

CITY OF LAWRENCE
Common Council
November 6, 2023
Public Assembly Room
Regular Meeting

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

MEMBERS PRESENT BY MICROSOFT TEAMS: Lauren Russel

MEMBERS ABSENT: Maria Rusomaroff

ALSO BY MICROSOFT TEAMS: None

ALSO PRESENT: Clerk Kathleen Walton, Attorney Kristina Wheeler (Bose McKinney & Evans LLP), FHRA Executive Director Heather Millikan, FHRA President Jeff Vest, and Jim Ford (Harris & Ford, LLC)

STAFF PRESENT: Chief of Staff Korn, Police Chief Bigsbee, Director of Engineering Venugopalan, and Economic Development Director Zuerner

STAFF BY MICROSOFT TEAMS: None

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

COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: Councilor Denney recognized Col. Richard “Dick” Pedersen. Councilor Denney read Resolution No. 14, 2023 in its entirety. Councilor Shevlot said he watched the last meeting on October 18, 2023, and heard the rude comments made to a citizen by Councilor Giles. Councilor Shevlot moved to remove Councilor Giles as president under Rule 1, Section 3 of the council rules. Councilor Wells seconded the motion. Following discussion, by a roll call vote, the motion failed by the following vote of the council: Three (3) aye votes (Councilors Russel, Shevlot, and Wells), and five (5) nay votes (Councilors Chavis, Denney, Freeman, Giles, and Whitfield). Councilor Freeman discussed an issue with Lawrence Utilities. Bills can be paperless or paid at kiosk. When the water is disconnected, they need to talk to someone, and they don’t answer the phone. The lobby is closed. Councilor Giles said it’s difficult to reach someone at the utility, especially when the lobby isn’t open. You can only pay by phone or at the kiosk.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Councilor Whitfield moved to approve the minutes of the regular meetings on October 2, 2023, and October 18, 2023, Councilor Chavis seconded the motion. By a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS 11-6-23: Councilor Denney moved to approve Payroll Claims for \$966,198.22 [October 31, 2023, payroll], and Invoices [for vendors] as presented today [for \$1,534,943.66]. Councilor Chavis seconded the motion. By a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES: Councilor Freeman said the Code Committee met and recommended a do-pass for Proposal No. 8, 2023. There needs to be a general business permit.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Proposal No. 8, 2023, repealing certain secondary business permit fees in Title 4, Articles 1 and 2 of the Lawrence Municipal Code, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Whitfield moved to accept Proposal No. 8, 2023 in place of the original proposal. The motion to amend Proposal No. 8, 2023 was seconded by Councilor Freeman. Councilor Whitfield and attorney Wheeler explained the changes to Proposal No. 8, 2023.

Following discussion, by a roll call vote, the motion carried by the following vote of the council: Five (5) aye votes (Councilors Chavis, Denney, Freeman, Giles, and Whitfield), and three (3) nay votes (Councilors Russel, Shevlot, and Wells). Councilor Chavis moved to adopt Amended Proposal No. 8, 2023. Councilor Whitfield seconded the motion. By a roll call vote, the motion carried by the following vote of the Council: Five (5) aye votes (Councilors Chavis, Denney, Freeman, Giles, and Whitfield), and three (3) nay votes (Councilors Russel, Shevlot, and Wells).

Proposal No. 12, 2023, establishing compensation for elected officials for the City of Lawrence, Indiana for the year 2024, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Giles assigned Proposal No. 12, 2023 to the Administration, Budget, and Finance Committee.

Resolution No. 10, 2023, to adopt application form and evaluation rubric for community services grants from the Common Council of the City of Lawrence, Indiana, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Giles assigned Resolution No. 10, 2023 to the Grants Committee. Councilor Chavis said the Grants Committee will meet November 15, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS: Resolution No. 14, 2023, honoring Col. Richard “Dick” Pedersen for his service to the City of Lawrence and the United States, upon his passing, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Denney moved to approve Resolution No. 14, 2023. Councilor Chavis seconded the motion. By a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Proposal No. 14, 2023, authorizing the issuance of the City of Lawrence, Indiana Economic Development Revenue Bonds (Harris & Ford Properties LLC Project – federally taxable), and the lending of the proceeds thereof to Harris & Ford Properties LLC and authorizing and approving other actions in respect thereto, was introduced and read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Giles assigned Proposal No. 14, 2023 to the Economic Development Committee. There was a presentation and handout by Jim Ford with Harris & Ford Properties LLC.

CITIZENS COMMENTS: None

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.

William T. Giles, 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.