

CITY OF LAWRENCEVILLE, ILLINOIS
OCTOBER 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, October 9, 2025 at the hour of 7 p.m. The following Aldermen were present on roll call: Fritch, Brewer, Volkman, Waldrop, Goins, Dunn, Lewis. Absent: Greene.

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, Scott Durrant and Janet Tykal asked to address the Council.

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

The Council had earlier received copies of the bills of the Sewer and Water Departments for September. Mayor Courtney asked for questions or comments. Goins made a motion to approve paying the bills for September, 2025. Lewis seconded the motion. Motion passed on a roll call vote 7-0-1. Yeas: Fritch, Brewer, Volkman, Waldrop, Goins, Lewis. Nays: None. Absent: Greene.

Mayor Courtney read the Treasurer's Report, indicating the City has three certificates of deposit at Casey State Bank with a rate of 4.25 percent with \$77,968.95 in each account.

Volkman felt the need for a time clock during the 5-minute period of open comments. Volkman made a motion to purchase a clock. Lewis seconded. Motion passed on a roll call 5-2-1. Yeas: Brewer, Dunn, Goins, Lewis, Volkman. Nays: Fritch, Waldrop. Absent: Greene.

The Mayor read a letter of resignation from Lawrenceville patrolman Michael "Doodle" Seitzinger, effective Aug. 30, 2026.

Mayor Courtney conducted the first reading of the tax levy ordinance. Next month's agenda will include a meeting prior to regular meeting to adopt the tax levy ordinance.

The Mayor requested an appropriation of \$1,000 to Lawrence-Allison Fire Protection District that would go toward a new fire truck. The request passed 7-0-1. Yeas: Brewer, Fritch, Waldrop, Dunn, Goins, Lewis, Volkman. Nays: None. Absent: Greene.

The Mayor asked the Council to consider Ordinance #1617, which would allow areas of River Run Estates to change zoning from commercial/retail to residential status. According to the proposed ordinance, covenants would be consistent with the rest of the neighborhood. Goins motioned for Ordinance #1617. Brewer seconded. Motion passed 7-0-1. Yeas: Brewer, Dunn, Fritch, Goins, Lewis, Volkman, Waldrop. Nays: None. Absent: Greene.

Speaking to the Council following the annual audit, Curt Benson of Kemper and Associates said expenditures were up slightly, creating a deficit for the year of roughly \$220,000, based primarily on spending in the first full year of ownership of the Armory while also attributing for part of the overage from overtime pay accrued by the police force. As he's done in years past, Benson also advised the Council to consider raising sewer rates. Benson advised the City to

reduce the number of accounts. Benson also requested more guidance for a pending payroll audit of all employees from a motion passed the previous month.

Brewer motioned to rescind the motion passed the previous month to audit the work force time sheets dating to January, 2024. Goins seconded. The motion passed 7-0-1. Yeas: Brewer, Dunn, Fritch, Goins, Lewis, Volkman, Waldrop. Nays: None. Absent: Greene.

AFSCME union regional director Eddie Caumiant spoke for the need for a labor management meeting as provided in the current collective bargaining agreement. He felt an internal discussion to solve problems and provide clarity would solve problems between the union and the City of Lawrenceville.

The Parks Committee is considering the purchase of new playground equipment for the City Park and Wishnick Park, Brewer said. The goal is to install the new equipment in 2026, but the committee must first analyze all of the options. The budget is \$250,000.

The Mayor said the City received a signed Compliance Commitment Agreement from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. The contract with the IEPA provides direction and for the City to become and remain compliant with IEPA regulations. The City has already redirected man hours within the Utilities Department and reduced time in the field for the supervisor that allows him more administrative time. The Mayor said the IEPA is working in partnership with the City.

The City received a recommendation from architectural firm ADG to complete roof repairs to a flat area of roofing on the southwest corner of the Armory, upon earlier consultation with Martinsville Roofing, Inc. Brewer motioned to follow the recommendation and fix that portion of the roof. Goins seconded the motion. It passed on a vote of 5-1-1-1. Yeas: Waldrop, Dunn, Goins, Fritch, Brewer. Nays: Volkman. Abstain: Lewis. Absent: Greene.

Campbell once again spoke about the HMG's permit application being lost and said Utilities Superintendent Tipsword shouldn't be allowed to work for neighboring towns. Campbell claimed Tipsword didn't have the necessary licensing to operate the wastewater plant from 2022 to 2024.

In speaking about an overflow into his basement in April, Durrant said any conversations with Tipsword or Utilities Department personnel was initiated by his family, not the City workers. He also asked if the City has a maintenance plan for sewer lines.

Tykal spoke about light fixtures at the recently constructed USDA building just outside of the city limits on the west side of town. The Mayor said he would forward the concerns to county government.

Volkman asked when an alley adjacent to his property is repaved soon if an extra portion could also be repaved. The Mayor said only the alley would be repaved. Volkman also spoke about the need for livestreaming Council meetings, questioned overtime rules concerning call outs and pushed for more respect for Treasurer John White. He also mentioned his concerns about HMG.

Brewer said Crawford County Recycling is out of money and a donation from the City might be needed. Lawrence, Crawford and Richland counties donated to the operation in previous years. The recycling company pulled trailers from the recycling center at Wishnick Park in October with the hope of returning to business later in the month. With the proposed purchase of playground equipment at Wishnick Park, Waldrop suggested the recycling center should move to another location.

When asked for more information by Lewis, Mayor Courtney said a maintenance plan for sewers is part of the CCA with the IEPA.

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

Time: 8:29 p.m.

Rodney Nolan, City Clerk