

**CITY OF LAWRENCE**  
**Common Council**  
**November 7, 2022**  
**Regular Meeting**

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

MEMBERS BY ZOOM: Lisa Chavis

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO BY ZOOM: None

ALSO PRESENT: Clerk Kathleen Walton, Attorney Kristina Wheeler (Bose McKinney & Evans LLP), Bruce Donaldson (Barnes & Thornburg), Mike Kleinpeter (Kleinpeter Consulting Group LLC), and Mary Atkins (Wessler Engineering)

STAFF PRESENT: Deputy Mayor Hofmann, Deputy Controller Nagila, Chief of Staff Korn, Bob Swintz, Director of Engineering Venugopalan, and Park Superintendent Martin

STAFF BY ZOOM: None

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

COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: Councilor Shevlot expressed concern that two care facilities are making excessive use of Lawrence EMS service and police protection to support their activities. The first of these facilities is located in a residential neighborhood on Redhaven Street and Clingstone Court in the vicinity of 46th Street and Mithoeffer Road. A survey of the record indicates that, in the year 2022, there have been 189 police runs and 112 EMS calls to that site. The second concern focuses on the Options Treatment Center located at 5602 Caito Drive. This is an inpatient mental health care facility. During 2022, there have been more than 100 police runs and more than 100 EMS runs to this location. He reported that these calls are made when the staffs are unable to control the patients. It would appear that police and EMS assets are being used by these organizations to transport their patients. There are two consequences that arise: first, regular service to the citizens of Lawrence is reduced with police and fire resources being used in such numbers. Secondly, apparently these facilities are not being billed for first-responder services. Councilor Russel echoed the comments of Councilor Shevlot and added that these facilities prefer to call 911 emergency number to avoid having to pay for private ambulance service and to absorb a longer waiting time. Obviously, relying on city first responders draws on tax money supporting the rest of the community. Councilor Wells again reported that many of his constituents have been asking about dilapidated homes in their neighborhoods. Concerns have also been expressed about neighbors obviously operating businesses in those same neighborhoods. It is his belief that these issues are addressed in the Municipal Code and asked that the administration look into stricter enforcement of existing ordinances. Councilor Freeman confirmed that dilapidated houses are addressed in the Municipal Code. She also reminded everyone that the city has an inspector, and if it is reported to him, he can look into it. Director of Engineering Venugopalan confirmed the code enforcement capability but reported that dilapidated homes are a separate issue. He is looking into the issue to achieve a solution.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Approval of the minutes of the regular meetings on September 6, 2022, September 21, 2022, October 3, 2022, and October 19, 2022, were tabled.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS 11-7-22: Following discussion, Councilor Shevlot moved to approve Payroll Claims for \$927,550.76 [October 15, 2022, payroll], Payroll Claims for \$1,090,246.77 [October 31, 2022, payroll], and Invoices [for vendors] as presented today [for \$1,673,576.99]. Councilor Russel seconded the motion. By a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES: Councilor Denney said the Administration, Budget, and Finance Committee met and discussed, Resolution No. 14, 2022. They recommended a do-pass for Resolution No. 14, 2022. Councilor Chavis said the Committee of the Whole met and discussed Proposals 24 and 28, 2022. They are still in committee.

PUBLIC HEARING: Pursuant to advertising, Councilor Denney opened the floor for the public hearing concerning Resolution No. 14, 2022. Councilor Denney called for comment and testimony. There were no public comments. Thereupon, the public hearing was closed.

PUBLIC HEARING: Pursuant to advertising, Councilor Denney opened the floor for the public hearing concerning Proposal No. 28, 2022. Councilor Denney called for comment and testimony. There were no public comments. Thereupon, the public hearing was closed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Proposal No. 24, 2022, establishing compensation for elected officials for the year 2023, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Denney assigned Proposal No. 24, 2022 to the Committee of the Whole.

Proposal No. 28, 2022, authorizing the issuance of general obligation notes for the purpose of providing funds to pay for certain capital projects and incidental expenses in connection therewith and on account of the issuance of the notes; and appropriating the proceeds thereof, was introduced and read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Denney assigned Proposal No. 28, 2022 to the Committee of the Whole.

Resolution No. 14, 2022, authorizing storm water improvement plan grant application submission and local match commitment to the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs and addressing related matters, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Following discussion, Councilor Giles moved to adopt Resolution No. 14, 2022. Councilor Wells seconded the motion. By a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS: Proposal No. 30, 2022, amending the Lawrence Municipal Code to establish an all-way stop intersection at Barksdale Way and Milroy Road, was introduced and read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Chavis assigned Proposal No. 30, 2022 to the Code Committee.

Proposal No. 31, 2022, repealing Title 1, Article 1, Chapter 3, Section 2 of the Municipal Code of the City of Lawrence, Indiana regarding governmental structure and administration, was introduced and read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Chavis assigned Proposal No. 32, 2022 to the Administration, Budget, and Finance Committee.

ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS: Deputy Mayor Hofmann presented a report on activities throughout the City of Lawrence. Highlights:

- The city has launched a program for the month of November during which we are honoring veterans of our community who have served their country in uniform. We are sharing stories and photos of Lawrence servicemen and women either living or deceased. Our first highlighted military veteran is Carl Francis Bordenkecher (January 9, 1927 – January 15, 2022). From 1945 to 1946 Carl served in WWII as a Navy radio operator aboard the U.S.S. Saratoga. This included service off of Iwo Jima during which his ship was attacked repeatedly by Kamikaze aircraft. “Voices of Lawrence” is a social project to celebrate our veterans and to share their stories one voice at a time. Please visit the city’s website for information about these individuals. If you would like to submit a story, or know of someone who should be recognized, please go to the city’s website for more details on how to submit the information.
- In a related matter, I was honored to represent the City of Lawrence, along with Police Chief Woodruff and Public Safety Chaplain Mel Keaton at last Friday’s annual induction ceremony for the Indiana Military Veterans Hall of Fame. This year’s ceremony brought honor and much-deserved attention to 15 men and women who displayed amazing bravery while serving in the United States Army, Navy, and Air Force. The objective of the Indiana Military Veterans Hall of Fame is to “publicly emphasize the honor brought to our state and nation by the sacrifice of Indiana military veterans and their families.” The Hall of Fame is located right here in Lawrence on Herbert Lord Road, just south of 56<sup>th</sup> Street and next door to the American Legion Headquarters. This year’s inductees join dozens of other incredible Hoosiers who performed heroically in various theatres of war. As a reminder, this Friday, November 11, is Veterans Day. This will be a perfect opportunity to visit the Hall of Fame which is free for everyone. You can find information at the Hall of Fame or online at [IMVHOF.com](http://IMVHOF.com).
- Last Thursday, the City of Lawrence was proudly recognized and received an award for “Excellence in Placemaking” at the annual AIM conference. Hundreds of municipal officials from all over the State of Indiana were present. The award recognized “Operation Fort Ben – Creating Space and Preserving History”, which told the story of the past two decades of vision and work under the guidance of the Fort Harrison Reuse Authority and the City of Lawrence. Of course, we are aware of the effort to transform the former Fort Benjamin Harrison into the success it has become. Now, the rest of the state knows about it.
- And finally, everyone is invited to attend the ribbon cutting for Civic Plaza and the nearby Tru Hotel this Thursday, at 3pm.

CITIZENS COMMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m., by the unanimous vote of the Council.

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Lisa Chavis, President

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Kathleen A. Walton, Clerk

These minutes are not intended to be verbatim. They are a summary of discussions held, except for the motions.