

**CITY OF LAWRENCE**  
**Common Council**  
**December 6, 2021**  
**Regular Meeting**

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

MEMBERS BY ZOOM: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO BY ZOOM: Attorney Kristina Wheeler (Bose McKinney & Evans LLP)

ALSO PRESENT: Clerk Kathleen Walton, Attorney Bruce Donaldson (Barnes & Thornburg LLP), Attorney Joe Calderon (Barnes & Thornburg LLP), Dr. Shawn Smith (MSDLT Superintendent), Wendy Muston (MSDLT school board), Reginald McGregor (MSDLT school board), Steve Talley (Lawrence Township Trustee), Rodger Smith (MSDLT), and Tim Harris and Jim Ford (Harris & Ford)

STAFF PRESENT: Mayor Collier, Deputy Controller Nagila, Jason Fenwick, Executive Assistant Rafala, Director of Economic Development Zuerner and Firefighter Nick Rehmel

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.

COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: Councilor Rusomaroff wished everyone happy holidays and noted the series of environmentally friendly events taking place in the city in the coming days. She said she appreciates the City Facebook notifications concerning those events but is disappointed that there has been no mention of Council funds provided for the butterfly project. Councilor Freeman noted that this month's vouchers to be paid included funding for more body cameras. She also recognized Fire Chief Batalis for his efforts to collect funds and gift cards for families involved with the Firefighter Family Assistance Program. She then presented contributions from the Common Council to Mayor Collier who accepted them on behalf of Fire Chief Batalis. She concluded her reporting that a young boy came up to her and asked her to thank Mayor Collier for the ice rink currently operating at Civic Plaza. Councilor Denney recognized Lawrence Township Trustee Steve Talley who was in the audience. He also noted the presence of Wendy Muston and Reginald McGregor who are members of the MSDLT school board. Councilor Wells presented his concern that council meetings have not been available in recent times on Comcast channel 28. He demanded to know why. Mayor Collier responded by saying that the situation is not by design.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Councilor Freeman moved to approve the minutes of the regular meetings on November 1, 2021, and November 17, 2021. Councilor Whitfield seconded the motion. By a show of hands, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS 12-6-21: Councilor Denney moved to approve Payroll Claims for \$917,503.43 [November 15, 2021, payroll], Payroll Claims for \$978,266.06 [November 30, 2021,

payroll] and Invoices [for vendors] as presented today [for \$1,234,758.42] Councilor Russel seconded the motion. By a show of hands, the motion to approve the vouchers carried unanimously.

Director of Economic Development Zuerner introduced Mr. Tim Harris and Mr. Jim Ford of Harris & Ford LLC. They presented information on their plans to expand their long-existing facility on 56<sup>th</sup> Street.

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:** Councilor Denney said the Administration, Budget, and Finance Committee met tonight and discussed three agenda items: 2 contracts with Taft and the vouchers for Charles C. Brandt Construction for pickle ball courts. The committee recommended a do-pass for all three. Councilor Giles reported that Proposal No. 10, 2021 is still in committee.

The Mayor, Clerk and Council signed certifications pursuant to IC 36-1-20.2 and 36-1-21.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Proposal No. 10, 2021, amending the Lawrence Municipal Code regarding requirements for City towing providers, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Proposal No. 10, 2021 is in the Code Committee.

Councilor Chavis tabled the consideration of the council appointment to the Lawrence Plan Commission.

Councilor Denney discussed the contract with Taft for Minority/Diversity Representation. Following discussion, Councilor Russel moved to approve the contract. The motion was seconded by Councilor Giles. By a show of hands, the motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Denney discussed the contract with Taft for Legal Representation. Following discussion, Councilor Russel moved to approve the contract. The motion was seconded by Councilor Denney. By a show of hands, the motion carried unanimously.

**Rezoning Petition – 2021-ZON-01** - 7302 East 56th Street, Lawrence, IN, Metropolitan School District of Lawrence Township, by Joseph Calderon, rezoning of approximately 20.38 acres from the D-2 (Residential) zoning district to the SU-2 (Special Use) zoning district for school use, including new athletic fields

Joseph Calderon, representing the petitioner, provided an update of the discussion from the November 17, 2021, meeting. He provided 2 handouts: the first was a proposed statement of commitments; the second was a layout of the expanded athletic fields in Power Point format. He reported that there had been a public meeting at Lawrence Central High School with neighbors and other interested parties. Mr. Calderon discussed a list of issues that he provided to each member of the Common Council in Power Point format. These included: overall layout; traffic/access to proposed fields; tree preservation; noise; lighting; drainage.

After discussing these issues, he acknowledged that a question had been raised earlier in the day concerning the deed for the property in question. He then produced what he called a “clean” deed that documents that there are no restrictions on the use of the property.

Mr. Calderon concluded his presentation by answering questions from the councilors. Mr. Rodger Smith of the MSDLT also responded to questions as did Jeff Vest, Park Board President.

There was a brief recess while the attorneys discussed the legitimacy of the deed.

Once the meeting resumed, Councilor Giles moved to approve the rezoning request with written commitments presented at the meeting. These are in addition to commitments as outlined in the exhibits submitted. The motion was seconded by Councilor Russel. By a show of hands, the motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS: Consideration of veto by Mayor of Ordinance No. 16, 2021.

Councilor Denney moved to override the veto. Councilor Giles seconded the motion. By a roll call vote, the motion to override the veto carried: Seven (7) aye votes and two (2) nay votes (Councilors Shevlot and Russel).

Councilor Giles moved to approve the 2022 meeting schedule for the Common Council. The motion was seconded by Councilor Freeman and carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 20, 2021, providing funding to the INSPIRE Program, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Chavis assigned Resolution No. 20, 2021 to the Administration, Budget, and Finance Committee.

Resolution No. 21, 2021, providing funding to the “Laundry & More” Program, was read only by title by Clerk Walton. Councilor Chavis assigned Resolution No. 21, 2021 to the Administration, Budget, and Finance Committee

ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS: None

CITIZENS COMMENTS: The following citizen addressed the Council:

- Al Edyvean, 5013 N. Kitley

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 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. An audiotape is made which provides a detailed record.