

CITY OF LAWRENCE
Common Council
October 6, 2025
Regular Meeting

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

MEMBERS BY MICROSOFT TEAMS: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: Councilor Chavis

ALSO, BY MICROSOFT TEAMS: None

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

STAFF PRESENT: Greg Goodnight, Jim Perron, Chief Curtis Bigsbee and Firefighter Nick Rehmel

STAFF BY MICROSOFT TEAMS: None

Council President Betty Robinson called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

The pledge of allegiance was administered, followed by a moment of silence in honor of **retired Officer Donald Lightle**.

Roll call was taken. Eight (8) council members were present. President Robinson 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: None

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS OR RESOLUTIONS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES' REGULAR MEETING 9-17-2025

Councilor Cramer made a motion to approve the minutes. Councilor Krone 2nd the motion. Vote was taken.

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

Motion carried unanimously, 8 – 0

APPROVAL OF MINUTES' SPECIAL MEETING 9-23-2025

Councilor Cramer made a motion to approve the minutes. Councilor Krone 2nd the motion. Vote was taken.

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

Motion carried unanimously, 8 – 0

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS 10-6-2025: Action on vouchers was **tabled** until a later date.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- **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.*

Remains with the **Committee of the Whole** for review. No questions or comments were raised.

- **Proposal No. 6, 2025**

An ordinance amending Title 3, Article 3, Chapter 13 of the Code of Ordinances regarding graffiti elimination.

Remains with the **Committee of the Whole** for review. No questions or comments were raised.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Mayoral Veto – Proposal No. 2, 2025** *An ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Lawrence, Indiana, amending Title 1, Article 1, Chapter 2, Section 12 of the Municipal Code regarding Common Council approval on expenditures of professional service contracts.*

The ordinance was previously passed but deemed **vetoed** due to lack of timely approval by the mayor.

Motion to override the veto: **Councilor Wells**

Second: **Cramer**

Vote: **7-1 – Veto overridden.**

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

Motion carried unanimously, 7 – 1

- **Proposal No. 7, 2025**

An Ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Lawrence, Indiana Adopting a Code of Ethics. Referred to the **Code Committee** for consideration.

QUESTIONS FOR THE ADMINISTRATION:

- **Councilor Cramer** expressed concerns regarding:
 - The recent budget presentation by the mayor lacking council interaction.
 - The live stream and audio being shut off during the session.
 - The administration was reminded that the Council President determines adjournment of meetings.
- **Clarifications provided by Greg Goodnight**
 - The meeting was an administrative presentation, not a regular council meeting, hence no roll call or pledge.
 - The meeting format was in line with other cities' mayoral addresses.
- **Comments from Council President**
 - The importance of collaboration and communication between the administration and the Council regarding meeting scheduling.

- **Councilor Giles** initiated discussion on:
 - The **deficit budget** ranging between \$1.3 to \$3 million.
 - Potential need to **pause hiring**, including within public safety.
 - Emphasized the Council's commitment to transparency and difficult fiscal decisions.
- **Councilor Wells:**
 - Stressed the limited time available to review and cut the budget.
 - Expressed frustration over delayed delivery of the budget compared to other cities.
- **President's Remarks:**
 - Encouraged public feedback to be shared respectfully and **in person** during meetings.
 - Reiterated the need for timely and cooperative engagement from the administration.
- **Councilor Wells** inquired about upcoming grants:
 - Administration noted significant **cuts at the federal level**, but no specific grants were cited.
 - Grant Writer, Jim Perron, indicated a **report would be prepared** for the Council.
- **Councilors** requested clarification on:
 - **Internal service charges** in the budget, especially within the police department.
 - Explanation: Previously funded by ARPA; now moved into the regular budget.
 - **Timing and content of the salary ordinance** – expected in upcoming meetings.
 - Concerns about **retirement-related payouts** and budget forecasting were discussed.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS: Citizens' Comments (*Limited to 3 minutes per speaker*)

- **Daniel Rapp (5718 Wallingwood Drive):**
 - Addressed inconsistencies and formatting issues in financial reports (April–June 2025).
 - Questioned unauthorized budget amendments appearing in reports without Council approval.
 - Urged residents to review financials and attend budget meetings.

ADJOURNMENT: Councilor Robinson called for adjournment. There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 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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