESENT: Police Chief Hofmann was 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 Freeman inquired as to when the ribbon cutting ceremony at the new police station is scheduled. She reported attending a recent crime watch meeting at Watson Farms during which speeding cars and abandoned cars were identified as issues. She noted that it is possible for residents to notify the Lawrence Police Department in writing when they are out of town. Councilor Hall reported that the Veterans Center at 59th Street and Lee Road is experiencing serious structural problems. As a result, they are looking for financial grants to assist in maintaining the building. As an example, they estimate a new roof will cost $20,000. Councilor Wells said that he had concerns about Proposal No. 7, 2019. He asked if there would be an opportunity to ask questions about the proposal prior to voting. Councilor Chavis responded that the discussions at the special meeting on October 21, 2019 will be the perfect time to do so. She went on further to remind the council that they have had copies of the budget for some time and that they should put their questions in writing to receive the most complete answers. For instance, she suggested submitting questions though email in advance. Councilor Wells then asked if the 2020 budget included adding any new police officers. Police Chief Hofmann responded that it did not. Councilor Wells said that he had identified $7 million in reserve and wondered why that couldn’t be used to hire new officers. Councilor Chavis reminded Councilor Wells that any increases are included in the budget book that he and the other councilors had received. Councilor Hall said the $7 million is not a surplus. Councilor Chavis said that the controller would explain later. Councilor Wells identified the fact that several questions remain unanswered concerning the energy savings initiative. Councilor Chavis responded by saying that, once the numbers are received, they will be provided to the energy savings committee and the council. She went on to remind everyone that the energy savings initiative is operating outside of the 2020 budget.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS: Councilor Giles moved to approve Invoices [for vendors] as presented today [for $598,981.59]. 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.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Proposal No. 7, 2019, appropriations and tax rates for the 2020 budget year was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Chavis said there will be a special meeting on Proposal No. 7, 2019 on October 21, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

Proposal No. 12, 2019, amending the Lawrence Municipal Code to establish a nonreverting fund to fund benefit payments for retiring employees, was read only by title by Clerk Walton.

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Councilor Chavis said Proposal No. 12, 2019 is in the Administration, Budget and Finance Committee.

Proposal No. 13, 2019, amending the Lawrence Municipal Code to establish three all-way stop intersections in the North Woods subdivision, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Chavis said Proposal No. 13 2019 is in the Code Committee.

Proposal No. 14, 2019, establishing a new Internal Services Fund – Fund 703 – Garage Fund, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Chavis said Proposal No. 14, 2019 is in the Administration, Budget and Finance Committee.

NEW BUSINESS: None

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned, at 6:40 p.m., by the unanimous vote of the Council.

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Lisa Chavis. President Kathleen A. Walton, Clerk