

**CITY OF LAWRENCE
Common Council
August 4, 2025
Regular Meeting**

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

MEMBERS BY MICROSOFT TEAMS: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: Councilor Tyrrell Giles

ALSO, BY MICROSOFT TEAMS: Mayor Whitfield.

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

STAFF PRESENT: Greg Goodnight, Jamie Weinrich, and Jim Perron

STAFF BY MICROSOFT TEAMS: Shawn Fugate

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 Wells** inquired whether the administration-hired private accounting firm had completed its audit intended to support the State Board of Accounts audit. He requested that the results be made available if completed.
- **Council President** noted the administration may address this during Administrative Comments.

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS OR RESOLUTIONS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES' REGULAR MEETING 7-16-2025

Councilor Jennings 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, Wells – Yes.

Motion carried unanimously, 8 – 0

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS 8-4-2025: Councilor Krone moved to approve vouchers and claims. The motion was 2nd by Councilor Jennings. Payroll Claims for \$1,095,039.30 [July 15, 2025 payroll] and Invoices [for vendors] as presented today [for \$4,426,257.12]. Vote was taken.

Robinson – Yes, Cramer – Yes, Jennings – Yes, Freeman – Yes, Masur – Yes, Krone – Yes, Chavis – Yes, Wells – Yes.

Motion carried, 8 – 0.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

- **Public Safety Committee (Councilor Freeman):**
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 proposal is under review was tabled until August 20, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.
- **Administration & Finance Committee (Councilor Chavis):**
Proposal No. 4, 2025 received a unanimous favorable recommendation to move to full Council for consideration.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- **Proposal No. 3, 2025**
An ordinance amending Title 1, Article 2, Chapter 5 of the City Code
Originally introduced June 18, 2025, and referred to Public Safety Committee. Consideration remains tabled.
- **Parks & Recreation Assignment**
Item introduced June 18, 2025, referred to Parks & Recreation Committee. Still under committee review after July 2 meeting.
- **Proposal No. 4, 2025**
An ordinance imposing a municipal wheel tax and motor vehicle license excise surtax; creating dedicated city funds
 - Introduced July 7, 2025.
 - Public hearing conducted July 16, 2025.
 - Received favorable recommendation from Administration Budget & Finance Committee.

Discussion:

- **Councilor Wells** asked for clarification on cost per vehicle.
- **Administration:** Maximum \$25 per personal vehicle; \$40 per commercial vehicle.

Motion to approve: Councilor Chavis

Second: Councilor Jennings

Vote:

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

Motion carried, 7 – 1.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution No. 6, 2025

Concerning retention of Stone Municipal Group as Municipal Advisor

- Mayor did not approve or sign within statutory deadline; considered vetoed.
- **Motion to override veto:** Councilor Chavis
- **Second:** Councilor Wells
- **Vote:** Unanimous
- **Outcome:** Veto overridden; resolution adopted.

COMMENTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION: Greg Goodnight, Chief of Staff:

- Clarified Resolution 6 was not technically vetoed but invalid due to statutory violations (IC 6-1.1-17).
- Stated the Stone contract lacked required legal clauses (e-verify, non-appropriation) and had procedural errors (no Board of Works approval, no statement of work attached).
- Reviewed prior audit findings on Stone Municipal Group dating back to 2012 indicating serious accounting issues, including unbalanced reconciliations and unpaid inter-fund loans.
- **Follow-up to Councilor Wells:**

Audit by external accounting firm is not yet reviewed; copy will be provided once available.
- **Councilor Chavis Comment:**
 - Urged fairness by allowing Stone Municipal to respond to past audit concerns.
 - Stressed precedent for amendments to contracts presented by the administration.

Additional New Business:

- **Resolution No. 7, 2025**

Adopting 2024 Marion County Multi-Hazardous Mitigation Plan

 - Referred to Public Safety Committee for review.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS: Daniel Rapp, 5718 Wallingwood Drive:

- Raised concerns over the lack of verbatim meeting records and missing video for the July 7, 2025, meeting due to technical difficulties.
- Suggested adding notation to minutes when video is unavailable or recording fails to ensure transparency.
- Asked why this protocol is not already in place.

ADJOURNMENT: Councilor Cramer called for adjournment. There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 6:51 p.m., by President Cramer.

Zach Cramer / BZ
Zach Cramer, President

Leatrice Adkisson
Leatrice Adkisson, Clerk

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