

CITY OF LAWRENCE
Common Council
June 2, 2025
Regular Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councilors Kristie Krone, Sherron Freeman, Zach Cramer, Rick Wells, Liz Masur, Tyrrell Giles and Betty Robinson

MEMBERS BY MICROSOFT TEAMS: Carlos Jennings

MEMBERS ABSENT: Councilor Lisa Chavis

ALSO, BY MICROSOFT TEAMS: Monica Ramey

ALSO PRESENT: Clerk Adkisson, and Scott Krapf of Frost Brown Todd

STAFF PRESENT: Jami Weinrich, Greg Goodnight, Renea Rafala and Jim Perron

STAFF BY MICROSOFT TEAMS: Shawn Fugate, Humphrey Nagila, and Mayor Whitfield.

President Cramer called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.
The pledge of allegiance was administered, followed by a moment of silence.

President Cramer recognized there was a quorum. It was also recognized there were extra copies of the agenda located at the back of the room along with a sign-up sheet for comments from the citizens.

COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: Councilor Freeman thanked the administration for sending a notification letter to CSX regarding necessary train track repairs.

Councilor Masur shared an update on the pollinator-friendly plantings funded several years ago. The gardens, covering nearly five acres, are thriving. She encouraged the public to visit, noting that the *hairy beardtongue* is currently in bloom.

Councilor Krone also shared the following:

- **Sunset Cove HOA & Water Leak:**
 - Reported ongoing liaison efforts between Sunset Cove HOA and Citizens Energy regarding a water leak at 7974 Glen View Drive (off Fox Road).
 - Technician assessed the site today; follow-up call scheduled for tomorrow.
 - Councilor Krone conducted a site visit and believed a resolution is possible without DPW involvement.
- **Crossing South Neighborhood – Footbridge Repair:**
 - Constituent reported a deteriorating wooden footbridge at the neighborhood entrance (south of 86th Street).
 - Councilor Krone confirmed the structure is splintered, broken, and dry rotted.
 - Will contact DPW for potential repairs.

NEW BUSINESS: 1) Re-zoning – 25-ZON-01 (Advertised Public Hearing)

Clerk Adkisson read the re-zoning docket number, address and the request for this hearing. Below are the details:

- **Address:** 7848 Pendleton Pike, Lawrence, IN 46226
- **Current Zoning:** Split between **C5 (Commercial)** and **I3 (Industrial)**
- **Petition Request:** Owner seeks to rezone entire parcel to **C5** to unify zoning and expand permitted uses (e.g. salon, laundromat, convenience store).
- **Petitioner:** Thomas Pottschmidt, engineer from Omega Engineering (representing property owner).

Mr. Pottschmidt pointed out the possible issues listed below:

- Upcoming zoning overlay may convert **C5 to C4**, which restricts uses (notably auto sales).
- The owner is undecided due to uncertainty about future zoning overlays and implications.

Council Concerns

- **Councilor Giles:** Strongly opposed to any future use as a **used car lot**, a use permitted under C5 but not under C4.
- **Director, Public Works, (Renea Rafala)** explained:
 - Proposed uses (convenience store, salon, laundromat) are **not allowed in I3**.
 - These uses would be allowed in **C4**, which aligns with city redevelopment goals.
 - Mayor and staff are actively working on a zoning overhaul to control undesired uses on Pendleton Pike.

Result

- The petitioner **withdrew** the rezoning request.
- Councilor Jennings moved motion to deny 25-ZON-01. Councilor Giles 2nd. The roll call vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.
- The council encouraged the owner to return with clearer plans aligned with community priorities.

COMMENTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION: Comments come from Chief of Staff, **Greg Goodnight**. He announced the following:

- **Farmers Market** 10th Anniversary kicks off June 5.
- **Mayor's Housing Task Force** meetings are ongoing.
- Initiatives to improve community–police relations.
- Mayor to appear on **Inside Indiana Business** podcast.
- Announced **independent audit** of city finances; results to be shared by late July or early August.