

CITY OF LAWRENCE
Common Council
December 17, 2025
Regular Meeting

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

MEMBERS BY MICROSOFT TEAMS: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO, BY MICROSOFT TEAMS: None

ALSO PRESENT: Clerk Adkisson, Lt. Nick Rehmel and Michael Allen, of Frost Brown Todd

STAFF PRESENT: Jim Perron, Jami Weinrich, Amber Finley, Terri Falker, and Greg Goodnight

STAFF BY MICROSOFT TEAMS: None

Council President Betty Robinson called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

The pledge of allegiance was administered, followed by a prayer given by Councilor Giles.

Roll call was taken. Nine (9) 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 12-1-2025

Councilor Jennings made a motion to approve the minutes. Councilor Chavis 2nd the motion.

- No corrections noted.
- **Vote:** Passed unanimously.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE:

A **Committee of the Whole** meeting was held at **5:30 p.m.** prior to the council meeting.

- **Proposal No. 7, 2025** – Tabled
- **Council Rules and Procedures** – Tabled

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a.) Proposal No. 3, 2025

Title: Ordinance amending Title 1, Article 2, Chapter 5 of the City Code.

- Read into the record by the Clerk.
- Remains before the **Committee of the Whole** for consideration.

b. Proposal No. 7, 2025

Title: Ordinance Adopting a Code of Ethics.

- Previously referred to the Committee of the Whole.
- **Tabled.**

c. Resolution No. 10, 2025

Title: Resolution amending the Common Council Rules and Procedures.

- Read into the record.
- **Tabled** in the Committee of the Whole.

NEW BUSINESS:**a. Board and Commission Appointments****Redevelopment Commission (2 seats)****Nominees/Reappointments:**

- Michael Townsend
- Becky Parker
- Motion made (Councilor Wells) and seconded (Councilor Cramer) to reappoint both nominees.
- **Vote:** Passed.

Board of Zoning Appeals (3 seats)**Reappointments:**

- Karen Celestino Horseman
- Faith Alvarez
- Eugene West
- Motion made (Councilor Chavis) and seconded (Councilor Giles).
- **Vote:** Passed.

Board of Zoning Appeals – Alternate Member (1 seat)**Reappointment:**

- Chelle “Scooter” Carey
- Motion made (Councilor Giles) and (Councilor Wells) seconded.
- **Vote:** Passed.

Fort Harrison Reuse Authority (2 seats)**Appointments:**

- Dion Adkisson
- Karen Horth Powers
- Motion made (Councilor Freeman) and (Councilor Jennings) seconded.
- **Vote:** Passed.

b. Proposal No. 12, 2025 – Additional Appropriation

Title: Ordinance appropriating additional funds and amending the 2025 budget.

- Clerk read the ordinance into the record.
- Council President stated the required legal notice was **not published in time**, requiring rescheduling.
- The item will be considered at a **future meeting** (date not yet scheduled).

Controller's Statement

The City Controller and Chief of Staff provided clarification:

- Original public notice reflected a higher estimated amount due to timing requirements.
- The **actual requested amount** is **\$828,000**.
- Funds include:
 - General Fund (Council): \$102,000
 - Cumulative Improvement Fund: \$198,000 (energy savings contract debt service)
 - EMS Fund: \$150,000 (personnel services)
 - Administrative Services Fund: \$378,000 (police building debt service)

Council Discussion

Council members raised concerns regarding:

- Public confusion due to the large advertised amount.
- Budget transparency and timing.
- Debt service obligations not included in the original budget.
- Prior year expenditures paid from current-year funds.
- Access to the most recent **Baker Tilly audit**.

Administration stated:

- The General Fund is projected to finish under budget.
- Additional appropriations are fund-specific and cannot be transferred.
- A copy of the most recent audit will be provided.

Discussion on \$5,000 Professional Services Ordinance

Corporation Counsel explained:

- Professional service contracts anticipated to meet or exceed \$5,000 must be presented to Council **before payment**, not before work begins.
- Executive branch retains authority to enter contracts.
- Certain contracts (e.g., infrastructure) may be exempt.
- Council members suggested clarifying timelines to avoid delays.

COMMENTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION: **None**

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

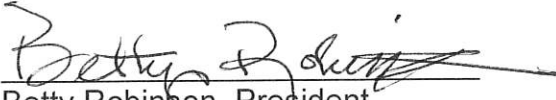
Daniel Rapp – 5718 Wallingwood Drive

- Spoke on deficiencies in the proposed Code of Ethics, citing lack of:
 - Coverage for contractors and volunteers
 - Enforcement authority
 - Penalties
 - Appeals process

J.D. Masur – 6203 Carrington Drive

- Raised concerns about an alleged incident involving threats with a firearm and the absence of a police report.
- Requested Council assistance in ensuring proper documentation and follow-up by the Police Department.

ADJOURNMENT: Councilor Robinson called for adjournment. There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:22 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.

Summary of Votes

Common Council Meeting – December 17, 2025

Agenda Item	Motion / Action	Result
Approval of Minutes (Dec. 1, 2025)	Motion to approve meeting minutes	Approved
Redevelopment Commission Appointments	Reappointment of Michael Townsend and Becky Parker	Approved
Board of Zoning Appeals Appointments	Reappointment of Karen Celestino- Horseman, Faith Alvarez, and Eugene West	Approved
Board of Zoning Appeals – Alternate	Reappointment of Chelle “Scooter” Carey	Approved
Fort Harrison Reuse Authority Appointments	Appointment of Dion Adkisson and Karen Horth Powers	Approved
Proposal No. 12, 2025	Additional appropriation ordinance	No vote taken (rescheduled due to notice requirements)