

CITY OF LAWRENCEVILLE, ILLINOIS

JUNE 08, 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, June 8, 2023 at the hour of 7:00 p.m. The following Aldermen were present on roll call: Fritch, Hayes, Greene, Brewer, Volkman, Waldrop and Stevens. Absent: Goins.

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 May 11, 2023. Mayor Courtney asked for questions or comments. Waldrop made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of May 11, 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 May. Mayor Courtney asked for questions or comments. Brewer made a motion to approve paying the bills for May. Hayes seconded the motion. Motion passed on a roll call vote 7-0-1. Yeas: Hayes, Brewer, Waldrop, Fritch, Greene, Volkman, Stevens. Nays: None. Absent: Goins.

Mayor Courtney reported the City's accounts to the Council. The city working budget stood at 8.3% after 1 month of the 23-24 fiscal year. Mayor Courtney praised all City employees for their hard work and dedication.

Mayor Courtney presented the first reading of Annual Appropriation for 2022-2023. Mayor Courtney stated the Annual Appropriation for 2023-2024 with amount of \$6,226,000.00. Mayor Courtney explained this is the most that the city could spend. It does not mean the City has to spend it all, but the City needs to set the amount high, if the City faces an unplanned issue.

There will be an appropriation public hearing at 6:45 p.m. prior to the Council meeting on July 13 at City Hall.

John Wieter, of HMG Engineers, presented to the Council a professional services agreement (PSA) to construct a new wastewater plant to replace the existing facility, which is beyond its useful life and cannot meet upcoming new effluent limits. The first step is to complete a Project Plan, which serves as a comprehensive preliminary engineering report required by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. The scope of services is expected to be completed within 12 months of authorization. The total fee will not exceed \$129,950.00. Proceeds would be paid through ARPA funds.

Mayor Courtney asked for questions or comments. Fritch made a motion to approve the PSA for HMG Engineers. Stevens seconded the motion. Motion passed on a roll call vote 7-0-1. Yeas: Stevens, Hayes, Waldrop, Brewer, Fritch, Greene and Volkman. Absent: Goins.

Wes Bell of Robinson Outdoors Signs from Missouri addressed the Council. Mr. Bell is interested in placing an advertising billboard (three sides – two digital and one vinyl side) at the corner of 15th and State Streets. Robinson Outdoors Signs has been building signs throughout Southern Illinois, including Mt. Carmel and Olney. The billboard will be connected to the National Weather Service for any weather alerts in the area, and the sign would also have the ability to post amber and silver alerts for missing persons. Mr. Bell understood the signs must meet IDOT regulations. The Council tabled the request until there's a better understanding of the project.

Mayor Courtney notified the Council the resolution to transfer the National Guard Armory to the City of Lawrenceville passed both houses. The Mayor expected the Governor to sign the bill sometime after July. Jim Dunn of the Citizens Advisory Committee gave a report on the committee's thoughts on the use of National Guard Armory once the city takes ownership.

Mayor Courtney reported to the Council that Mark Montgomery of Mad Pig BBQ restaurant requested a class "C" liquor license. After a background check by LPD and nothing in the public records that showed any reason for denial, Mr. Montgomery is compliant with all of the city's requirements but will need approval from the health department. The Council tabled the request until the owner gathered information about the dining area of the restaurant.

Mayor Courtney reported to the Council that Ali Salhani, of Fairwind Gaming LLC, requested a class "A" liquor license for 907 15th Street (15th and Lexington). The location is in compliance with all of the city's requirements, but Chief White noted the location has parking and logistical issues with neighboring residents. The Council tabled the request until a better understanding of those issues regarding the location.

Mayor Courtney informed the Council the city wanted to purchase a 2022 Ford F250 pickup at \$54,901.00 with a snow plow and salt spreader through a state of Illinois fleet program from Currie Motors in Frankfort. The city would use ARPA funds. Mayor Courtney asked for questions or comments. Brewer made a motion to purchase a 2022 Ford F250 pickup for \$54,901.00. Stevens seconded the motion. Motion passed on a roll call vote 7-0-1. Yeas: Stevens, Brewer, Fritch, Hayes, Greene, Waldrop and Volkman. Absent: Goins.

Residents of Lawrenceville will notice a slight increase in their monthly water bill starting in June. It is the rate the federal government says the city has to maintain based on a 38-year loan from federal funds.

The Mayor said he wanted to appoint Charles Perkins to the Police Commission. The Mayor asked for questions or comments. Waldrop made a motion to approve. Greene seconded the motion. Motion passed on a voice vote.

Fireworks will be held on July 3 at the high school. Fireworks will be paid from gambling proceeds. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce will host an Independence Day parade prior to the fireworks. Chief White noted the department will adhere to all City and local ordinances towards illegal private fireworks within the city limits.

Courtney asked the Cemetery/Park/Pool Committee to meet on July 10 at 9 a.m. and the Streets and Alley Committee would meet on July 10 at 10 a.m. The Legislative Committee was set to meet July 11 at 1 p.m.

Mayor read a thank you note from "Birdies for Brittney" fundraiser.

City Hall will be closed on July 4 for Independence Day.

Brewer made a motion to adjourn. Greene seconded the motion. The motion was approved by voice vote. Time: 8:16 p.m. The next city council meeting is July 13, 2023.

Rodney Nolan, City Clerk