

CITY OF LAWRENCEVILLE, ILLINOIS

AUGUST 14, 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, Aug. 14, 2025 at the hour of 7 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. Louie Campbell, Heather Jeffers, Gail and Doug Bowman, Janet Horn, and Jennifer and Thomas Rodriguez asked to speak to the Council.

The Council had earlier received copies of the minutes of the regular Council meeting of July 10, 2025. Mayor Courtney asked for questions or comments. Dunn made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of July, 2025. Greene seconded the motion. Motion passed on a voice vote.

The Council had earlier received copies of the bills of the Sewer and Water Departments for July. Mayor Courtney asked for questions or comments. Goins made a motion to approve paying the bills for May. Brewer 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 made contact with Martinsville Roofing to get rough estimates on improvement and maintenance on the Armory roof. This wasn't a bid, but the firm inspected the facility to provide general estimates before the city would open up for bid. The Mayor also contacted Jason Wright from ADG Architects, who had previously done work at the site when it was a military facility. The council encouraged Courtney to move forward with the bid process of the roof repair.

The Mayor presented Ordinance 1614, which would create Category J of the City of Lawrenceville Liquor Commission for banquet hall business conducted on a premises dedicated to renting space for private parties sponsored by an individual or organization. These events would include weddings, graduation parties, reunions, birthdays, retirement parties and dinner meetings. The ordinance would authorize the sale of alcohol by the license owner. Goins motioned for Ordinance 1614. Volkman seconded. The motion passed on a 7-1 vote: Yeas: Brewer, Dunn, Fritch, Goins, Greene, Lewis, Volkman. Nays: Waldrop.

Ordinance 1615 was presented by the Mayor to levy a 1 percent tax on grocery sales. The tax was previously levied by the state. With its repeal of the tax, the state left municipalities to decide if they would continue with the tax, which would be collected by the state and returned in full. Dunn motioned for Ordinance 1615. Waldrop seconded. The motion passed on an 8-0 vote: Yeas: Waldrop, Volkman, Lewis, Greene, Goins, Fritch, Dunn, Brewer. Nays: None.

The Mayor spoke about the City's sponsorship of the CEO program, which instructs students from Lawrenceville and Red Hill high schools on the value of entrepreneurship. The students learn valuable tools, which could lead to business development in the future. The sponsorship is \$3,000 for a three-year period. Lewis motioned for the City to sponsor the program. Greene seconded. Motion passed 7-0-1. Yeas: Dunn, Fritch, Goins, Greene, Lewis, Volkman, Waldrop. Nays: None. Abstain: Brewer.

Louis Campbell encouraged the City to livestream the council meetings and committee meetings, adding he has experience in livestreaming. When urging the City to post the meeting agenda, he learned it's been posted the last two months on the City website. Campbell also asked for payroll accountability for supervisors, since there is no payroll time stamp or time clock used by the City.

Heather Jeffers of Global Life Insurance presented information to the Council. It would be forwarded to the Insurance Committee for review.

Doug and Gail Bowman spoke about the importance of communication between residents and the Utilities Department. The Bowmans were also concerned about no answers moving forward or restitution concerning their daughter and son in law, Scott and Heather Durrant.

Janet Horn said the City shouldn't put a price tag on the health and safety of its residents concerning any sewer issue. She urged for proactive action by the City. She felt the City was avoiding responsibility for sewer issues.

Jennifer Rodriguez spoke about sewer issues dating back to 2019. She complained about the property damage and the health hazard, because she runs a daycare in her household. Rodriguez felt the sanitation issues aren't her responsibility. She was also disappointed the City allowed residents to play in flood waters from the Aug. 4 storm.

The Mayor said the City hadn't yet received a pending EPA report, though there was evidently a preliminary report circulating through town residents. Once the City received the final report, Courtney said, the City will evaluate and turn over the information to engineers and develop a plan to comply with capacity management, maintenance and national discharge limits. The City already performed video and smoke testing and cleaned an intrusion in the sewer system in Lincoln Heights. The City will continue to test in other areas of town in search of intrusions to the system. For immediate corrective action, Courtney asked the residents to contact the City first before making a report to the EPA.

Goins felt livestreaming Council meetings would be best undertaken by an outside entity, considering the union employee contract would require the work done at prevailing wage by a union member. Volkman said he's been in contact with a news organization that would like to livestream the meetings. Goins motioned for the City not to livestream meetings. Fritch seconded: Motion passed 7-1. Yeas: Brewer, Dunn, Fritch, Goins, Greene, Lewis, Waldrop. Nays: Volkman.

Courtney and Brewer spoke about the desire to purchase playground equipment for installation at the City Park and Wishnick Park. The money would come from the municipal cannabis tax. The account has roughly \$162,000. The goal is to have the equipment constructed in the spring.

Courtney requested the council to go into executive session for personnel and legal issues. Waldrop motioned for executive session. Brewer seconded. The motion passed 8-0. Yeas: Waldrop, Volkman, Lewis, Greene, Goins, Fritch, Dunn, Brewer. Time: 8:05 p.m.

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Dunn motioned the Council to return to regular session. Brewer seconded. Time: 8:31 p.m.

Chief James White said patrolman-trainee Charles Gentry will graduate on Sept. 5 and be ready for duty. Fundraisers to benefit the K9 unit have been scheduled throughout the community.

Volkman inquired when the Armory hours would be extended this fall. The mayor expected night hours to begin in September. Volkman also asked about scooters and bikes powered by electric motors and driven by children. He was concerned for their safety and the safety of the general public.

Brewer motioned to adjourn. Dunn seconded. Time: 8:41 p.m.

James Rodney Nolan, City Clerk