

CITY OF LAWRENCEVILLE, ILLINOIS
SEPTEMBER 11, 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, September 11, 2025 at the hour of 7 p.m. The following Aldermen were present on roll call: Fritch, Brewer, Volkman, Waldrop, Goins, Lewis. Absent: Greene Dunn.

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 asked to speak to the Council.

Campbell spoke about what he perceived as a lack of oversight of time sheets from department heads. He pushed for digital help with timecards. He also spoke about his concern over the City's application renewal for the NPDES permit, and he was critical of the City's response to an overflow on Springfield Avenue in April.

In regards to the permit application, Mayor Courtney said the City sent information to HMG, which prepared and sent the application to IEPA in April. IEPA was in the process of moving locations, and the application was never received. When the City was updated of the lost application, the City updated data to HMG, which sent the application on Aug. 8, 2025. It was received five days later. Volkman asked why there was no follow up during the process.

The Council had earlier received copies of the minutes of the regular Council meeting of Aug. 14, 2025 and a special session on Sept. 3, 2025. Mayor Courtney asked for questions or comments. Fritch made a motion to approve the minutes of both meetings. Goins seconded. Motion passed on a voice vote.

The Council had earlier received copies of the bills of the Sewer and Water Departments for August. Mayor Courtney asked for questions or comments. Brewer made a motion to approve paying the bills for August, 2025. Fritch seconded the motion. Motion passed on a roll call vote 6-0-2. Yeas: Fritch, Brewer, Volkman, Waldrop, Goins, Lewis. Nays: None. Absent: Greene, Dunn.

Mayor Courtney presented Resolution 09-11-2025 for a FEMA hazardous mitigation plan. It was already adopted by the County, and it would allow the City to accept FEMA funds during an emergency. Waldrop motioned to approve the resolution. Brewer seconded. Motion passed 6-0-2. Yeas: Waldrop, Volkman, Lewis, Goins, Fritch, Brewer. Nays: None. Absent: Dunn, Greene.

The Mayor and Chief White spoke about the possibility of purchasing a new SUV for the police department. The Chief proposed selling the aging white Ford patrol car. The cost of the new SUV is \$60,938, and a portion of the funds would be available through a state program. Goins motioned to purchase the new vehicle. Fritch seconded. The motion passed 6-0-2. Yeas: Waldrop, Volkman, Lewis, Goins, Fritch, Brewer. Nays: None. Absent: Dunn, Greene.

Laura Hoke requested a Class D liquor license to operate a sports bar at 1006 State Street. A Class D license is open, and it must be used by a restaurant serving alcohol. Volkman motioned to approve the request. Brewer seconded. Motion passed 6-0-2. Yeas: Brewer, Fritch, Goins, Lewis, Volkman, Waldrop. Nays: None. Absent: Dunn, Greene.

The Copper Courtyard Event Center, 715 12th Street, requested a Class J license, created the previous month for event venues. Volkman motioned to approve the request. Brewer seconded. Motion passed 5-1-2. Yeas: Volkman, Lewis, Goins, Fritch, Brewer. Nays: Waldrop. Absent: Greene, Dunn.

Mayor Courtney presented Ordinance 1616 concerning a return-to-work policy, but the paperwork wasn't placed in councilman packets, so it was tabled to a special session on Monday, Sept. 15, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.

Volkman stated he was concerned with the overtime paid to City employees and how the time is reported. He felt there wasn't enough oversight, especially with supervisor pay. Volkman claimed errors were made in hours kept manually on time sheets. When asked for copies of his investigation, none was given. He motioned for a full audit of the City workforce dating back to Jan 1, 2024 to present from Kemper CPA and also requesting the firm to make a recommendation for best practice moving forward in logging hours. Brewer seconded. Motion passed 6-0-2. Yeas: Waldrop, Volkman, Lewis, Goins, Fritch, Brewer. Nays: None. Absent: Dunn, Greene.

Courtney advised there is no update on the old Lawrenceville High School property.

Chief White announced Charles Gentry graduated first in his class at the academy and began work as a City patrolman.

Volkman spoke about insurances claims and the process concerning sanitary sewer overflows.

Brewer motioned to adjourn. It passed on a voice vote.

Time: 7:50 p.m.

Rodney Nolan, City Clerk