

CITY OF LAWRENCEVILLE, ILLINOIS
NOVEMBER 14, 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, November 14, 2024 at the hour of 7:00 p.m. The following Aldermen were present on roll call: Brewer, Dunn, Fritch, Greene, Stevens, Volkman and Goins. Absent: Waldrop.

Mayor Courtney called the meeting to order. Greene 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 October 10, 2024. Mayor Courtney asked for questions or comments. Dunn made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of September, 2024. Greene 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 October. Mayor Courtney asked for questions or comments. Brewer made a motion to approve paying the bills for September, 2024. Fritch seconded the motion. Motion passed on a roll call vote 7-0-1. Yeas: Fritch, Stevens, Brewer, Greene, Dunn, Volkman and Goins. Nays: None. Absent: Waldrop.

Mayor Courtney reported the City's accounts to the Council. The city working budget is on line after 6 months of the 24-25 fiscal year.

Curt Benson, of Kemper CPA Group, gave a summary of the annual audit. Benson found no issues in the audit, but he advised the City Council to continue to remain diligent about the City's sewer rates to ensure they generate sufficient cash flow. According to Benson, the City's total cash and investments were \$9,065,000.

As a part of the City Council's interest in converting lots zone commercial to residential in River Run Estates, the preliminary plat parceling completed by Stone and Waggoner Engineering surveyed the parcels into eight residential lots. The Mayor said the goal would be to work with a local auctioneer or real estate agent on how to price the lots for sale. Brewer motioned to move forward with the property switch. Goins seconded. Motion passed 7-0-1. Yeas: Fritch, Stevens, Brewer, Greene, Dunn, Volkman and Goins. Nays: None. Absent: Waldrop.

Taegan Garner, of Greater Wabash Planning Commission, reported the City will become eligible for a grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources for recreational facility construction, when applications come open early in 2025. Otherwise, Garner also said there should be no concern the grant application for police body-worn cameras despite a change in a law. Also, Garner said the EPA is shifting from grants to loans concerning lead pipe abatement, but there should be little worry because of growing principal forgiveness.

Volkman spoke about the delay in a proposed project to pave the alley between Jefferson and State streets and 12th and 13th streets. Holes in the pavement are dangerous to business owners

who regularly use the alley, Volkman said. The project was delayed because a lead water pipe located below the alley must be replaced, according to Courtney. New pavement would have to be removed to repair the pipe, if plans were to move forward immediately. Instead, Courtney would request the Street Department personnel to fill the pot holes as a temporary fix.

The Lawrenceville Police Department is working on a plan to take over the K9 unit currently handled by the Lawrence County Sheriff's Department. Because of a potential transfer of the sheriff's deputy who currently handles the dog to the Illinois State Police, the sheriff's department was looking for a new home for the dog because of no other interest within the sheriff's department to handle the dog. Under the plan, the Lawrenceville Police Department would must find a handler for the dog within the police department personnel, pay for handler training and also pay for the transfer of equipment, which was estimated at \$20,000. No action was taken as the two departments continue to move forward with the idea of a transfer, allowing the dog to remain in Lawrence County.

The Mayor presented resolution 11-14-24 to apply for a Community Development Block Grant. The purpose of the grant application would be to fund a waterline project on 16th street, from Porter Avenue to Olive Street. The project would improve service to City water customers while also replacing an aging line causing numerous repair projects for City workers. The estimated cost of the project would be \$1,000,000. Goins motioned to approve the application for the CDBG funds. Dunn seconded. Motion passed 7-0-1. Yeas: Fritch, Stevens, Brewer, Greene, Dunn, Volkman and Goins. Nays: None. Absent: Waldrop.

Green motioned to adjourn. Fritch seconded.

The next City Council meeting is Dec. 12.

Rodney Nolan, City Clerk