

**CITY OF LAWRENCE**  
**Common Council**  
**September 2, 2025**  
**Regular Meeting**

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

**MEMBERS BY MICROSOFT TEAMS:** None

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**ALSO, BY MICROSOFT TEAMS:** Mayor Whitfield

**ALSO PRESENT:** Clerk Adkisson, and Michael Allen of Frost Brown Todd

**STAFF PRESENT:** Greg Goodnight, Jamie Weinrich, Chief Bigsbee, and Jim Perron

**STAFF BY MICROSOFT TEAMS:** Shawn Fugate, Terri Falker and Paul Wanner

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 Masur** spoke about adopting sustainable landscaping practices to reduce exposure to harmful chemicals linked to diseases such as Parkinson's. She referenced the city motto "*Live Longer in Lawrence*" and urged the council to take action.
- **Councilor Wells** requested that the draft budget be provided to the council on the same day it's presented to the administration (September 5). He also read a prepared statement (attached), expressing concern about the administration's communication and transparency in the budget process, referencing concerns over potential retaliation against staff. He questioned the mayor's lack of public engagement and referenced research about the responsibilities of a mayor.
- **Councilor Giles** inquired about the origin of the draft budget and asked for clarity on who prepared it. President Cramer announced he would allow his question be answered during "Comments from the Administration".
- **Councilor Cramer**, the sitting Council President announced his resignation from the position, citing the need for more focused leadership during the budget season. He expressed gratitude to fellow council members and affirmed continued commitment to serving the city.

### ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR THE LAWRENCE COMMON COUNCIL:

Councilor Wells moved a motion to approve Councilor Robinson as the new president to serve out the remainder of the 2025. Councilor Jennings 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

With Councilor Betty Robinson, who served as Vice President of the council, whom has been voted in to serve out the year as president, that vacancy needs to be filled. Councilor Chavis moved a motion to approve Councilor Cramer as the new Vice President to serve out the remainder of 2025. Councilor Jennings 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

### SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS OR RESOLUTIONS: None

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES' REGULAR MEETING 8-20-2025

Councilor Chavis made a motion to approve the minutes. Councilor Krone 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Vote was taken.

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

Motion carried unanimously, 9 – 0

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS 9-2-2025: Councilor Jennings moved to approve vouchers and claims. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilor Chavis. Payroll Claims for \$1,123,584.46 [August 15, 2025 payroll] and Invoices [for vendors] as presented today [for \$912,724.38].

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

Motion carried unanimously, 9 – 0.

### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

#### **Committee of the Whole**

Vice President Cramer gave an update from this committee. He stated the committee, met at 5:00 pm that day and voted to table Proposal No. 3, 2025.

#### **Code and Rules Committee:**

Councilor Krone, who chairs this committee, gave an update. The committee met on this day, at 5:30 and passed an unanimously favorable recommendation to full council to approve.

### 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. This proposal was tabled in Committee of the Whole. It will remain tabled until further discussion. No action taken.
- 2) **Proposal No. 5, 2025** – An Ordinance Adopting And Enacting An Eighteenth Supplement To The Code Of Ordinances Of The City Of Lawrence, Indiana.

Councilor Chavis made a motion to approve this proposal. Councilor Krone 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

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

NEW BUSINESS: None

COMMENTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION: **Greg Goodnight**, Chief of Staff –  
**Budget Discussion:**

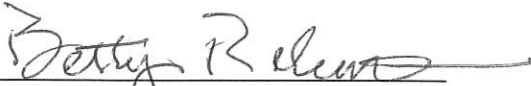
- The administration confirmed the budget draft would be prepared by the newly appointed Controller.
  - Council members expressed frustration over the proposed schedule, emphasizing the importance of timely collaboration to avoid rushed decisions.
  - Several councilors reiterated that the budget belongs to the council, not solely the administration or mayor.
- **Response to Council Concerns:**
- The administration denied any retaliation involving the former DPW director and referenced legal limitations on discussing HR matters.
  - The mayor's public presence was defended, citing media interviews and attendance at community events.
  - The administration noted council members did not attend the recent State Board of Accounts exit interview, although one member attended via Zoom.
- **Council Response:**
- Councilors clarified that the SBOA audit pertains to past budgets and does not resolve current transparency concerns.
  - The comments made about council attendance were deemed inappropriate by several members.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS:

**JD Masur, 6203 Carrington, Lawrence, IN.**

- Congratulated the new Council President.
- Urged the council to oppose the proposed 13% AES utility rate increase.
- Highlighted recent media coverage of pollinator initiatives and local development.
- Suggested that Parks Department resources should be reallocated during snowstorms, as the dog park parking lot was cleared unnecessarily.

ADJOURNMENT: Councilor Robinson called for adjournment. There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 6:54 p.m., by President Robinson.

  
Betty Robinson, 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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