

**CITY OF LAWRENCEVILLE, ILLINOIS**

**OCTOBER 12, 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, October 12, 2023 at the hour of 7 p.m. The following Aldermen were present on roll call: Brewer, Cornwell, Fritch, Greene, Stevens, Waldrop, Volkman and Goins. Absent: None.

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

Tara Davis asked to speak to the Council about safety issues.

The Council had earlier received copies of the minutes of the regular Council meeting of September 14, 2023. Mayor Courtney asked for questions or comments. Cornwell made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of September, 2023. Goins seconded the motion. Motion passed on a voice vote.

Council had earlier received copies of the bills of the City's Sewer and Water Departments for August. Mayor Courtney asked for questions or comments. Brewer made a motion to approve paying the bills for September, 2023. Greene seconded the motion. Motion passed on a roll call vote 8-0. Yeas: Fritch, Stevens, Brewer, Greene, Waldrop, Cornwell, Volkman and Goins. Nays: None.

Mayor Courtney reported the City's accounts to the Council. The city working budget is on line after 5 months of the 23-24 fiscal year.

Curt Benson of Kemper & Associates spoke to the council about the annual audit. Benson reported it was a clean audit with no material adjustments noted. The general fund is strong, in part because of an injection of ARPA funds. The police pension fund and the general fund were both in good standing. The only advice Benson provided was to consider an increase in the sewer rate. While the City has automatic yearly raises to the water rate billing, there's no automatic increase in the sewer rate. Because of pending projects, Benson said it's time for the City to consider a sewer increase.

Utilities Superintendent Aaron Tipword reported iron deposits in the city water wells require continued maintenance on the pumps. The City already budgeted regular maintenance for the wells. Tipword said the water flow in well 15 has dropped by 71 percent because of the iron deposits, and it's time for servicing. The City works with Brotcke Well and Pump service from Fenton, Mo. While Brotcke is on site, Tipword advised it would good idea to service well 12 with an acid treatment to clean deposits because of recent flow issues. The cost for cleaning both wells would be roughly \$37,000. Waldrop motioned to service both wells for the \$37,000. Fritch seconded. Motion passed on a roll call vote 8-0. Yeas: Fritch, Stevens, Greene, Cornwell, Volkman, Goins, Waldrop, Brewer.

Representatives from HMG Engineers are scheduled to meet with City officials on Tuesday, October 17 concerning plans for a new wastewater treatment plant. HMG is working on the fiscal plan workup. The next step is to begin the process of determining a site for the new facility.

After officially taking control of the former Illinois National Guard Armory in September, Mayor Courtney performed due diligence on needed projects for the facility. He named Park Superintendent Grant McDonald as Armory manager. McDonald has been key in operating the facility in recent months. Otherwise, Courtney has also been pricing a floor covering/mat, tables/chairs, kitchen appliances and equipment for pickleball, basketball and other recreational activities. Courtney felt the first step in upgrading the facility would be paving the parking lot, which is currently gravel. The estimate for building an asphalt lot was \$32,000. Brewer motioned to

proceed with the paving project. Stevens seconded. Motion passed on a roll call vote 8-0. Yeas: Fritch, Stevens, Greene, Cornwell, Volkman, Goins, Waldrop, Brewer.

The Lawrence County CEO class will hold a Cars & Coffee event at Sip It, 2202 James Street, on October 14. The class will also hold a trivia event on November 10 at the Moose Lodge.

Wreaths Across America will hold a pancake and sausage fundraiser at the Moose Lodge on October 28.

Greene motioned to adjourn. Goins seconded. The motion was approved by a voice vote. Time: 7:35 p.m. The next meeting is November 10, 2023.

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Rodney Nolan, City Clerk