

CITY OF LAWRENCEVILLE, ILLINOIS
FEBRUARY 12, 2026
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, February 12, 2026 at the hour of 7 p.m. The following Aldermen were present on roll call: Fritch, Brewer, Volkman, Waldrop, Goins, Greene. Absent: Dunn.

Mayor Courtney called the meeting to order. Waldrop gave the prayer. All present then recited the Pledge of Allegiance while facing the flag.

The Council had earlier received copies of the minutes of the regular Council meeting of January, 2026. Mayor Courtney asked for questions or comments. Greene made a motion to approve the minutes. Goins seconded. Motion passed on a voice vote. The Mayor asked for a motion to approve the minutes of a special session on Feb. 4, 2026. Volkman motioned, and Goins seconded. Motion passed on a voice vote.

The Council had earlier received copies of the bills of the Sewer and Water Departments for January, 2026. Mayor Courtney asked for questions or comments. Brewer motioned to approve paying the bills for January, 2026. Goins seconded. Motion passed on a roll call vote 6-0-1. Yeas: Waldrop, Volkman, Greene, Goins, Fritch, Brewer. Nays: None. Absent: Dunn.

Treasurer White suggested laddering the City's CD portfolio to evenly spread the end dates if the City would ever need to secure money in a short time frame.

Waldrop asked to withdraw a motion concerning filling the Ward I vacancy during the special session on Feb. 4, 2026. The vacancy was created when Kelly Lewis read a letter of resignation during the January council meeting. Because the letter wasn't notarized, the Council must vote in its acceptance. Waldrop motioned to accept the letter of resignation. Goins seconded. The Motion passed on a roll-call vote, 6-0-1. Yeas: Waldrop, Volkman, Greene, Goins, Fritch, Brewer. Nays: None. Absent: Dunn.

Moving forward, the Mayor said there would be a vetting process to include a background check by the Lawrenceville Police Department, meet residency requirements by voting registration lists. The Legislative Committee will consider creating an ordinance on the vetting process.

Dale Schaffenacker of the Molanda, Co., spoke about the company's bid for playground equipment. Parks Superintendent Grant McDonald worked with the Parks/Pool Committee in choosing new playground equipment. The bid for equipment and installation under consideration was \$109,699. It would be paid for through funds from the City cannabis tax. Brewer motioned to purchase the equipment. Greene seconded. The motion passed on a roll-call vote, 6-0-1. Yeas: Waldrop, Volkman, Greene, Goins, Fritch, Brewer. Nays: None. Absent: Dunn.

Rob Wielt of AGE/Homefield Energy recommended a 24-month contract or a 12-month contract for the City's commercial account, instead of the 48-month contract the City signed in 2022. Homefield Energy felt a shorter term allowing more flexibility. Volkman motioned to accept a 24-month contract. Goins seconded. The motion passed on a roll-call vote, 6-0-1. Yeas: Waldrop, Volkman, Greene, Goins, Fritch, Brewer. Nays: None. Absent: Dunn.

Brandon Bullard spoke about Community Solar, AGE's solar discount program. He said the City could save up to 15 percent through using power from a solar farm within the Ameren coverage area. The City will further investigate the program.

With no bids received in the first attempt on the Armory roof project, the Mayor suggested creating a larger project area by expanding the portion under consideration for repair with an award date in April, 2026. The Mayor felt the City should follow recommendations from ADG, the firm contracted to oversee the bidding process. Brewer motioned to rebid with the larger area as suggested by ADG. Fritch seconded. Motion passed on a roll-call vote, 6-0-1. Yeas: Waldrop, Volkman, Greene, Goins, Fritch, Brewer. Nays: None. Absent: Dunn.

The Council considered property transfers following bidding for vacant lots owned by the City. Ordinance 1620 refers to the lot at 902 12th Street. Waldrop motioned to approve the ordinance and property transfer. Volkman seconded. Motion passed on a roll-call vote: 6-0-1. Yeas: Waldrop, Volkman, Greene, Goins, Fritch, Brewer. Nays: None. Absent: Dunn. Goins motioned to pass the ordinance at property transfer at 1510 13th in ordinance 1621. Brewer seconded. Yeas: Waldrop, Volkman, Greene, Goins, Fritch, Brewer. Nays: None. Absent: Dunn.

The Mayor presented Ordinance 1622 to increase the deposit for use of the City's water system. The existing ordinance required a \$50 deposit, but actions by previous administrations pushed the deposit to \$200 without ordinance. While those who already paid the \$200 will be credited, Ordinance 1622 would increase the deposit to \$200. Fritch motioned to move the deposit to \$200. Goins seconded. The motion passed on a roll-call vote, 6-0-1. Yeas: Waldrop, Volkman, Greene, Goins, Fritch, Brewer. Nays: None. Absent: Dunn.

The Mayor said he's still shopping equipment and rates concerning a vacuum-jet truck to be used in Utilities and Street departments. Superintendent Tipsword submitted CCA paperwork to IEPA. Volkman asked him about overflow protocol, outsourcing lab tests and use of the wastewater lab.

The Mayor asked for a motion to purchase a chemical injector for the City Pool. The equipment under consideration is used by other towns in the area. The estimated cost is \$19,632. Brewer motioned to purchase the chlorinator. Greene seconded. Yeas: Waldrop, Volkman, Greene, Goins, Fritch, Brewer. Nays: None. Absent: Dunn.

Street Superintendent Griggs updated the Council on the inventory of salt and sand after the major snowstorm earlier this winter.

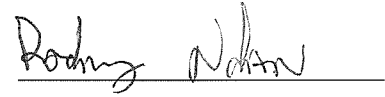
Ray Worstell spoke about issues with Republic Services concerning weekly trash service and overpayment to the company. Heather Venceil thanked the City for cleanup efforts. Keith Bellinger asked about the status of the former Southeastern Illinois Counseling Center at 15th and Olive. Kelsey Mickiewicz complained about unverified remarks from a City worker about a member of the high school basketball team. Walter Mickiewicz called for the Mayor's resignation. Louie Campbell spoke about transparency, a claim against a violation of the Open Meetings Act and the sewer plant lab. Marshall Pierson asked to repair infrastructure and work with small business.

Volkman alleged personal attacks on himself and Campbell and also questioned Council members and the Mayor about the vacant Council position. Waldrop disputed Volkman's version of events from the special session. Brewer asked for the community to work together. Greene said there's a need for more respect among Council members.

According to the Mayor, State Senator Chapin Rose and State Representative Adam Niemerg have visited or reached out with the offer to help the City with its issues.

Goins motioned to adjourn, Brewer seconded.

Time: 9:04 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Rodney Nolan", is written above a horizontal line.

Rodney Nolan, City Clerk