

CITY OF LAWRENCEVILLE, ILLINOIS
JULY 9, 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, July 9, 2026 at the hour of 7 p.m. The following Aldermen were present on roll call: Fritch, Volkman, Dunn, Goins, Greene, Hedge, Brewer, Waldrop.

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, John Couch, Keith Bellinger, Kevin McDevitt, Scott Durrant and Ed Brumley requested to speak to the Council.

Campbell asked the Mayor about a possible grant application and thanked him for his support on the parade honoring Ryan Farrar, an area man who won medals at the Special Olympics. Couch spoke about Simply Jesus, a music mission and part of One Cause, a not-for-profit which battles child trafficking. Durrant remained concerned about Utilities Superintendent Aaron Tipsword's status. Bellinger spoke about numerous topics, including the need to work together. McDevitt promoted the strengths of allowing side by sides on City streets. Brumley was grateful for the tour of the Armory offered to the Lawrence County Historical Society.

The Council earlier received copies of the minutes of the regular Council meeting of June 11, 2026. Mayor Courtney asked for questions or comments. Goins made a motion to approve the minutes. Dunn seconded. Motion passed on a voice vote.

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

Treasurer White offered his report on City finances and answered questions from Volkman about the Cemetery Perpetual Fund and spoke on the Armory, overtime hours and time clocks.

The annual appropriation was presented as Ordinance 1625, with a total announced at \$6,947,160.50. The City won't likely spend the entire amount, but this is what is presented as the maximum allowed in the line-by-line budget. Waldrop motioned to pass the ordinance. Brewer seconded. Motion passed on a roll-call vote, 8-0. Yeas: Waldrop, Volkman, Hedge, Greene, Goins, Fritch, Dunn, Brewer. Nays: None.

Mitch Hardiek from Milano & Grunloh Engineers advised the Council the ITEP grant applications are due in October. While the City fell short of earning funds last year, there's a strong possibility money for sidewalk projects could be secured this year, Hardiek said. Brewer motioned for Milano-Grunloh to prepare grant application work. Goins seconded. It passed on a voice vote. The Council will explore areas where additional sidewalks are most needed.

The City has \$296,736.23 in Motor Fuel Tax to spend on road improvements before the end of the calendar year, the Mayor said. Dunn motioned to move forward with spending the funds. Greene seconded. Motion passed on a roll-call vote, 8-0. Yeas: Brewer, Dunn, Fritch, Goins, Greene, Hedge, Waldrop, Volkman. Nays: None.

The Mayor opened two bids on a surplus property at 1403 8th Street. Walter Mickiewicz offered \$750 for the high bid over Jennifer/Jeremy Johnson's bid of \$500. Volkman motioned to accept the bid from Mickiewicz. Dunn seconded. Motion passed on a roll-call vote, 8-0. Brewer, Dunn, Fritch, Goins, Greene, Hedge, Waldrop, Volkman. Nays: None.

A vote to allow side-by-sides as part of the ordinance governing golf carts wasn't valid last month because it didn't meet the requirements for a majority of a full quorum. The side-by-side addition was brought again before the Council as Ordinance 1626. Volkman motioned to add side-by-sides to the Golf Cart ordinance. Goins seconded. The motion failed on a 3-5 vote: Yeas: Goins, Hedge, Volkman. Nays: Brewer, Dunn, Fritch, Greene, Waldrop.

The Mayor had been in communication with Brown Equipment, which brought a pre-owned jet-vac truck to the City for demonstration. The Finance Committee recommended financing the equipment. Brewer motioned to purchase the 2023 Western Star at \$375,000 at a five-year fixed rate of 4.75-percent interest amortized over 10 years from People's State Bank. The Mayor would be authorized to execute all documents to close the purchase consistent with all recited terms. Dunn seconded. Motion passed on a roll-call vote, 8-0. Yeas: Brewer, Dunn, Fritch, Goins, Greene, Hedge, Waldrop, Volkman.

The Council also revisited a vote concerning a possible donation to groups attempting to stop child trafficking. Waldrop said once he learned about Once Cause and its local representation, it was the way to go. Waldrop motioned to make a \$500 donation to One Cause. Volkman seconded. Motion passed on a roll-call vote, 7-1. Yeas: Waldrop, Volkman, Hedge, Greene, Fritch, Dunn, Brewer. Nays: Goins.

Volkman spoke with the Mayor about a BRIC grant. Courtney informed him the highly competitive grant would force the City to pay engineering and design work up front before it's known if a grant is earned. Volkman also talked about the time clocks and the decision-making process.

Dunn talked about asking Curt Benson, of Kemper Associates, for suggestions concerning time clocks. Goins asked a FOIA question with Volkman. Greene expressed gratitude for the parade for Farrar and honored Bob Johnson, who died in a fireworks accident. Brewer was proud the work and results on the new playground equipment at Wishnick Park and looked forward to new equipment at City Park. Hedge was also liked the new pavilion at Wishnick.

Goins motioned adjourn. Brewer seconded.

Time: 8:31 p.m.

Rodney Nolan, City Clerk