

CITY OF LAWRENCE
Common Council
May 21, 2025
Regular Meeting

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

MEMBERS BY MICROSOFT TEAMS: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO, BY MICROSOFT TEAMS: None

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

STAFF PRESENT: Jami Weinrich, Greg Goodnight and Jim Perron

STAFF BY MICROSOFT TEAMS: Shawn Fugate, Paul Wanner and Mayor Whitfield.

President Cramer called the meeting to order at 6:40 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 Wells addressed the council with the following comments:

- Numerous **citizen complaints** have been received regarding **youths riding motorcycles and minibikes** in **Harrison Park** and **Lawrence Park**.
- These are **not mopeds**, but full motorcycles being ridden unsafely — including **doing wheelies** and **running stop signs** (notably at **50th and Patton and Barlo**).
- Councilor Wells witnessed the behavior firsthand and contacted the **police**, who responded and confronted one of the individuals.
- The officer cited the rider's **helmet use** and **50cc engine size** as justification for not taking action.
- Councilor Wells disagreed, referencing **Indiana Code** which restricts such vehicles on sidewalks and public spaces, regardless of engine size.
- Councilor Wells contacted the **Chief of Staff, Chief Bigsbee**, and **Director of Operations Officer Romeril**, who acknowledged the illegality but suggested such behavior was considered less criminal and thus received lower enforcement priority.
- Specific concerns included:
 - **Noise issues** due to tampered exhaust systems.

- **Safety risks**, including a **reported accident** in which a child hit a car and sustained a broken arm.
- Councilor Wells emphasized **sympathy for constituents' concerns** and frustration with the current enforcement stance, noting that enforcement is at the **discretion of individual officers**.
- He concluded by stating that while he has taken action to address the issue, **further outcomes are uncertain**.

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS OR RESOLUTIONS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES REGULAR MEETING 5-5-2025

Councilor Giles made a motion to approve the minutes. Councilor Jennings 2nd the motion. Vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS 5-21-2025: Councilor Jennings moved to approve vouchers and claims. The motion was 2nd by Councilor Freeman. Payroll Claims for \$1,204,402.71 [April 30, 2025 payroll] and Invoices [for vendors] as presented today [for \$996,836.35]. Roll call vote was taken, (8) ayes Councilors Jennings, Chavis, Robinson, Cramer, Freeman, Krone, Giles, and Masur. (1) nay Councilor Wells. The roll call vote was taken. Motion carried 8 – 1.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

- **Administration, Budget, and Finance Committee**
Councilor Chavis reported that the committee met earlier in the evening.
 - **Discussion:** Resolution No. 3, 2025 regarding the professional services contract for legal services with Frost Brown Todd LLP.
 - **Action:** The committee unanimously recommended approval of the resolution to the full council.
- **Public Works Committee**
Councilor Giles reported that the Public Works Committee also met earlier in the evening.
 - **Discussion:** Contract for city engineering services.
 - **Action:** The committee unanimously recommended approval of the contract with **United Consulting**.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- 1) **Resolution No. 3, 2025 - A Resolution Of The Common Council Of The City Of Lawrence, Indiana, Approving A Professional Services Contract For Legal Services With Frost Brown Todd LLP.**
 - Originally introduced at the **May 5, 2025** council meeting and referred to the **Administration, Budget, and Finance Committee**.
 - The committee returned a **favorable recommendation**.

Discussion:

- **Councilor Wells** inquired whether an RFQ was issued to other law firms.
 - **Response:** No RFQ was issued; historically, one has never been required for legal counsel selection.
- Councilor Wells also asked whether the scope of the contract includes services beyond attendance at two council meetings.

- **Response:** Yes, given by Scott Krapf, of Frost Brown Todd. The flat fee covers additional services, which were outlined in the engagement letter provided to all council members.

Motion:

- **Moved by:** Councilor Chavis
- **Seconded by:** Councilor Robinson

Roll Call Vote:

- Councilor Giles – Yes
- Councilor Wells – No
- Councilor Chavis – Yes
- Councilor Robinson – Yes
- Councilor Kramer – Yes
- Councilor Jennings – Yes
- Councilor Freeman – Yes
- Councilor Cone – Yes
- Councilor Mazer – Yes

Result:

- The resolution passed by a vote of **8–1**.
- 2) Resolution No. 4, 2025 - A Resolution Of The Common Council Of The City Of Lawrence, Indiana, Approving A Professional Services Contract For Engineering Services By United Consulting.**
- Introduced at the **May 5, 2025** council meeting.
 - Referred to the **Public Works Committee**, which gave a **favorable recommendation**.

Motion:

- **Moved by:** Councilor Chavis
- **Seconded by:** Councilor Masur

Vote:

- Voice vote was conducted.
- **Result:** The resolution passed **unanimously**.

NEW BUSINESS:

1) Appointment to the Utility Service Board

- The Council considered and ratified a council appointment to the Utility Service Board.
- **Nomination:** Councilor Robinson nominated **Filmore Artis**.
- No additional nominations were made.
- Nomination window closed.

Discussion:

- It was clarified that Filmore Artist is the current appointee and has served for the past two years with positive feedback.

Vote:

- **Voice Vote:** 8 in favor, 1 opposed
- Due to one opposing vote, a roll call was held:
 - Councilor Giles – Yes
 - Councilor Wells – Yes
 - Councilor Chavis – Yes
 - Councilor Robinson – Yes
 - Councilor Kramer – Yes
 - Councilor Jennings – Yes
 - Councilor Freeman – Yes
 - Councilor Cone – Yes
 - Councilor Masur – No

Result: Appointment of Filmore Artist to the Utility Service Board was **approved** by an **8–1** vote.

2) Resolution No. 5, 2025 – A Non-Binding Resolution Of The Common Council Of The City Of Lawrence, Indiana, Recognizing The Month Of May As Mental Health Awareness Month.

Summary:

The resolution outlines the importance of mental health, recognizes the stigma and barriers surrounding mental illness, and calls for increased awareness, support, and resources in the City of Lawrence.

Motion to Approve:

- **Moved by:** Councilor Jennings
- **Seconded by:** Councilor Cone

Vote:

- Passed **unanimously** by voice vote.

COMMENTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION: Jamie Weirich, Director of Communications & City Events, provided all with the following announcements:

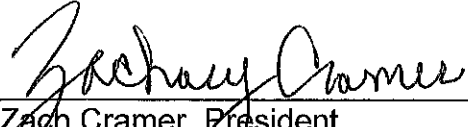
- **Farmers Market:** Begins June 5th and runs through October 2nd, every Thursday from 4 PM to 7 PM. A total of 18 markets will be held.
- **Juneteenth Jubilee:** Scheduled for June 21st from 4 PM to 8 PM at the Fort Ben Cultural Campus.

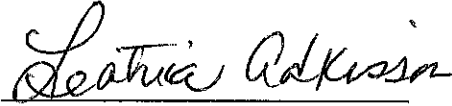
CITIZENS COMMENTS: **Colleen Morgan** (8140 Patton Drive, Harrison Park): Raised concerns about motorized bikes using the walking trail near her property. She noted excessive speed, noise, unsafe behaviors (e.g., no helmets, performing stunts), and the danger posed to pedestrians.

Stacy Eleck (8121 East 50th Street): Shared additional concerns regarding the safety hazards of young children riding mini-bikes and dirt bikes in the neighborhood. Mentioned unsafe traffic behaviors and potential accidents due to limited visibility and speeding vehicles.

Daniel Rapp (5718 Wallingwood Drive): Voiced concern over the **Form 1 Budget Document** posted for 2025, specifically the lack of revenue figures. He questioned whether the published budget is balanced and urged the council and administration to clearly communicate the city's revenue figures. Mr. Rapp emphasized the importance of transparency and fiscal responsibility.

ADJOURNMENT: Councilor Cramer called for adjournment. There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m., by President Cramer.


Zach Cramer, President


Leatrice Adkisson, Clerk

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

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