

CITY OF LAWRENCE
Common Council
July 16, 2025
Regular Meeting

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

MEMBERS BY MICROSOFT TEAMS: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO, BY MICROSOFT TEAMS: Mayor Whitfield.

ALSO PRESENT: Clerk Adkisson, Michael Allen and Glorify Batsirai Mandima of Frost Brown Todd

STAFF PRESENT: Greg Goodnight, Jamie Weinrich, Jim Perron, Renea Rafala and Eric Martin.

STAFF BY MICROSOFT TEAMS: Shawn Fugate

President Cramer called the meeting to order at 6:34 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' comments are as follows:**

- Extended special thanks to Peni Fajtele, the city's building inspector, for hosting the Fourth of July Car Show. Councilor Wells noted that multiple residents praised it as one of the best shows in recent memory.
- Brought attention to a prior meeting with Councilor Giles and the Council President regarding the city's insurance crisis and staffing issues in the Street Department.
- Cited concerns shared by Street Department Director Mr. Hennegan about retention challenges due to salary constraints.
- Recommended that the Council move forward with a **3% pay increase** for city employees, as previously discussed in the budget.
- Requested that the **council president direct their legal counsel** to place the matter on the docket.
- Proposed that the raise be made **retroactive to the beginning of the year**, as originally intended.
- Invited feedback from fellow councilors and requested the Council President proceed with necessary action if there were no objections.

The following comments are from Councilor Robinson:

- Department heads to identify the **funding sources** for any proposed raises.
- Suggested each **department head** be responsible for confirming that their budgets can absorb the raises.
- Emphasized the importance of incorporating these figures into the upcoming **budget season** to ensure clarity and accountability.
- Requested funding be explicitly detailed so the Council does not need to locate or justify the funds independently.

Councilor Freeman made mention of the following:

- Announced the **passing of former Mayor Bob Sterrett**.
- Requested a **moment of silence** in his memory.
- The Council observed a moment of silence for **former Mayor Bob Sterrett**.

Councilor Cramer announced the following comments:

- Extended appreciation to the **Arts for Lawrence** organization for their outstanding **summer day camp program**.
- Shared a personal reflection on her daughter's participation in the program, which offered enriching experiences in both **drama and percussion**.
- Commended the program for encouraging creativity, building confidence, and enhancing the summer break experience for local children.
- Thanked the Arts for Lawrence for their contributions to the community.

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS OR RESOLUTIONS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES REGULAR MEETING 7-7-2025

Councilor Wells made a motion to approve the minutes. Councilor Giles 2nd the motion. Vote was taken.

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

Motion carried unanimously, 9 – 0

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS 7-16-2025: Councilor Jennings moved to approve vouchers and claims. The motion was 2nd by Councilor Krone. Payroll Claims for \$1,262,255.91 [June 30, 2025 payroll] and Invoices [for vendors] as presented today [for \$2,001,194.23]. Vote was taken.

Robinson – Yes, Kramer – Yes, Jennings – Yes, Freeman – Yes, Masur – Yes, Krone – Yes, Chavis – Yes, Giles – Yes, Wells – No.

Motion carried, 8 – 1.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- 1) 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. The title of this proposal was read in the record by Clerk Adkisson. Council president announced this ordinance was first presented to the Common Council on **June 18, 2025**. It was referred to the **Public Safety Committee**, which has not yet met since that **June 18, 2025** council meeting. The next Public Safety Committee meeting is scheduled for **August 4, 2025**.
- 2) 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). The title of this proposal was read in the record by the Clerk Adkisson. The council president announced there would be a continuation of the **advertised public hearing** from the **July 7, 2025** council meeting. The public hearing was reopened for anyone with a comment to step forward to the podium. The public comments are as follows:
 - **Daniel Rap**, 5718 Waldenwood Drive:
 - Expressed concern about the **need for increased taxes**, especially after hearing that funds exist for public safety wages.
 - Questioned why tax increases are being pursued.
 - Noted that this particular tax (as it appears on vehicle registration slips) could **serve as proof of Lawrence residency**, which could be beneficial for:
 - City services such as the **dog park on 63rd Street**
 - **Verifying residency for public office candidates**
 - Mentioned the observation of **out-of-state and non-county plates** and emphasized proper documentation of city residency.

Clerk Confirmed:

- No additional public comments via **Microsoft Teams chat**.

Public Hearing Closed

Proposal No. 4, 2025 was referred to the Budget and Administration Committee for further review by council president.

- 3) Allocations assignment to Parks and Recreation Committee. This was originally introduced at the June 18, 2025 council meeting. It was referred to the **Parks and Recreation Committee**, which met **July 2, 2025**. This item **remains under committee review**. There weren't any council or comments regarding this item.

NEW BUSINESS: None

COMMENTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION: Chief of Staff, Greg Goodnight provided the following comments from the administration:

1. **Backpack Giveaway**
 - o **Date:** Sunday, July 20
 - o **Location:** Alexander Park
 - o **Time:** 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM
 - o All Council members were invited to attend.
2. **Live Longer in Lawrence – Community Partner Summit**
 - o **Date:** Wednesday, July 23
 - o **Location:** Community Center, North Franklin
 - o **Time:** 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM
 - o Led by Dr. Kunzer; attendees encouraged to contact the Chief of Staff for details.
3. **Former Mayors' Recognition Ceremony**
 - o **Date:** Friday, July 25
 - o **Location:** Outside Public Assembly Room
 - o A small ceremony will be held to honor past mayors of Lawrence, with family representatives from most administrations expected to attend.
4. **National League of Cities Recognition**
 - o The City of Lawrence was recently selected for the **2025 Community Health and Well-Being Accelerator** by the **National League of Cities**.
 - o Recognition was given for the city's **"Live Longer in Lawrence"** initiative.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT: Councilor Cramer called for adjournment. There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 6:48 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.