

CITY OF LAWRENCEVILLE, ILLINOIS
MAY 14, 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, May 14, 2026 at the hour of 7 p.m. The following Aldermen were present on roll call: Waldrop, Fritch, Volkman, Dunn, Goins, Greene, Brewer, Hedge. 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 and Gail Bowman asked to speak to the Council.

Campbell said there is a petition calling for the termination of Utilities Superintendent Aaron Tipsword with 200 signatures from residents of Lawrenceville and the surrounding area while asking for accountability and change. Bowman spoke about issues with the sewer treatment plant and her distrust of Tipsword.

The Council had earlier received copies of the minutes of the regular Council meeting of April 9, 2026. Mayor Courtney asked for questions or comments. Goins made a motion to approve the minutes. Waldrop seconded. Motion passed on a voice vote.

The Council had earlier received copies of the bills of the Sewer and Water Departments for April, 2026. Mayor Courtney asked for questions or comments. Brewer motioned to approve paying the bills for April, 2026. Dunn seconded. Motion passed on a roll-call vote, 8-0. Yeas: Dunn, Fritch, Goins, Greene, Waldrop, Volkman, Hedge, Brewer. Nays: None.

Treasurer White informed the Council two cemetery fund CDs were coming due in June. There was also a general fund CD roughly \$65,000 and two sewer CDs about \$65,000 each. With expenses going up, the Council considered cashing CDs and moving funds. Brewer motioned to cash the general fund CD and one sewer CD. Waldrop seconded. Motion passed on a roll-call vote, 8-0. Yeas: Waldrop, Volkman, Hedge, Greene, Goins, Fritch, Dunn, Brewer. Nays: None.

The Council previously heard advice from HMG Engineers and Kemper Financial about the need to increase sewer rates, after holding back during recent years. Ordinance 1623 would raise rates and establish the sewer rates from Fiscal year 2026-27 to 2033-34. Hedge motioned to approve Ordinance 1623. Goins seconded. The motion passed on a roll-call vote, 8-0. Yeas: Waldrop, Volkman, Hedge, Greene, Goins, Fritch, Dunn, Brewer. Nays: None.

Brian Bucheit of HMG Engineers said the next step in development of a new wastewater treatment plant is the design and bidding phase with a goal of getting construction underway by 2028. The Mayor asked for a motion to sign a professional service agreement with HMG during the construction of the facility. Waldrop made the motion. Brewer seconded. The roll-call vote passed, 7-1. Yeas: Waldrop, Hedge, Greene, Goins, Fritch, Dunn, Brewer. Nays: Volkman.

A property search by Chevron during its cleaning operations of former Texaco property found vacated parcels in Crackel addition, mainly narrow strips of land and part of an alley. Ordinance 1624 would allow the City to take ownership. Dunn motioned. Brewer seconded. The motion passed on a roll-call vote, 8-0. Yeas: Brewer, Hedge, Volkman, Waldrop, Dunn, Fritch, Goins, Greene. Nays: None.

Resolution 05142026 would declare 1403 8th Street as surplus property and allow for its sale by auction. The property is currently a vacant lot. Volkman motioned for a vote. Greene seconded. Motion passed on a roll-call vote, 8-0. Yeas: Brewer, Dunn, Fritch, Goins, Greene, Hedge, Volkman, Waldrop. Nays: None.

After discussion on purchasing equipment, Brewer motioned to purchase a side-by-side for the Parks Department for \$12,000, and a side-by-side for \$13,640 and a mower for \$12,950 for the Cemetery Department. Goins seconded. The motion passed on a roll-call vote, 8-0. Yeas: Brewer, Dunn, Fritch, Goins, Greene, Hedge, Volkman, Waldrop. Nays: None.

The Council discussed playground equipment in April, then asked for a complete quote from Molanda concerning a project for City Park, including shipping and installation. The bid came to \$115,598 with money to pay for the project from the cannabis fund. Brewer motioned to purchase the equipment. Goins seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote, 8-0. Yeas: Waldrop, Volkman, Hedge, Greene, Goins, Fritch Dunn, Brewer. Nays: None.

Volkman felt there were continuing issues with employee timesheets. He motioned to adopt an electronic device to monitor employee time. Hedge seconded. Volkman then pulled the motion to motion for the Finance Committee to review electronic options on time keeping methods. Hedge seconded. Motion passed on roll call vote, 6-2. Yeas: Brewer, Dunn, Fritch, Hedge, Volkman, Waldrop. Nays: Goins, Greene.

The Council continued discussion on the possible purchase of a jet-vac truck for use by the Utilities and Street departments, whether new or pre-owned. The Council also must decide how to pay for any new equipment, whether to cash in a CD or use financing.

The Council was looking to review the addition of adding side-by-sides to the golf cart ordinance after Goins heard requests from the public. No action was taken.

Volkman spoke about Citywide Cleanup, any possible IEPA investigation and sidewalk projects. Goins and Greene thanked Parks Superintendent Grant McDonald for cleans parks and cemetery. Waldrop was interested in moving the recycling center, and Hedge inquired about future plans to replace fallen trees in the City Park. Dunn thanked City employees.

Goins motioned to adjourn. Multiple members seconded.

Time: 8:03 p.m.

Rodney Nolan, City Clerk