

CITY OF LAWRENCEVILLE, ILLINOIS

MARCH 9, 2023

MINUTES

The Council of the City of Lawrenceville, Lawrence County, Illinois met in regular session in the City Council Chambers of the City Hall Building on Thursday, March 9, 2023 at the hour of 7:00 p.m. The following Aldermen were present on roll call: Stevens, Brewer, Greene, Blacketer, Waldrop, Volkman and Hayes. Absent: Fritch.

Mayor Courtney called the meeting to order. Waldrop gave the prayer. All present then recited the Pledge of Allegiance while facing the flag.

The Council had earlier received copies of the minutes of the regular Council meeting of February, 2023. Mayor Courtney asked for questions or comments. Waldrop made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of February 9, 2023. Brewer seconded the motion. Motion passed on a voice vote.

The Council had earlier received copies of the bills of the city, Sewer and Water Departments for February. Mayor Courtney asked for questions or comments. Brewer made a motion to approve paying the bills for February. Hayes seconded the motion. Motion passed on a roll call vote 7-0-1. Yeas: Waldrop, Blacketer, Stevens, Volkman, Hayes, Greene and Brewer. Nays: None. Absent: Fritch.

Mayor Courtney reported the City's accounts to the Council. The city working budget stood at 81.9% after 10 months of the 22-23 fiscal year.

Council member Dawn Brewer is the facilitator of Lawrence County CEO, and she introduced some students in the CEO program to the Council. As facilitator of Lawrence County CEO, Brewer brings vast experience in team building, mentoring and student development, the Mayor said. Educational programs such as CEO are valuable in preparing students to succeed both in their academic studies as well as developing the many skills they will need to succeed in their chosen occupations. The concept of sharing business concepts, mentoring and the student developing their own business are unique experiences not all high school students can experience. CEO will hold its annual Trade Show May 11 from 4:30 to 7:00 at the high school in Bridgeport.

HLR Engineering is ready to prepare bid packets and set up meetings for the 10th Street Water project. This has been in the works for about 3 years. This project will be funded through a block grant through the State of Illinois, Mayor Courtney said. But because of the delay between the time of the grant application and now, it is expected that the grant award will not be enough to cover the project cost. Labor and material costs have likely increased during that time, but the City should have enough federal grant money from ARPA to cover the difference.

HLR is also finishing the preliminary work for the Lexington Avenue project.

It is believed resurfacing work for Route 1 through Lawrenceville will start in April or May, the Mayor said. The electric work is still ongoing at Lexington Avenue and 15th Street.

Drivers for the electric blowers at the Sewer Plant are to be delivered to the city on March 17, the Mayor said. After that, Tracy Electric will complete the installation.

HMG, the engineering firm used by the City previously for the wastewater treatment plant, has requested a meeting to discuss EPA requirements, the Mayor said. They would like to meet in March 15.

The Water Department has continued to work with the Lawrence Public Library to solve a leak problem. Illinois Rural Water was called to find the leak location due to the difficulty of locating it. City can now move forward and remediate this issue.

The Parking Committee met to review the numerous parking restrictions throughout the City. Many of the signs were put up whenever United Health had over 250 paid parking spots reserved in town and numerous other employees parking all over the central business district neighborhoods. The Committee agreed to remove the obvious and unnecessary reserved and restricted signs first.

During a walkthrough of the Armory on March 6, ceiling leaks were seen in the northeast corner of the building. It was discovered downspout in that area was plugged and retaining several inches of water on the roof. The National Guard's building maintenance supervisor was present and aware of the issue. He subsequently had all roof drains cleared. The City's desire was for a complete repair prior to the property transfer.

The Downtown Revitalization Group requested authority to hold a special event on 12th Street, essentially a street party event within current City ordinances. They desire to block off the area between State and Walnut for food trucks and live entertainment, including Adam Warner. They would like to serve alcohol. Their desired date is June 3.

The most recent grant activity with Drew Lane consisted of working with Little League Baseball and beginning a working relationship with Lawrence-Allison Fire Department, and the firm has been given information to work with the local girls softball organization.

The City completed all work on the original list of eight houses for remediation, but the City hasn't yet gone forward with filing liens on those properties. Information was provided to Mike Neal, City attorney, to move forward. The City also must address the lien on the property where Tykal's bar once stood. The next group of teardowns will begin the week of March 20.

The Finance Committee will meet March 7 at 1 p.m.

The Pool/Park Committee will meet with Burbach Aquatics at 10 a.m. on March 10.

Fireworks will be held on July 3 at the high school. Chief White noted the police department will adhere to all City and local ordinances towards illegal private fireworks within City limits.

Greene made a motion to adjourn. Hayes seconded the motion. The motion was approved by voice vote. Time: 7:30 p.m. The next city council meeting is March 9, 2023.

Rodney Nolan, City Clerk