

CITY OF LAWRENCEVILLE, ILLINOIS

FEBRUARY 8, 2024

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, February 8, 2024 at the hour of 7 p.m. The following Aldermen were present on roll call: Fritch, Brewer, Waldrop and Goins. Absent: Stevens, Cornwell, Greene and Volkman.

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 January 11, 2024. Mayor Courtney asked for questions or comments. Fritch made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of January 11, 2024. Goins seconded the motion. Motion passed on a voice vote.

The Council had earlier received copies of the bills of the City's Sewer and Water Departments for January. Mayor Courtney asked for questions or comments. Waldrop made a motion to approve paying the bills for January. Brewer seconded the motion. Motion passed on a roll call vote 5-0-4. When the vote of the Aldermen has resulted in a tie or absent; the mayor shall cast the tie-breaking vote. Mayor Courtney voted Yes. Yeas: Waldrop, Fritch, Goins and Brewer. Nays: None. Absent: Cornwell, Stevens, Volkman and Greene.

Mayor Courtney reported the City's accounts to the Council. The city working budget stood at 75% after 9 months of the 23-24 fiscal year.

Council member Dawn Brewer is the facilitator of Lawrence County CEO and introduced some of her students in the CEO program to the Council. Educational programs such as Lawrence County CEO (Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities) 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. CEO will hold a Trade show on May 1 from 4:30 p.m. to 7 at the high school in Lawrenceville.

Mayor Courtney presented to the Council Ordinance #1601 establishing cemetery fees. With the input of the Cemetery committee, it was noted that the city's prices for cemetery plots were in line with other city cemeteries in the area, but the costs of opening/closing the graves and the costs of monument bases were low. Mayor Courtney asked for questions or comments. Brewer made a motion to approve ordinance #1601. Goins seconded the motion. Motion passed on a roll call vote 5-0-4. When the vote of the Aldermen has resulted in a tie or absent; the mayor shall cast the tie-breaking vote. Mayor Courtney voted Yes. Yeas: Waldrop, Fritch, Goins and Brewer. Nays: None. Absent: Cornwell, Stevens, Volkman and Greene.

With the approval from the Cemetery committee, Cemetery Superintendent Jack Campbell laid out a new section in the Lawrenceville City Cemetery with assistances from Lawrence County engineer Aaron Mefford. The new section will provide an additional 110 plots.

Mayor Courtney announced the reappointment of all members of the Zoning Board of Appeals. Sally Kirkwood has chosen to step down from committee. That spot will remain vacant until an individual can be found.

Police Chief White spoke regarding body and vehicle cameras for police officers. The cameras will be mandatory at the beginning of 2025. While the choice of cameras is based upon the software, White said early estimates come in around \$90,000 for camera and software. The City's police department would like to align with other agencies served by 911 in our county. Chief White said more tickets will likely be issued with the new City Code book in place. Greater Wabash Regional Planning may be able to assist with partial grants for cameras, but the cost for the software will be on the city.

Kieffer Brothers Construction, of Mount Carmel, continued to work on the main line in the 10th Street water project. Kieffer crews made 18 of 63 tie-in connections that resulting in a boost of water pressure to those homes. Quality tests will be completed before the 10th street line becomes part of the City of Lawrenceville water distribution system. When those steps are cleared, Kieffer Brothers will address the yard, street and sidewalk repairs.

Kieffer Brothers Construction, with HLR Engineering, will begin work on the Lexington Avenue-12th Street upgrades in late April or early May. The completion target is late August. The improvements will be ADA sidewalk compliant ramps on 12th from Washington Street north to Dubois Street. On Lexington, ADA sidewalk improvements, new sidewalks and curbs will be added along with street resurfacing from 12th Street to 15th Street.

Farm Credit anticipates beginning construction on July 1 for its facility at the State Street-West Haven Road intersection. Some civil engineering work has been completed, and Farm Credit expected a 10- to 12-month time frame to build its facility. Farm Credit is considering a sidewalk on their property that would be open to community walkers and that could help tie-in the Lincoln Heights neighborhood to the current sidewalk that travels from the Walmart area back to the hospital. The city may be asked to contribute to the costs.

The mayor is finalizing a date for the fireworks to be held this upcoming Independence Day. The July 4 is on a Thursday this year. Vincennes fireworks is set for July 4 and St. Francisville has fireworks on July 6, which is on a Saturday. Mayor Courtney recommends July 5. Mayor Courtney asked for questions or comments. Fritch made a motion. Goins seconded the motion. Motion passed on a voice vote.

City Hall will be closed on February 12 for Lincoln's Birthday and February 19 for Presidents' Day. Fritch made a motion to adjourn. Goins seconded the motion. The motion was approved by voice vote. Time: 7:43 p.m. The next city council meeting is March 14, 2024.

Rodney Nolan, City Clerk