

CITY OF LAWRENCEVILLE, ILLINOIS

APRIL 11, 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, April 11, 2024 at the hour of 7:00 p.m. The following Aldermen were present on roll call: Fritch, Brewer, Waldrop, Goins, Stevens, Greene and Volkman. Absent: Dunn.

John Supinie and Mike Loudermilk asked to speak to the Council.

Mayor Courtney added the discussion of audit bid to the agenda.

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

Dunn attended the meeting at 7:03 p.m.

The Council had earlier received copies of the minutes of the regular Council meeting of March 14, 2024. Mayor Courtney asked for questions or comments. Fritch made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of March, 2024. Greene 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 March. Mayor Courtney asked for questions or comments. Brewer made a motion to approve paying the bills for March. Waldrop seconded the motion. Motion passed on a roll call vote 8-0. Yeas: Waldrop, Fritch, Goins, Brewer, Dunn, Stevens, Volkman and Greene. Nays: None.

Mayor Courtney reported the City's accounts to the Council. The city working budget is on budget after 11 months of the 23-24 fiscal year.

John Supinie, president of the Bi-State Authority, came to thank the city for the support and the use of some employees to make the solar eclipse event on April 7 and 8 successful one.

Michael Loudermilk addressed the Council about a water complaint. He mentions that people that are on fixed incomes are at times getting their water shut off. Utilities superintendent Tipsword informed Mr. Loudermilk that the water office will accommodate residents with fix incomes and adjust the water shut off date.

Austin Ridgley from HLR Engineering gave an update to Kieffer Brothers Construction of work on the main line in the 10th Street water project is finish. Kieffer Brothers' work on yard, street and sidewalk repairs will be ongoing the next few weeks.

Kieffer Brothers Construction, with HLR Engineering, have started work on the Lexington Avenue-12th Street upgrades. 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.

Austin Ridgley from HLR Engineering recommended the city look into upgrading the 16th Street waterline. The waterline is smaller in diameter than what Illinois suggests. Mayor Courtney asked for questions or comments. Goins made a motion to approve a service contract with HLR Engineering toward preliminary engineering and grant funding with GWRPC in upgrading the waterline on 16th Street. Stevens seconded the motion. Motion passed on a roll call vote 8-0. Yeas: Dunn, Brewer, Waldrop, Fritch, Greene, Volkman and Goins. Nays: None.

Brewer made a motion to go into Executive Session. Dunn seconded the motion. It passed on voice vote. Time was 7:37 p.m.

Stevens made a motion to reconvene. Volkman seconded the motion. It passed on voice vote at 7:51 p.m.

Negotiations with the local police union have been completed. Ratification of the contract will be an agenda item for this next meeting, City agreed to a 4-year contract with a 3% raise each year and also an increase of \$.60 per step. Steps are currently at \$.25. Each step runs in 3-year cycles. There was also some discussion regarding equipment and standardization of uniforms. The chief and the union are recommending black polo shirts and khaki pants. Mayor Courtney asked for questions or comments. Goins made a motion to approve the contract with LPD. Volkman seconded the motion. Motion passed on a roll call vote 8-0. Yeas: Dunn, Brewer, Waldrop, Fritch, Greene, Volkman and Goins. Nays: None.

Volkman, the chairperson of the Cemetery, Parks and Pool committee, reported to the Council the Parks Department request to purchase a 72" mower for \$19,400.00. Mayor Courtney asked for questions or comments. Volkman made a motion to approve purchase of mower for the city. Brewer seconded the motion. Motion passed on a roll call vote 8-0. Yeas: Dunn, Brewer, Waldrop, Fritch, Greene, Volkman and Goins. Nays: None.

Mayor Courtney reported to the Council the only bid for the city audit from Kemper CPA Group for \$26,375.00. with \$23,625.00 for the City's audit and \$2,750.00 for the Police Pension audit. Mayor Courtney asked for questions or comments. Dunn made a motion to accept the bid for the City's audit. Waldrop seconded the motion. Motion passed on a roll call vote 8-0. Yeas: Goins, Brewer, Greene, Waldrop, Volkman, Fritch, Dunn and Stevens. Nays: None.

Courtney informed the Council that HMG Engineering has provided Illinois EPA a declaration for funding nomination form submittal towards a new wastewater treatment facility. The city will qualify for the 0.8% interest rate and 45% loan forgiveness.

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 and storage, Chief White recommends the bid from Axon Enterprise located in Arizona, a 5-year contract for camera and storage for \$35,940.74. The City's police department would like to align with other agencies served by 911 in our county. Mayor Courtney asked for questions or comments. Stevens made a motion to accept the bid of \$35,940.74 for cameras and storage for LPD. Waldrop seconded the motion. Motion passed on a roll call vote 8-0. Yeas: Goins, Brewer, Greene, Waldrop, Volkman, Fritch, Dunn and Stevens. Nays: None.

As a result of our special council meeting, City Attorney Mike Neal filed suit in local court to have the old LHS property declared abandoned. After having filed the suit, the city was required to post signs on the structure to declare our intent and that has been done by Chief White.

Mayor and the Council understand that the ordinance on grease interceptors within the city is stricter than the State's guideline on grease interceptors for restaurants. Mayor recommends the city revised the current ordinance and fall back to the state guidelines on grease interceptors and let the utilities superintendent have final say. The Council decided to table the discussion until next meeting.

Wreaths aCross America is having a spaghetti dinner scheduled from 5 – 8 p.m. at Alfonso's Pizza on April 23.

Fish and Loaves event at the Armory April 23 and the Health Fair event by 4-H at the Armory on April 28.

Lawrence County C.E.O will have their "Trade show" on May 1 from 4:30 to 7:00 at the high school in Lawrenceville.

Fireworks will be held on July 5th at the new high school. Fireworks will be paid from gambling proceeds. Chief White noted the police department will adhere to all City and local ordinances towards illegal private fireworks within the city limits.

Mayor read thank you note from Ladner family and the committee of Christmas in the Park.

Applications for summer work are available through City Hall.

Volkman made a motion to adjourn. Fritch seconded the motion. The motion was approved by voice vote. Time: 8:26 p.m. The next city council meeting is May 09, 2024.

Rodney Nolan, City Clerk