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JULY 10, 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, July 10, 2025 at the hour of 7:00 p.m. The following Alderman were present on roll call: Fritch, Dunn, Greene, Brewer, Volkman, Waldrop, Goins and Lewis. 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. Bill Horn and Louie Campbell asked to speak to the Council.

The Council had earlier received copies of the minutes of the regular Council meeting of June 12, 2025. Mayor Courtney asked for questions or comments. Brewer made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of June, 2025. Greene 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 May. Waldrop seconded the motion. Motion passed on a roll call vote 8-0. Yeas: Fritch, Dunn, Greene, Brewer, Volkman, Waldrop, Goins, Lewis. Nays: None.

Mayor Courtney presented Ordinance #1612 for the Annual Appropriation of 2025-2026. The Mayor stated the Annual Appropriation is \$6,520,332 for the coming year. Mayor Courtney explained this is the most that the city could spend. It does not mean the City has to spend it all, but the City must have the amount high for any an unplanned issue. Goins motioned to accept Ordinance #1612. Dunn seconded. Motion passed on a roll call vote 8-0. Yeas: Fritch, Dunn, Greene, Brewer, Volkman, Waldrop, Goins, Lewis. Nays: None.

Mayor Courtney spoke about 16th Street heading south from Cedar during the school year. After-school traffic is busy and fast on the residential street, and Dunn had received several complaints on the speed and volume of the traffic. Dunn motioned to accept Ordinance #1613, which would place a four-way stop at the corner of 16th and Pine. Greene seconded. Motion passed on a roll call vote 8-0. Yeas: Brewer, Dunn, Fritch, Goins, Greene, Lewis, Volkman and Waldrop. Nays: None.

According to Courtney, the City spent more than allotted in 2023 and 2024 from the Motor Fuel Tax fund, and the City needs to repay the amount. Courtney asked for a supplemental resolution for \$80,000 as recommended by IDOT. Dunn motioned for the supplemental resolution. Goins seconded. It passed on a roll call vote of 8-0. Yeas: Brewer, Dunn, Fritch, Goins, Greene, Lewis, Volkman and Waldrop. Nays: None.

The Street Department requested a 72-inch mower, the mayor said. The equipment is primarily used in mowing empty lots owned by the City. A price of \$15,734.42 was found at Route 1 Powersports. Fritch motioned to purchase the mower. Lewis seconded. The motion passed 8-0 on a roll call vote. Yeas: Waldrop, Volkman, Lewis, Green, Goins, Fritch, Dunn and Brewer. Nays: None.

The Cemetery/Parks Department requested a rear-discharge mower to keep the stones cleaner in the City Cemetery. A John Deere model for \$13,375 was well under suggested retail price through a government discount. Brewer motioned to purchase the mower. Goins seconded. The motion passed on a roll-call vote 8-0. Yeas: Brewer, Dunn, Fritch, Goins, Greene, Lewis, Volkman and Waldrop. Nays: None.

The Mayor reminded the Council Parks Superintendent Grant McDonald had been handling the Park and Cemetery without compensation. McDonald had absorbed the duties when the previous superintendent went on extended sick time. He also supervises activities at the Armory. The Finance/Legislative committees recommended a \$3 per hour raise, which would take McDonald to \$27.75 per hour. Dunn motioned to approve the raise. Brewer seconded. The motion passed on a voice vote.

The Mayor asked the Council to consider remediation of dangerous properties at 609 Lexington, 1501 3rd Street and 1413 Dubois. Green motioned to tear initiate the process to tear down the three properties. Fritch seconded. The motion passed on a voice vote.

Lewis updated the Council on her effort in investigating the feasibility of livestreaming. She informed the Council livestreaming software runs off Windows format and would be user friendly with a laptop or smart phone.

The Mayor said the City hadn't received an update from the Illinois EPA concerning a sewer issue in Lincoln Heights earlier this year. The City already contracted the videotaping of the sewer network in the neighborhood. The City will also purchase smoke testing equipment for use in the neighborhood, perhaps as soon as August.

Kids Shopping Day is Aug. 2 at Central Christian Church. Volunteers are needed.

Lewis commented on the increasing traffic of electric scooters on sidewalks and streets. Volkman and other Council members asked about options in policing the activity.

Volkman spoke about the building at 1216 State Street adjacent to his residence. According to Volkman, the building is dropping bricks. Volkman also asked details concerning a downtown alley.

Horn, a local resident, spoke about communication between the Water Department and one of his neighbors concerning a sewer issue earlier this month in Lincoln Heights. Horn said the City would receive a notice of violation from the Illinois EPA and wanted it made public.

Campbell, a City resident, thanked the Council for the Citywide Cleanup earlier this summer. Campbell also said traffic is fast at 16th and Cherry, just south of Pine. He felt there's a need for multiple microphones if the City would implement livestreaming the Council meetings.

The Mayor said an application for state funds in building sidewalks wasn't approved, and plans for a FEMA grant in rebuilding the bath house at the City Pool were put on hold after FEMA would no longer be part of the project. He had no updates on the grant status for the 16th Street water line.

The City contacted Martinsville Roofing concerning the roof at the Armory, Courtney said. There is no report or estimate yet. The state is no longer collecting sales tax on groceries, but a municipality may levy its own tax on groceries. Golf cart crossing signs are up where IDOT requested placement, and paperwork is available at City Hall to register a golf cart.

A business owner requested to meet with the Liquor Commission, the Mayor said. The City will fill job openings in its work force. Downtown Revitalization is interested in another event before the weather cools. Herb Social is also interested in sponsoring a family movie night on the upper deck of the parking garage.

The mayor said an offer was made by the City for the property where the old high school stands, contingent upon the approval from the Council. No answer was received concerning the offer. The location is where engineers have advised to build the wastewater plant.

Greene motioned to adjourn. Lewis seconded. It passed on a voice vote. Time: 7:53 p.m.

James Rodney Nolan, City Clerk