

**CITY OF LAWRENCEVILLE, ILLINOIS**

**JANUARY 9, 2025**

**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, January 9, 2025 at the hour of 7:00 p.m. The following Aldermen were present on roll call: Brewer, Dunn, 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. Everyone standing recognized the passing of former Alderman Chris Winkles.

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

Mayor Courtney reported the City's accounts to the Council. The city working budget is on line after 9 months of the 24-25 fiscal year.

Mayor Courtney spoke in regards to the Illinois Open Meetings Act. The Mayor stated the city is in compliance by posting meeting notifications, contacting local press outlets and placing meeting notices on the city website. Courtney said the City is transparent in its meetings process.

The Mayor wanted to remind residents how to address the City Council and how to place your name on the meeting agenda. According to City code, if a non-member of the City Council attends a meeting and wants to address the City Council, he/she must state his/her name and address for the record and limit remarks to 5 minutes. All remarks should be addressed to the City Council as a whole, not to one particular member. If there is discussion to one alderman, it must first be granted permission by the Mayor, and no questions should be asked of an Alderman except through the Mayor. Any person making personal or impertinent remarks or who shall become disruptive shall be evicted from the room by the Mayor.

Discussion centered on the city investments and who oversees researching the best opportunities for the City's money. According to code book, the City Treasurer is responsible for Certificates of Deposit and Time Deposits, following direction from the City Council. With Treasurer Vaught no longer able to assume his duties because of health issues, City Clerk Nolan has attempted to stay updated on the available rates.

Following a meeting of the Streets & Alleys committee, the City Council agreed it would only consider granting access to City streets to golf carts and not side-by-sides, after reviewing ordinances from other communities. Mayor Courtney also advised the City should seek feedback from other area communities for best practices considering their experiences with golf carts. Other questions, such as age requirements, would also be evaluated. The Street & Alley committee would meet again to further discuss all options.

Mayor Courtney was advised by the City Council to continue learning all options regarding the possibility of reinstating City-wide Cleanup. The contract with Republic Services runs into 2027, and there was little support among the City Council to use City employees for bulk trash collectors. It was noted other area communities sometimes use the contractor to complete the hauling and while other towns use of dumpsters where a City

resident could dump their own bulk items. According to information provided by Brewer, the City of Lawrenceville has lower residential trash rates than other towns in the county.

Utilities Superintendent Tipsword requested the Council to consider a change to billing within the Water Department. According to the plan, the department will read meters twice a month, creating two billing zones. Zone 1 bills will be due on the 30<sup>th</sup> of each month (the 28<sup>th</sup> in February), and Zone 2 bills will be due on the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month. As always, the disconnection date is printed on the bottom left of the bills.

Project managers at HMG Engineers are working to submit a version of the City's wastewater facility project plan to Illinois EPA by the end of January. That would allow an extra five years on the deadline to meet all state requirements.

Mayor Courtney read a note of appreciation from Wreaths Across America.

City Hall will be closed on Monday, February 17<sup>th</sup> for President's Day.

Volkman motioned to adjourn. Stevens seconded. The motion was approved by a voice vote. Time: 8:02 p.m. The next meeting is March 13, 2025.

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James Rodney Nolan, City Clerk