

**CITY OF LAWRENCE
Common Council
July 7, 2025
Regular Meeting**

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

MEMBERS BY MICROSOFT TEAMS: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: Councilors Rick Wells and Tyrrell Giles

ALSO, BY MICROSOFT TEAMS: Mayor Whitfield, Chief Curtis Bigsbee, and Chief Bob Wallace.

ALSO PRESENT: Clerk Adkisson, Sgt. Jason Heiney and Michael Allen, of Frost Brown Todd

STAFF PRESENT: Greg Goodnight

STAFF BY MICROSOFT TEAMS: Humphrey Nagila and Shawn Fugate

President Cramer called the meeting to order at 6:30 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 made mention of her appreciation for all that volunteered to make the city of Lawrence's 4th of July festivities such a great success. She also gave great appreciation to Mortonville Fireworks that provided the show. Councilor Freeman also stated the need for the pots holes in the city to be filled, and soon.

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS OR RESOLUTIONS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES REGULAR MEETING 6-2-2025

Councilor Chavis made a motion to approve the minutes. Councilor Robinson 2nd the motion. Vote was taken.

Robinson – Yes, Kramer – Yes, Chavis – Yes, Jennings – Yes, Freeman – Yes, Masur – Yes, Krone – Yes.

Motion carried unanimously, 7 – 0

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS 7-7-2025: Councilor Krone moved to approve vouchers and claims. The motion was 2nd by Councilor Robinson. Payroll Claims for \$1,178,557.50 [July 7, 2025 payroll] and Invoices [for vendors] as presented today [for \$3,248,420.04]. The roll call vote was taken.

Robinson – Yes, Kramer – Yes, Jennings – Yes, Freeman – Yes, Masur – Yes, Krone – Yes, Chavis – Yes,

Motion carried unanimously, 7 – 0.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

- 1) Resolution No. 6, 2025 - A Resolution Of The Common Council Of The City Of Lawrence, Indiana Concerning Retention Of Stone Municipal Group As Municipal Advisor. This resolution was referred to the Administration, Budget and Finance Committee at our last meeting, June 18, 2025. Councilor Chavis gave the council an update as chair of this committee. She stated the committee voted for favorable recommendation to the full council.
- 2) Proposal No. 3, 2025 - An Ordinance Of The Common Council Of The City Of Lawrence, Indiana Amending Title 1, Article 2, Chapter 5 Of The Code Of Ordinances Of The City Of Lawrence, Indiana. This resolution was referred to the Public Safety Committee at our last meeting, June 18, 2025. Councilor Freeman gave the council an update as chair of this committee. She stated the committee was not able to meet due to lack of a quorum.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- 1) Resolution No. 6, 2025 - A Resolution Of The Common Council Of The City Of Lawrence, Indiana Concerning Retention Of Stone Municipal Group As Municipal Advisor. This resolution was read in the record by Clerk Adkisson. President Cramer announced this resolution was given a favorable recommendation, to full council, by the committee which met earlier in the day. He asked for a motion to approve. Councilor Chavis moved the motion to approve. Councilor Jennings 2nd the motion. Vote was taken.

Robinson – Yes, Kramer – Yes, Jennings – Yes, Freeman – Yes, Masur – Yes, Krone – Yes, Chavis – Yes,

Motion carried 7 – 0.

- 2) Proposal No. 3, 2025 - An Ordinance Of The Common Council Of The City Of Lawrence, Indiana Amending Title 1, Article 2, Chapter 5 Of The Code Of Ordinances Of The City Of Lawrence, Indiana. This resolution was read in the record by Clerk Adkisson. President Cramer announced this proposal will remain in the Public Safety Committee until a recommendation is received.
- 3) Allocations assignment to Parks and Recreation Committee. President Cramer announced this subject matter remains in the Park and Recreation Committee until a recommendation is received.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) Proposal No. 4, 2025 - An Ordinance Of The Common Council Of The City Of Lawrence, Indiana Imposing A Municipal Wheel Tax And Motor Vehicle License Excise Surtax And Creating The City Of Lawrence Wheel Tax Fund And The City Of Lawrence Motor Vehicle License Excise Surtax Fund (**Advertised Public Hearing**). This proposal was read in the record by Clerk Adkisson. President Cramer announced this proposal has been properly advertised as a Public Hearing and the hearing will be opened for public comments. Once President Cramer opened the public hearing an invitation was extended for anyone you wished to speak. No one had a comment regarding this proposal that was in attendance nor did anyone that was attending the meeting on Teams. President Cramer stated the Public Hearing was now closed and would be suspended until the next Common Council meeting, July 16, 2025.

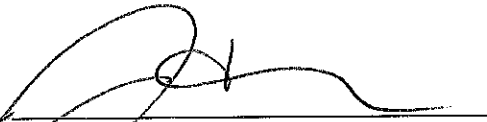
COMMENTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION: Chief of Staff, Greg Goodnight made mention of the huge success of the city's July 4th festivities. He also gave thanks to all of those who volunteered and participated. He also made reference to Proposal No. 4, 2025 (wheel tax), if passed it will help fund the roads in the city. Mr. Goodnight informed the council that the State Board of Accounts is currently auditing the City of Lawrence's finances.


CITIZENS' COMMENTS: Daniel Rapp, 5718 Wallingwood Drive. Mr. Rapp expressed his deep concerns regarding the City of Lawrence's 2024 Annual Finance Report. He stated the report shows the city's expenses for 2024 where 7 million dollars under budget. Mr. Rapp's question was, how can that be true when the city asked for appropriations in 2024.

Valerie Ellis, 4820 Atwell Drive. Ms. Ellis voiced her dislike of the towing of her daughter's car that was involved in a hit and run accident. She asked someone in the tow yard if the \$338 tow charge would allow the car to be put in her driveway. She was told "no", and they can only tow the car in front of her home. Only for the car, days later, to be tag as abandoned, which was properly registered and plated. Ms. Ellis stated she had to pay an additional \$180 to have the car towed from in front of her home, into her driveway. She expressed her frustration with city's handling of this issue.

Casper Jones is one of the city's local skateboarders. He questioned why the skate park was closed at 9:00 instead of the usual closing time of 11:00, on July 4th. He stated it was his fear that they were targeted. He expressed how skateboarding helped him with his sobriety and how it provides comfort to so many in the city.

ADJOURNMENT: Councilor Cramer called for adjournment. There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 6:53 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.