Common Council

**City of Lawrence**

**October 18, 2017**

**Regular Meeting**

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

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

STAFF PRESENT: Mayor Collier, Controller/Deputy Mayor Fenwick, Corporation Counsel Johnson, Police Chief Hofmann, Deputy Police Chief Bigsbee, Fire Chief Batalis, Deputy Fire Chief Hardie and Director of Crime Prevention Sokol were present.

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

COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: Councilor Freeman inquired about access to the Marion County Landlord registry, the follow up meeting on October 6, 2017 with Indy Parks and City of Lawrence employees using the Community Health Network clinic on 56th Street. In response, Mayor Collier said City of Lawrence employees started using the Community Health Network clinic on September 1, 2017. Councilor Wells asked for an update on the new police station. Councilor Williams noted there are no flashing yellow warning lights on the approaches to Oaklandon Elementary School. He also reported that he had left a message with Controller Fenwick requesting a detailed billing breakdown on expenses associated with the state revolving fund loan for the water utility bond for Barnes & Thornburg.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS: Councilor Freeman moved to approve Payroll Claims for $834,216.57 [September 30, 2017 payroll] and Invoices [for vendors] as presented today [for $909,842.87]. The motion was seconded by Councilor Chavis. By a show of hands, the motion to approve the vouchers carried by a unanimous vote of the Council.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Proposal No. 15, 2017, appropriations and tax rates for the 2018 budget year, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Giles moved to accept Proposal No. 15, 2017 in place of the original proposal. The motion to amend Proposal No. 15, 2017 was seconded by Councilor Parker and carried by a unanimous vote of the Council. Councilor Giles moved to adopt amended Proposal No. 15, 2017. The motion was seconded by Councilor Shevlot and carried by a unanimous vote of the Council.

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.

Councilor Chavis moved to accept Proposal No. 17, 2017 in place of the original proposal. The motion to amend Proposal No. 17, 2017 was seconded by Councilor Jones and carried by a unanimous vote of the Council. Councilor Shevlot moved to adopt amended Proposal No. 17, 2017. The motion was seconded by Councilor Jones and carried by a unanimous vote of the Council.

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NEW BUSINESS: Proposal No. 20, 2017, to use unused and unencumbered tax levy funds to fund the Trust Fund for other post-employment benefits, was introduced and read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Shevlot moved to suspend the rules and adopt on first reading. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wheeler. Following discussion, by a show of hands, the motion failed by the following vote of the Council: Eight (8) aye votes and one (1) abstention (Councilor Wells). After the motion failed, discussion resumed among several members of the council. Following that discussion, Councilor Parker moved to reconsider the motion to suspend the rules on Proposal No. 20, 2017 and adopt on first reading. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wheeler and carried by a unanimous vote of the council. Councilor Wheeler moved to suspend the rules and adopt Proposal No. 20, 2017 on first reading. The motion was seconded by Councilor Chavis and carried by a unanimous vote of the council. Councilor Shevlot moved to adopt Proposal No. 20, 2017. The motion was seconded by Councilor Chavis and carried by a unanimous vote of the council.

Proposal No. 21, 2017, amending the Code to establish an all-way stop intersection at Bearsdale Drive and Rose Haven Drive, was introduced and read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Williams assigned Proposal No. 21, 2017 to the Code Committee.

Proposal No. 22, 2017, authorizing the issuance of one or more series of the City of Lawrence, Indiana, waterworks revenue refunding bonds, series 2017, for the purpose of providing funds to refund the City’s outstanding waterworks utility revenue refunding bonds, series 2007, and its outstanding waterworks revenue bonds, series 2009, and to pay costs incurred in connection with the issuance of such refunding bonds; addressing other matters connected therewith; and repealing ordinances inconsistent herewith, was introduced and read by title only by Clerk Walton. Councilor Giles moved to suspend the rules and adopt on first reading. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wheeler. Councilor Giles invited Controller Fenwick to explain Proposal No. 22, 2017 to the council. Controller Fenwick explained that the motion is intended to take advantage of lower interest rates than were available in 2007 and 2009 when 4 different bond issues were made. The current market rate is 3% and action must take place within the next two weeks to take advantage. The motion to suspend the rules carried by a unanimous vote of the council. Subsequently, Councilor Chavis moved to adopt Proposal No. 22, 2017. The motion was seconded by Councilor Giles and carried by a unanimous vote of the council.

ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS: Mayor Collier addressed the Council. He again asked the council to provide him the questions that they are intending to ask 24 hours in advance so he is a position to provide the answers they desire. The relationship with Community Health Network clinic is between the clinic and the City of Lawrence. While it is true the clinic has relationships with other organizations, those have nothing to do with the City of Lawrence. He also updated the council on his October 6, 2017 inquiry to the Indianapolis Parks Department. He has not yet received a response.

At the conclusion of the meeting, several councilors made comments about the functioning of the council’s business. One of the themes concerned “harsh comments”. There was a general consensus that everyone’s views should be listened to with respect and responded to responsibly. Councilor Giles pointed out that Clerk Walton provides sufficient and timely information to support appropriate council functioning.

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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.

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Joe Williams. President Kathleen A. Walton, Clerk