



# City of Lawrence

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## CITY COMMISSION

MAYOR  
MIKE AMYX

COMMISSIONERS  
ARON E. CROMWELL  
LANCE M. JOHNSON  
MICHAEL DEVER  
ROBERT CHESTNUT

April 12, 2011

The Board of Commissioners of the City of Lawrence met in regular session at 6:35 p.m., in the City Commission Chambers in City Hall with Mayor Amyx presiding and members Chestnut, Cromwell, Dever, and Johnson present.

## A. STATE OF CITY ADDRESS:

1. Mayor Amyx delivered the State of the City Address:

As I sat down to write this speech, I wanted to make sure that the citizens of our city understand that the state of the city is extremely sound.

Tonight is a very special night for me. I have been blessed to serve the community of Lawrence for over three decades. I have experienced some of the greatest moments of my life as Mayor and I continue to look for ways to serve our community and the residents who call Lawrence home.

I love Lawrence. I truly love Lawrence. I think our community is one of the greatest communities in Kansas and the nation. Lawrence has so much to be proud of – our citizens continue to create the kind of community atmosphere that celebrates our heritage but also looks for ways to be progressive and prepare for the future. During this recent term as Mayor, I can think of numerous examples of how our community continues to strive for excellence despite the constant challenges we face in our personal lives.

We have made progress toward our collective goals regarding economic development, transportation, downtown development, neighborhood quality and environmental issues. Perhaps one of the biggest accomplishments of 2010 was the acquisition of the former Farmland property east of Lawrence on K-10. The city was able to negotiate the acquisition of 467-acres of industrial zoned land that will become a base for future economic growth in our community. The Farmland property has been an eyesore for decades and I am proud that the City Commission and city staff are committed to cleaning up the property and preparing it for use for future economic growth. There are few times when we have the opportunity to substantially make a difference in the economic base of our community – Farmland is one of those few examples. The already existing amenities, such as proximity to K-10 and a rail spur, are attractive to



business and industry and I am encouraged to start marketing this property for growth and expansion.

Additionally, the city has continued to partner with other local economic development agencies to foster small businesses that focus on bioscience and technology. The opening of the Business and Technology Business Center on the University of Kansas west campus is a great example of how private, public and academic organizations can come together with a common goal to improve the community.

The Bowersock Mills and Power Company's expansion of their hydroelectric facility in Lawrence is an excellent example of economic growth with a focus on sustainability. Lawrence will soon lead the state in production of hydroelectric power. As a Commission, we need to continue to look for ways to expand "green" jobs in Lawrence and utilize our existing natural resources to promote the local economy.

Last April, our city was recovering from a tremendously difficult winter. Our roads were in pretty poor shape from an extremely harsh winter and potholes were popping up throughout the city. However, our creative staff looked at ways to leverage the street maintenance funds with grants other resources. Our 2010 street maintenance program collectively improved over 165 lane miles of streets in Lawrence and 16,000 potholes were filled by our staff last winter. This year, the weather and additional equipment purchases have contributed to fewer complaints and better abilities to address problems proactively.

For the past several years, the city's budget process has been challenging. Economic times continue to be tight and revenues remain pretty much flat. Commissioners are continuously asked to make decisions that address the priorities of our community. Despite these challenges, I strongly feel that the City Commission has made wise choices that address the community's needs and provide resources where they are needed the most. We'll continue to look for ways to leverage funds, increase our tax base, invest in our infrastructure, and bring in additional revenue to our community. This is a difficult balancing act because, collectively, we understand that times are tough for our community and our citizens have fewer resources. It will be of the utmost importance to keep fiscal accountability at the height of our priorities and fund projects that make a difference in the lives of all of our residents.

In 2010, our community saw the renovation and revitalization of a historic jewel in downtown Lawrence – the Carnegie Library. The city lead the renovation efforts and provided funding through the Transient Guest Tax to renovate the building into a dual-use facility that is now available to serve our community again. The Convention and Visitor's Bureau now has a permanent home in the Carnegie and we'll soon see the opening of the first-ever Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area exhibit at the Carnegie. Lawrence is quickly becoming the home of this incredibly important piece of America's history.

In 2010, the City of Lawrence continued its commitment to public safety and enhancing our neighborhoods. Lawrence is very lucky to have police and fire staff that are highly trained and qualified to serve our community. Cooperation between local jurisdictions is very important to the functionality of our community. I would like to personally thank all of our public safety employees for their service to our community.

Last fall, the citizens of Lawrence made a statement at the polls that great communities deserve great libraries. Now that the voters have spoken, I look forward to the construction and completion of the expanded Lawrence Public Library. Having resources like this in downtown Lawrence is another way that we are able to keep our downtown vibrant, viable and relevant.

Downtown Lawrence holds a special place in my heart. Downtown is my second home, and has been since I was a kid. In 2010, I was very pleased to stand in front of our community and announce that Massachusetts Street had been named a "Great Street in America" by the American Planning Association. I've known that Massachusetts Street is great for many years, but, I am glad that we've gained national recognition and can't wait to see how our merchants, restaurateurs and business owners forge their path out of the current economic recession and flourish in the future.

As my term ends as Mayor, I cannot forget to mention the support I have received from my wife of 35 years. Marilyn, you've been a constant source of support for me as I struggled with my health, the loss of Dad, and the challenges the Commission has faced. I thank you for your willingness to allow me to serve Lawrence over these past several decades. I appreciate all you've done for me and our community, and for the time you've given up with me so that I can be the best public servant I know how to be. I want to take a moment and thank our outgoing commissioners, Robert Chestnut and Lance Johnson. I have enjoyed working with both of you over the past few years. Mayor Chestnut, you have been a wealth of information and leave a legacy of fiscal accountability and keen attention to the financial finesse of managing a municipal entity. Commissioner Johnson, I have always noted your intent to balance the effects of an issue and look for the best possible solution that will serve the community well. I wish both of you the best as you leave the Lawrence City Commission and our community thanks you for your service.

To our newly elected Commissioners, Bob Schumm and Hugh Carter, I am excited for the opportunity to work with you as we prepare to guide the city and address the challenges that face our community today. I look forward to the perspective you'll bring to the city. Commissioners Dever and Cromwell, I am pleased we'll be able to continue the work we've started during the past several years. We have a lot of work to do – we must continue to keep our priorities at the forefront of our thoughts and strive for creative and comprehensive solutions.

As I prepare to turn the gavel over to Lawrence's next Mayor, I want to express my sincere appreciation to the City Commission and city staff for their exemplary service to Lawrence. As a community, we are lucky to have individuals who believe strongly in public service and are committed to providing excellent city services that enhance the

quality of life in Lawrence. I look forward to continuing my service on the Lawrence City Commission and vow to work with my peers and community to steer Lawrence in the right direction. I will continue to push for growth in the local economy and remain committed to enhancing the lives of everyone who calls Lawrence home.

**B. RECOGNITION/PROCLAMATION/PRESENTATION:**

1. Proclaimed the week of April 10 – 16, 2011 as A Celebration of Volunteering Week.
2. Proclaimed the week of April 10 – 16, 2011 as The Week of the Young Child.
3. Proclaimed the week of April 16 – 23, 2011 as Elizabeth Watkins Week.

**C. CONSENT AGENDA**

It was **moved by Chestnut, seconded by Johnson**, to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

1. Approved City Commission meeting minutes from 03/29/11 and 04/05/11.
2. Approved payroll for 03/27/11-04/09/11 in the amount of \$1,768,897.72, and claims to 201 vendors in the amount of \$1,781,651.68.
3. Approved appointments as recommended by the Mayor

**Electrical Code Board of Appeals:**

Appointed Eric Hethcoat (913.481.3256) to an at-large position that expires 03/31/13.

**Mechanical Board of Appeals:**

Reappointed Mark Jarboe (842.8416) to a second term that expires 03/31/14.

Appointed Eric Flory (840.5570) to a term that expires 03/31/14.

**Public Library Board:**

Reappointed Kate Harding Pohl (843.5554) to her first term that will expire 04/30/15.

**Sales Tax Audit Committee:**

Reappointed Keith Yehle (312.9138) and Charlie Sedlock (865.8618) to additional terms that expire 04/30/14.

**Traffic Safety Commission:**

Reappointed Dan Harden (856.3460) and John J. Ziegelmeyer, Jr. (843.4265) to additional terms that expire 04/30/14.

4. Bid and purchase items:
  - a) Set bid date of May 3, 2011 for comprehensive rehabilitation projects located at:
    - 2336 Louisiana Street
    - 1415 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Terrace

- . 1406 New Jersey Street
- b) Awarded bid for one (1) grapple load refuse truck for the Public Works Department to American Equipment Company for \$93,556.
- c) Awarded bid for Project No. PW1108, roof replacement at the traffic building located at 445 Mississippi, to Bob Frazier Roofing for \$35,816.
- 5. Adopted on second and final reading, Ordinance No. 8625, establishing a Neighborhood Revitalization Area at 1040 Vermont.
- 6. Adopted Resolution No. 6921, establishing a policy of the City of Lawrence relating to Neighborhood Revitalization Areas.
- 7. Approved request for Site Plan extension of SP-12-93-06 to May 31, 2013 for proposed office building at 501 Rockledge Drive.
- 8. Approved Rezoning request, Z-2-6-11, to rezone the 800 block of Lynn Street (bounded by Lynn St, Homewood St, Haskell Ave, and Bullene Ave), approximately 3.9 acres, from the IG (General Industrial) and IL (Limited Industrial) Districts to the RMO (Multi-Dwelling Residential-Office) District to implement recommendations in the adopted Burroughs Creek Corridor Plan. *Initiated by Planning Commission on 2/23/11.* Adopted on first reading, Ordinance No. 8628, to rezone (Z-2-6-11) the 800 block of Lynn Street, approximately 3.9 acres, from the IG (General Industrial) and IL (Limited Industrial) Districts to the RMO (Multi-Dwelling Residential-Office) District. (PC Item 4; approved 9-0 on 3/28/11)
- 9. Authorized Mayor to sign a License Agreement with the University of Kansas for the installation of parking control equipment in the Oread Avenue right-of-way adjacent to the parking garage.
- 10. Authorized the City Manager to provide written notice, pursuant to K.S.A. 12-539, to Rural Water District No. 6 of the City's intent to annex approximately 69 acres of land owned by members of the Rothwell family and located south of the Farmer's Turnpike and west of East 950 Road.

**D. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT: None**

**E. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS:**

**1. Receive Comments from Mayor Mike Amyx and City Commission**

Rob Chestnut said it had been an honor and he felt fortunate to have been part of something bigger than any one of us. He came onto the commission in 2007 and served with some tenured folks and it was a good time for him to learn. We have an amazing city. He said he had more than 25 years working in large organizations and the city had very good professional staff. He said many governments were not so fortunate. It was great to be

associated with people who wanted to serve and help. He thanked Lance Johnson for serving with him for the last two years. He said Vice Mayor Cromwell's leadership on the library was very good and he appreciated his service. He congratulated Commissioner Dever on his re-election and recognized his leadership especially on the transit issue. He said it was exciting to be part of something that would serve the community for decades. He joked that it would be fun to hang out at the shop and yell at Mayor Amyx for the next two years about city issues. He said he learned from Mayor Amyx that what we do as Commissioners was very important and that everything matters. He thanked his family for being at his side during his time on the commission. He recognized the sacrifice that his wife Micki had made to have him serving. He said elections come and go but this is a great city with a great heart that would be successful no matter what.

Commissioner Johnson said he was more nervous tonight than he had been in two years, because he wanted to convey his sentiments to the commission, his family, his supporters, the community and the staff. He thanked his supporters and said this had been the most enriching experience of his life. He thanked his family for allowing him to be here and said he could not have done it without them. He agreed with Commissioner Chestnut and said we had great staff from top to bottom of the organization. He thanked staff for making the commission look good, for preparing them for meetings, answering questions, providing information. He thanked the new commissioners including those who did not win, for putting themselves on the line. He said the current commissioners made Tuesday nights fun for him. He said they were based on principles and that was a blessing to him. He said in a different time he would do this again and he considered the commissioners friends. He said that Mayor Amyx was an exemplary servant leader. Vice Mayor Cromwell would be a great mayor. It was an honor serving with Commissioner Dever. He said Commissioner Chestnut was amazing with numbers and the city was better for having him on the commission.

Commissioner Dever said he would keep it brief since he would be back in this chair. He thanked the community, the employees, and his supporters. He said the unsung heroes were the committee members and volunteers who did a lot of hard work without much recognition. He thanked the community and Boog Highberger and Sue Hack who were on the commission and from whom he learned much. He said a desire to continue to learn and continue the hard work to keep Lawrence moving forward motivated him to run. He said the commission had not done anything that wasn't in the best interest of Lawrence. He thanked Mayor Amyx and said he knew how to get deals done. Commissioner Chestnut made his job easier by allowing him to focus on issues that were his specialty. He said we were all fortunate to have had Commissioner Johnson serving and he brought balance to the commission. He said Vice Mayor Cromwell had brought balance, foresight to the community. He said they had gotten a lot of work done on important issue. All of these people were leaders with their hearts, souls and minds in the right place. Foundations to grow and enhance Lawrence in the future had been built.

Vice Mayor Cromwell said it had been a tremendous pleasure serving. Respect and trust had been bywords and he trusted that what came out of the other commissioners' mouths was what they truly believed was the best for the community. He said often there were split votes and opinions but everyone left the meetings smiling and polite with one another, and he was very thankful for that. He thanked Chestnut and Johnson for their service. He said he had learned a lot from them and they helped him keep his mind open. He said that serving with Mayor Amyx had been an honor. He had been struck by the Mayor's impeccable memory. He said he had been fortunate to serve with someone with that kind of experience. He said there were any number of times commissioners could have embarrassed one another but didn't because of their mutual respect. He looked forward to having that kind of relationship with the new commissioners. He thanked the families of the commissioners, and his own family. He said

it was a time consuming job. He appreciated his wife and son giving him this opportunity which was hard but rewarding.

Mayor Amyx said it had been an honor to serve with each of the commissioners. There had been times when decisions were made and it felt like they had no friends in the world except for the other commissioners. He said the commissioners looked after one another. For the last year he had been able to talk about “his” agenda but he looked forward to passing that off. He appreciated the staff and all the work by employees. He said the work was done well and with a lot of backbone. When an emergency call came in it was never a commissioner who was the first to respond, it was a city employee. He said thank you to everyone who came to the meeting tonight, including a number of former commissioners and the newly elected commissioners. He thanked his wife Marilyn for the support she had provided and didn’t know why she put up with him. He said she deserved a lot of credit.

City Manager Corliss expressed appreciation for the kind words to staff. He said staff appreciated the work and stewardship of the commission. He said we had been through a financially difficult time but we were in good shape. He said he didn’t think most people recognized how big the challenges had been, and that we had still been able to pay attention to employee needs and the community’s needs. He thanked Commissioner Johnson for helping staff understand the value of development. He thanked Commissioner Chestnut for his budget expertise. He said a key principle of public service was leaving the community better than you found it, and the commission had clearly done that.

Mayor Amyx distributed gifts to the outgoing commissioners.

## **2. The City Clerk conducted swearing in of elected City Commissioners.**

Jonathan Douglass, Assistant to the City Manager/City Clerk, swore in newly elected City Commissioners Hugh Carter, Mike Dever, and Bob Schumm.

## **3. Conduct Election of Mayor**



Mayor Amyx said it had been quite a year. There were a couple times he might have been off and he turned things over to Aron Cromwell and he did a wonderful job.

Mayor Amyx called for nominations for the office of the Mayor.

**Moved by Dever, seconded by Carter,** to nominate Aron Cromwell as Mayor.

**Moved by Schumm, seconded by Dever,** to close the nominations for Mayor. Motion carried unanimously.

The City Commission voted unanimously to elect Aron Cromwell as Mayor.

#### **4. Conduct Election of Vice-Mayor**

Mayor Cromwell said it was an honor to sit in this seat after Mayor Amyx. He presented a gift to Amyx and said we had all benefited from his service. He said he owed a lot to a lot of people for their hard work and their confidence in him. He said there was a lot of responsibility and he took that very seriously. He said we are in a challenging time and because of the leadership of those that came before him in the mayor's chair we had done well, better than most communities. We were very fortunate in the city of Lawrence and we owed that to good city leaders and city staff. Groundwork had been laid for success. He said he appreciated leadership on Farmland and we needed good economic gains so we could make progress on social and environmental goals. He said we would build on our successes. He said being mayor required more time and sacrifice from his family and he appreciated the sacrifices of his wife and son.

Mayor Cromwell called for nominations for the office of Vice Mayor.

**Moved by Amyx, seconded by Dever,** to nominate Bob Schumm as Vice Mayor.

**Moved by Amyx, seconded by Dever,** to close the nominations for Vice Mayor. Motion carried unanimously.

The City Commission voted unanimously to elect Bob Schumm as Vice Mayor.

#### **5. Comments of Mayor and Commissioners**

Hugh Carter said he wanted to recognize individuals involved in his campaign. He thanked Commissioners Johnson and Chestnut for taking his calls, answering questions, helping him understand issues. He thanked his campaign committee for their confidence and dedication. He said he would have bonds with them forever. He said a big reason for being here was that he went through Leadership Lawrence and he thanked Sue Hack. He thanked his boys and their mother for their support. He thanked his mother and father for their support and for their examples. He said both had taken on everything life threw at them and did it with dignity and grace. He said the next two years would be worthwhile even if challenging. He said he was excited to get to work, grateful for the opportunity, and honored to serve the citizens of Lawrence.

Bob Schumm said he felt very honored to be here tonight. It had been 18 years since he had been here. He would work to make sure the level of camaraderie that existed in the former commission would exist in this new commission. He thanked his wife for supporting him through several elections. He thanked his campaign committee and said they were a dream team. They worked and worked and worked and inspired him. He thanked the citizens and promised to leave the city better than he found it. He thanked staff and looked forward to working with them.

Dever said he thanked his family for letting him do this again. He was proud of the work people did. He thanked his campaign supporters for their time, effort, and trust. He said he was happy to be able to serve with this new city commission. He was thankful that the voters saw fit to give him a four year term. He looked forward to the opportunities the future had for the City of Lawrence.

Amyx said he looked forward to working with the new commission. He said it would be a lot of work but a good ride. He joked that it was probably too early to name his committee for reelection. He looked forward to working on a number of issues that were coming forward. He said the commission would get going on things very quickly.

Cromwell said they would be working on the budget almost immediately. He welcomed Dever back to the Commission and congratulated Schumm and Carter for their elections and he looked forward to working with them. He said we had a good city commission that he trusted and respected. That was the building blocks for a good city.

**6. Orientation session with City Commission for approximately one hour.**

This item was deferred.

**F. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None.

**G. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

David Corliss, City Manager, outlined potential future agenda items.

**H: COMMISSION ITEMS:**

None.

**I: CALENDAR:**

Corliss reviewed calendar items.

**J: CURRENT VACANCIES – BOARDS/COMMISSIONS:**

Existing and upcoming vacancies on City of Lawrence Boards and Commissions were listed on the agenda.

**Moved by Amyx, seconded by Schumm,** to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVED:**

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Aron Cromwell, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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Jonathan M. Douglass, City Clerk