

**CITY OF LAWRENCEVILLE, ILLINOIS**

**JULY 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, July 11, 2024 at the hour of 7:00 p.m. The following Aldermen were present on roll call: Stevens, Fritch, Dunn, Greene, Brewer, Waldrop, Volkman and 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 June 13, 2024. Mayor Courtney asked for questions or comments. Waldrop made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of June, 2024. Dunn 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 June. Mayor Courtney asked for questions or comments. Brewer made a motion to approve paying the bills for June. Greene seconded the motion. Motion passed on a roll call vote 8-0. Yeas: Dunn, Brewer, Greene, Fritch, Stevens, Waldrop, Volkman and Goins.

Mayor Courtney reported the City's accounts to the Council. The city working budget stood at 16.7%. Mayor Courtney praised all City employees for their hard work and dedication.

Mayor Courtney presented the second reading of Ordinance #1605 to the Council. Ordinance #1605 purposed the approval of the Annual Appropriation for 2024-2025. The Annual Appropriation was in the amount of \$6,319,390.00. Mayor Courtney explained this is the most the city could spend. It does not mean the City has to spend it all, but the City needs to have the amount high if facing an unplanned issue.

Mayor Courtney asked for questions or comments. Brewer made a motion to approve Ordinance #1605. Goins seconded the motion. Motion passed on a roll call vote 8-0. Yeas: Goins, Volkman, Waldrop, Fritch, Dunn, Brewer, Stevens and Greene.

Mitch Hardiek, Engineer in Training from Milano & Grunloh Engineers, said the firm is providing the City some engineering assistance toward a city sidewalk project within the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP). ITEP funding for each project is at \$3,000,000, and the ITEP application is scored upon a 100-point system. Each project will be graded based upon its score, and ITEP awards each project at 80% funding with a local match of 20%. In 2022, the selected route in the City of Lawrenceville would have a community score of 62.5; which would have awarded the city 100% funding. Milano & Grunloh will provide the grant application and begin phase one engineering free of charge if the city wants to proceed. Milano & Grunloh will gather more data to present to the City Council at next meeting.

Mayor Courtney reported the City and the Lawrence Township Park Board met to discuss the possibility of constructing a new service and storage building. The proposed structure is a 30 x 60 building with a 20 x 60 lean to addition. The building will have two insulated garage doors, a concrete floor and attic storage. The estimate for the project is \$85,000.00. Financing for the structure is dependent on the City's ARPA funds of \$48,625.00 and \$30,000.00 from the Lawrence Township Park Board. Following the building's construction, the City work force would complete improvements such as electric service, interior wiring, plumbing and fixtures, insulation, heating and cooling. No decision has been made regarding the future of the current building. The Mayor asked for questions or comments. Volkman made a motion to approve specifications and bidding for the project. Stevens seconded the motion. Motion passed on a voice vote

Mayor Courtney has been contacted by potential buyers of lots in the River Run Estates subdivision. They are interested in lots 41, 42, and 43 along the north side of the northern most street, River Run Road, just east of the Seminole Lane. The price of each lot is \$14,625. This price is taken from the ordinance that created the subdivision and no other action that changed those prices. The consul states in River Run Estates subdivision that if a buyer purchased a lot and built a house within 1 year of that purchase a \$10,000 rebate was given for that lot. The buyers have shown plans of a modular type home (Cochran house and the house that Sandi Diggs lives in are of the same modular type), that once completed, would likely be in the \$300,000 range. They also plan extensive landscaping and an in-ground pool. The finished improvements would likely boost value to roughly \$400,000. The buyers want a better deal than the \$10,000 rebate, and would likely agree to a \$12,000 per lot. Even if we gave a complete rebate of the purchase price, the City would have a house to tax and also show life in the development of that subdivision. The lots along the northern boundary of River Run Road sit low in proximity to a flood zone and are difficult to sell. The Mayor will ask for the authority from the council to negotiate a purchase agreement with the potential buyer at the next council meeting.

Brewer made a motion to go into Executive Session. Goins seconded the motion. It passed on voice vote. Time was 7:48 p.m.

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Dunn made a motion to reconvene. Volkman seconded the motion. It passed on voice vote at 8:32 p.m.

Brewer made a motion for the City signing an engagement letter with Tarter, Krinsky & Drogin LLP in representing the City of Lawrenceville about the old high school in Federal Court in New Jersey. Stevens seconded the motion. Motion passed on a roll call vote 8-0. Yeas: Goins, Volkman, Waldrop, Fritch, Greene, Brewer, Stevens and Dunn.

Waldrop made a motion for the City to sign an engagement letter with Swanson, Martin & Bell LLP in representing the City of Lawrenceville about an asbestos lawsuit. Goins seconded the motion. Motion passed on a roll call vote 8-0. Yeas: Goins, Volkman, Waldrop, Fritch, Greene, Brewer, Stevens and Dunn.

State Street buckled across the street from Casey's at 502 State. IDOT has been notified of this issue.

LHS cheerleaders will host a pickleball tournament at the City Park on July 13.

Wreaths Across America will hold a bingo at VFW 5-7 on July 27.

Kids Shopping Day is from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on August 3.

Farm Credit official ground breaking on September 3 at 11:00 am.

Brewer made a motion to adjourn. Stevens seconded the motion. The motion was approved by voice vote. Time: 8:41 p.m. The next city council meeting is August 08, 2024.

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Rodney Nolan, City Clerk