

CITY OF LAWRENCEVILLE, ILLINOIS
JUNE 11, 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, June 11, 2026 at the hour of 7 p.m. The following Aldermen were present on roll call: Fritch, Volkman, Dunn, Goins, Greene, Hedge. Absent: Brewer, Waldrop.

Mayor Courtney called the meeting to order. Greene gave the prayer. All present then recited the Pledge of Allegiance while facing the flag. Ed Burnett, Louie Campbell, Keith Bellinger and Gail Bowman asked to speak to the Council.

Burnett spoke about high grass. Bowman said Utilities Superintendent Tipsword should be fired. Louie Campbell spoke about Tipsword and FOIA response concerning Mayor Courtney's text messages. Bellinger asked the Mayor Courtney to do the right thing concerning Tipsword.

The Council had earlier received copies of the minutes of the regular Council meeting of May 14, 2026. Mayor Courtney asked for questions or comments. Greene made a motion to approve the minutes. Goins seconded. Motion passed on a voice vote.

Courtney requested the Council minutes from the May 8, 2025 meeting to reflect John White installed as Treasurer. Dunn motioned to make the change. Hedge seconded. Motion passed on a voice vote.

Treasurer White gave his report concerning CD's and City finances.

The Council had earlier received copies of the bills of the Sewer and Water Departments for May, 2026. Mayor Courtney asked for questions or comments. Goins motioned to approve paying the bills for May, 2026. Dunn seconded. Motion passed on a roll-call vote, 6-0-2. Yeas: Volkman, Hedge, Greene, Goins, Fritch, Dunn. Nays: None. Absent: Waldrop, Brewer.

The Mayor conducted the first reading of the appropriation, which the City announced at \$6,947,160.50. The City won't necessarily spend the entire amount, but this amount is budgeted. It's an increase of 1.07 from last year.

The Mayor commented on the US EPA sewer treatment inspection report, which documented 29 items of concern, such as discharge without a permit and operator certification.

Street Superintendent Griggs requested the purchase of a 72-inch mower for use on empty lots and the old LHS property. The proposed cost is \$16,870.36 at Route 1 Powersports in rural Lawrenceville. Fritch motioned to buy the mower. Volkman seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote, 6-0-2. Yeas: Volkman, Hedge, Greene, Goins, Fritch, Dunn. Nays: None. Absent: Waldrop, Brewer.

The City hired 27 summer workers, primarily local high school students.

Griggs supervised road repairs on Lexington and Springfield avenues, Courtney said. The City sent a list of proposed street repairs to county engineer Aaron Mefford.

Ed Brumley spoke about possible issues with the disproportionate sizes of the City's wards, in relation to the number of registered voters in each ward. The discussion was taken to committee.

Volkman addressed Ordinance 1-2-13, which called for anyone requesting to speak to the Council to provide their name and address. Asking for the address might be a violation of the open meetings act, Volkman said. The Mayor referred it to committee.

The employee union indicated to the City it would agree to using time clocks in the future, but the union wanted to play a role in determining how the system would work. Volkman questioned why the union would have a role. Goins informed Volkman any change would have to go through collective bargaining. There was also discussion about call-out policy. No action was taken.

Volkman asked the Council to consider making a donation to Destiny Rescue, a group that fights child trafficking. Volkman motioned to make a \$500 donation. Dunn seconded. The motion passed on a roll-call vote, 4-2-2. Yeas: Volkman, Greene, Fritch, Dunn. Nays: Hedge, Goins. Absent: Waldrop, Brewer.

The Mayor continued discussion on allowing side-by-sides in the City's current golf cart policy. Chief White supported adding side by sides to the ordinance. The Mayor asked for a motion to amend Ordinance 1625. Goins motioned. Volkman seconded. The roll-call vote was deadlocked, 3-3. Yeas: Volkman, Hedge, Goins. Nays: Greene, Fritch, Dunn. Absent: Waldrop, Brewer. The Mayor broke the tie in favor of amending the Ordinance to allow side by sides.

Brown Equipment would bring another jet vac truck to the City for demonstration priced at \$325,000. Another salesman also made a visit to City Hall in regards to similar equipment.

Volkman requested information about feral cats. He also asked about the Mayor's stance on Tipsword. Hedge spoke about ordinance violations and the ability to fine offenders.

Courtney said a parade, tailgate and fireworks would be held on Friday, July 3. Bryant Jenkins was supervising a youth clinic at the armory for free basketball instruction. The City Pool has created huge interest with the Wednesday night swimming events, where food trucks and a DJ also serve as entertainment.

The next meeting is July 9, 2026.

Rodney Nolan, City Clerk