

CITY OF LAWRENCE
Common Council
October 25, 2021
Special Meeting

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

MEMBERS BY ZOOM: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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

STAFF PRESENT: Mayor Collier, Controller Douthit, Deputy Police Chief Bigsbee, Deputy Police Chief Woodruff, Fire Chief Batalis, Park Superintendent Martin, Utility Superintendent Salsbery, Utility employees, Deputy Chief of Staff Murphy, Deputy Chief of Staff Korn, Director of Engineering Srikanth Venugopalan, Administrative Assistant Rafala, DPW employees, and several firefighters and police officers

STAFF BY ZOOM: Police Chief Hofmann

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

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS 10-25-21: Councilor Rusomaroff moved to approve Payroll Claims for \$966,356.96 [September 30, 2021, payroll], Payroll Claims for \$897,470.90 [October 15, 2021, payroll], and Invoices [for vendors] as presented today [for \$1,593,668.20]. Councilor Wells seconded the motion. Following discussion, by a show of hands, the motion to approve the vouchers carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Proposal No. 12, 2021, appropriations and tax rates for the 2022 budget year, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Denney provided an update on Proposal No. 12, 2021 by giving a PowerPoint presentation on the actual council proposal. He highlighted:

- Pass a clear and transparent balanced budget for 2022
- Prioritize city employees and public safety first in the budget process (the council does not support one dollar being cut from public safety)
- Protect the City of Lawrence's cash reserve and bond rating from future declines
- To save funds, the Council does not agree with most of the new Administration positions or the doubling of Lawrence's administrative budget
- Use American Rescue Plan funds for public safety equipment and supplies instead of the general fund
- A 5% bonus for all employees in 2022 using American Rescue Plan funds
- Create a Rainy Day Fund to protect the City of Lawrence from future unexpected hits to revenues
- Cut \$3.6 million for parks capital projects from reserve funding
- A \$1,280,786 deficit in Public Safety Fund

- A 1,059,554 deficit in Highway Fund
- Additional resources to pay salaries and equipment for first responders
- Not a single councilor ever proposed job cuts or a reduction in public safety equipment and other services

Following discussion, Councilor Denney moved to accept Proposal No. 12, 2021 in place of the original proposal. The motion to amend Proposal No. 12, 2021 was seconded by Councilor Giles. By a show of hands, the motion carried by the following vote of the council: Seven (7) aye votes and two (2) nay votes (Councilors Shevlot and Russel). Councilor Wells moved to adopt Amended Proposal No. 12, 2021. The motion was seconded by Councilor Rusomaroff. By a show of hands, the motion carried by the following vote of the Council: Seven (7) aye votes and two (2) nay votes (Councilors Shevlot and Russel).

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 gave an overview of the amendments to Proposal No. 13, 2021. Following discussion, Councilor Denney moved to accept Proposal No. 13, 2021 in place of the original proposal. The motion to amend Proposal No. 13, 2021 was seconded by Councilor Giles. By a show of hands, the motion carried by the following vote of the council: Seven (7) aye votes and two (2) nay votes (Councilors Shevlot and Russel). Councilor Denney moved to adopt Amended Proposal No. 13, 2021. The motion was seconded by Councilor Rusomaroff. By a show of hands, the motion carried by the following vote of the Council: Seven (7) aye votes and two (2) nay votes (Councilors Shevlot and Russel).

Proposal No. 14, 2021, establishing compensation for elected officials for the year 2022, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Denney moved to adopt Proposal No. 14, 2021. The motion was seconded by Councilor Freeman. By a show of hands, the motion carried unanimously.

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 gave an overview of the amendments to Proposal No. 15, 2021. Following discussion, Councilor Denney moved to accept Proposal No. 15, 2021 in place of the original proposal. The motion to amend Proposal No. 15, 2021 was seconded by Councilor Whitfield. By a show of hands, the motion carried by the following vote of the council: Seven (7) aye votes and two (2) nay votes (Councilors Shevlot and Russel). Councilor Denney moved to adopt Amended Proposal No. 15, 2021. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wells. By a show of hands, the motion carried by the following vote of the Council: Seven (7) aye votes and two (2) nay votes (Councilors Shevlot and Russel).

NEW BUSINESS: Resolution No. 18, 2021, regarding funding for 2022 salary increases, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Denney moved to adopt Resolution No. 18, 2021. The motion was seconded by Councilor Giles. By a show of hands, the motion carried unanimously.

Proposal No. 16, 2021, to transfer unused and unencumbered funds to the City Rainy Day Fund pursuant to Indiana Code 36-1-8.5-1, was introduced and read only by title by Clerk Walton.

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Councilor Chavis assigned Proposal No. 16, 2021 to the Administration, Budget, and Finance Committee

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.