

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE LAWRENCE CITY COUNCIL
Tuesday, January 6, 2026**

A SPECIAL MEETING of the Lawrence City Council was held on **Tuesday, January 6, 2026**. The meeting was called to Order at approximately 7:10 p.m. by City Council President, Jeovanny Rodriguez. This public meeting of the Lawrence City Council was conducted in person at Lawrence City Hall, 200 Common Street and via remote participation. Members of the public who attended this meeting were allowed to make comments during the portion of the meeting designated for public comment.

He then asked the City Clerk, Eileen Bernal to call the roll:

Councilor Rosaly Gonzalez [District B] – Present
Councilor Franklin Miguel [District A] – Present
Councilor Vivian Marmol [District D] – Present
Councilor Stephany Infante [District E] – Present
Councilor Celina Reyes [Councilor at Large] – Present
Councilor Gregory Delrosario [District C] – Absent
Councilor Marc Laplante [District F] – Present
Council Vice President, Ana Levy [Councilor at Large] – Present
Council President, Jeovanny Rodriguez [Councilor at Large] – Present
Present - 8. Quorum established.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

The City Council President stated that members of the Public who had signed in for Public Participation would be allotted two and a half minutes to speak. He noted that their comments should be addressed to the Council as a whole and not to any individual member. Those participating were:

H. Maali, 53 Chester Street. Mr. Maali stated that the citizens support the Police Unions. He noted that under the impeccable leadership of Chief Aguiler, the Police Department was doing well. He also spoke in support of the DPW and the Inspectional Services Department and encouraged the city to hire more inspectors. He commended the Public Schools and the leadership of Superintendent Ralph Carrero. He praised the Lawrence Teachers and their Union. He thanked the Veterans and encouraged the city to hire two new employees in veteran services. He encouraged them to activate the council on aging, and to pay the long-term employees as much as the new hires. He also spoke in support of Fire Chief Delaney who is doing the best job. “Lawrence Always Strong, Always United.”

Richard Russell, 34 Cross Street. Former City Councilor Richard Russell expressed concern about the “Blue Light” system of notification for snow emergencies. Specifically, he asked why there are not more Blue Lights. Similarly, he wanted the Blue Light alert extended to the City Web Page. He also stated that he believes that persons requesting ordinance changes should be charged for the publication of the required legal notice in the Eagle Tribune. He similarly reminded the Council that the plaques at certain city monuments were supposed to be replaced.

Specifically, he noted the ones installed in 2023, where the name of the Mayor dwarfed the name of the honoree.

The Council President took a point of personal privilege to say thank you to all of the candidates who ran for City Council, both the winners and the other candidates. He also specifically thanked the winners, noting the time it takes to serve the community, and for putting the city of Lawrence first. He acknowledged the two new Councilors and the returning Councilors. He also commended the School Committee candidates and the Mayor for their commitment and their service.

New Business:

DOC # 003/26 Authorization to Purchase of Airplane Hanger at Lawrence Municipal Airport – John Lavoie, Greater Lawrence Technical School, Superintendent of Schools

The Council President noted that per **Rule # 6**, all new Documents are sent to Committee, however, as a courtesy to Mr. John Lavoie, the Greater Lawrence Technical School Superintendent, the President was looking for a Motion to Suspend that Rule to allow discussion at the full Council. Councilor Infante made a Motion to Suspend Rule # 6 and it was seconded by Councilor Marmol.

After being granted the floor, Councilor Laplante expressed his concern about suspending the rules. He stated that while he conceptually agrees with the concept of buying the hanger, he believes that there is time and that the Council would be better served sending this Document through the normal course of review.

Hearing no further discussion on the Motion, the Council President asked the Clerk for a Roll Call vote on the item:

Councilor Marc Laplante [District F] – NO
Councilor Gregory Delrosario [District C] – Absent
Councilor Celina Reyes [Councilor at Large] – YES
Councilor Stephany Infante [District E] – YES
Councilor Vivian Marmol [District D] – YES
Councilor Franklin Miguel [District A] – YES
Councilor Rosaly Gonzalez [District B] – YES
Council Vice President, Ana Levy [Councilor at Large] – YES
Council President, Jeovanny Rodriguez [Councilor at Large] – YES

DOC # 003/26 MOTION TO SUSPEND RULE # 6 PASSED

John Lavoie, the Greater Lawrence Technical School (GLTS) Superintendent was present and he was invited to come forward and speak on the Document. He noted that the Seller, Bob Davis has offers from two other buyers. He was grateful that the Council was considering the matter that evening. He also noted that this facility was much better than the hanger currently owned by the GLTS as it was larger with plumbing and bathrooms already installed. Similarly, the new

hanger being considered had A/C and heat, as well as more space for classrooms. He noted that running the sewer line alone would be an expense in excess of \$300,000. He also noted how rare it is for a hanger at the airport to become available. As soon as they purchased this hanger, then the GLTS would sell their current hanger.

Mr. Lavoie noted that he had a valuation of \$1.2 MIL for the hanger and the purchase price was \$975,000.

He noted that this would be at no cost to the community as the school would buy the hanger with the sale proceeds from their existing hanger and use funds from the schools Excess and Deficiency Account.

Mr. Lavoie also noted that he had support from the other GLTS communities.

Mr. Lavoie noted that there is a lot of excitement for the aviation program. That this is the first year it will be offered and that 20 students will be accepted into that program in March and over 100 students have already expressed an interest in the aviation program.

Mr. Octavien Spanner, the Senior Advisor to the Mayor was present and Councilor Infante asked if he could come forward to answer some questions. Mr. Spanner confirmed for the Council that there are funds available for this purchase. He noted that if the proposed purchase is approved by the Council, that the city can afford this, Lawrence has the Free Cash to help and that the city is in good financial shape. He noted that Lawrence, while seen as a “poor” community is in the financial position to front the funds for this purchase and help the 3 other GLTS communities.

Councilor Marmol, after being granted the floor, noted that while she also believes in following the process, she believes that there is an urgency to verify the offer. She also asked Mr. Lavoie about any disruptions or challenges to the program as a result of moving from one hanger facility to the other. Mr. Lavoie noted that the Students are not physically in the program yet and would not be there until the fall of 2026. At that time 10th graders would be starting in the program. Mr. Lavoie also noted that their program has the approval of both the Massachusetts Department of Education and the FAA.

Councilor Laplante, after being granted the floor, again expressed his concern with the rush to get this done. He noted that there is not an MOU in place between the GLTS and the city. He also stated that he would like to hear from the airport director on the matter.

The Airport Manager, Francisco Urena was on-line and joined the meeting via Zoom. He stated that at the airports upcoming Commission meeting, scheduled for Thursday, January 15th they would be voting to approve the sale to this Buyer/the GLTS. He stated that the Chairwoman of the Commission expressed her support for the proposal, but the Commission as a whole had not deliberated on the topic yet. He confirmed that this is a 5,000 square foot enhanced facility and the fact that it was maintaining an “aviation use” is what the Commission was looking for in a purchaser.

Councilor Laplante again maintained his position that this proposal was not following the normal process and he was concerned that the lack of a more thorough review could put the city in a bad place.

Mr. Lavoie noted that any purchase and sale agreement would contain a clause that the purchase was contingent upon a favorable vote by the Airport Commission.

Councilor Infante then made a Motion for the City of Lawrence to purchase a hangar at the Lawrence Municipal Airport for \$975,000 on behalf of Greater Lawrence Technical School (GLTS), with the understanding that GLTS will repurchase the hangar from the City within five (5) months for \$975,000, plus any additional costs incurred by the City during the holding period. Her Motion was seconded by Councilor Marmol.

After being granted the floor, the Council Vice President Ana Levy, asked if the author of the Motion would accept a friendly amendment to allow the Council President to serve as a representative of the Council as needed during any negotiation period. Councilor Infante accepted this friendly amendment.

Councilor Levy also asked if an appraisal was needed. It was noted that the GLTS had a valuation but not an appraisal.

After being granted the floor, councilor Marmol noted that a valuation was not the same thing as an appraisal and she wanted to ensure that the property appraised at or above the stated purchase price. She asked if the author of the Motion would accept a friendly amendment to make the purchase contingent upon a successful appraisal at or above the stated purchase price. Councilor Infante accepted this friendly amendment.

After being granted the floor, the Council Vice President Ana Levy, asked if the author of the Motion would accept a friendly amendment to make the purchase contingent upon the approval of the Airport Commission. Councilor Infante also accepted this friendly amendment.

The Clerk was then asked to read the Motion into the record with all three of the amendments.

The Council President noted that the Council's next meeting was not until January 20, 2026. The GLTS Superintendent wanted to reach out to the Seller to see if he would wait that long.

RECESS:

A Motion to Recess was made by Councilor Infante and was seconded by Councilor Marmol. The Motion to Recess PASSED by a Unanimous Voice Vote.

The Council went into a brief recess at 8:05 p.m.

A Motion to Come Out of Recess was made by Councilor Infante and was seconded by Councilor Levy. The Motion to Come Out of Recess PASSED by a Unanimous Voice Vote.

The Council exited the Recess at 8:14 p.m.

Mr. John Lavoie let the Council know that he called the Seller during the recess. The Seller was not inclined to allow for additional time.

At that time, hearing no further discussion on the Motion, the council President called the question and asked the Clerk to call the Roll:

Councilor Marc Laplante [District F] – NO
Councilor Gregory Delrosario [District C] – Absent
Councilor Celina Reyes [Councilor at Large] – YES
Councilor Stephany Infante [District E] – YES
Councilor Vivian Marmol [District D] – YES
Councilor Franklin Miguel [District A] – YES
Councilor Rosaly Gonzalez [District B] – YES
Council Vice President, Ana Levy [Councilor at Large] – YES
Council President, Jeovanny Rodriguez [Councilor at Large] – YES

DOC # 003/26

MOTION TO APPROVE

PASSED

The Council President then noted that the following Committee meetings would occur on the dates and times noted below. He noted that the Committee Assignments would be announced in the immediate future and that the Committee would elect their respective chairs and vice chairs at their organizational meetings:

Housing Committee	Monday, January 12 th at 6 p.m.
Budget and Finance Committee	Monday, January 12 th at 7 p.m.
Personnel Committee	Tuesday, January 13 th at 6 p.m.
Ordinance Committee	Tuesday, January 13 th at 7 p.m.

As there was no other business before the Council, Councilor Celina Reyes made a Motion to Adjourn. Her Motion was seconded by Councilor Infante. There was no discussion on the Motion and it PASSED by a Unanimous Voice Vote.

The Meeting Adjourned at 8:19 p.m.