CITY OF LAWRENCEVILLE, ILLINOIS
AUGUST 13, 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, August 13, 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.

The Council earlier received copies of the minutes of the regular Council meeting of July 9, 2026. Mayor Courtney asked for questions or comments. Waldrop 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 July, 2026. Mayor Courtney asked for questions or comments. Goins motioned to approve paying the bills for July, 2026. Brewer 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 concerning CD's. Volkman asked about CD totals. White also apologized if any of his suggestions caused problems for the City and claimed there's an inability to do his job as treasurer.

Alice Russell spoke to the Council about cleaning up the City twice a month. The 8-year-old was planning to volunteer time. Gail Bowman read scripture and asked for justice against corruption and incompetence. Steven Johns spoke on the Lawrenceville Police Department. Louie Campbell said he was tired of talking about accountability and doing the right thing. Keith Bellinger remained interested in a purchasing a vacant building at the corner of 15th and Olive.

The Mayor proposed an ordinance for the purpose of the sale of surplus property at 1403 8th Street. The Council previously accepted the bid of $750 by Walter Mickewicz, who already paid for the property. Ordinance 1626 would authorize the sale. Waldrop motioned to vote on the sale. Brewer seconded. The motion passed on a roll-call vote, 8-0. Yeas: Waldrop, Volkman, Hedge, Greene, Goins, Fritch, Dunn, Brewer. Nays: None.

Ordinance 1627 would vacate an alley in the Titus & Jones Addition in the area of Cedar, Hickory, 4th and 3rd streets. The request was brought by Chevron, which is overseeing the cleanup of the former refinery property. Dunn motioned to pass the ordinance. Goins seconded. The motion passed on a roll-call vote, 8-0. Yeas: Brewer, Dunn, Fritch, Goins, Greene, Hedge, Volkman, Waldrop. Nays: None.

Ordinance 1627 would alter the wording in Chapter 1-2-3 of the City Code. At present, a person requesting to speak at a council meeting must state their name and address. The ordinance would change the requirement to just stating their name. Volkman motioned for the ordinance. Greene seconded. The motion passed on a vote of 8-0. Yeas: Brewer, Dunn, Fritch, Goins, Greene, Hedge, Volkman, Waldrop. Nays: None.

The Mayor asked for a motion to reappoint members to various boards: Mary Frances Enloe to the Police Commission, Greg Lewis and Donn Hammer to the Police Pension Board, and Julie Astrike and Dorothy Alsman to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Dunn motioned for the reappointment. Brewer. Seconded. The motion passed on a voice vote.

Mayor Courtney supplied paperwork for the Council's study concerning proposed water rate increase. Three alternatives were presented. The Mayor asked the Council to study the different proposals for possible action in the September meeting.

The Mayor brought the IDOT motor fuel bid for consideration in street paving projects after working with county engineer Aaron Mefford to devise a plan. The City could pave portions of 12th, Locust, George and Lexington while also repairing the alley between 15th and 16th between Pine and Olive. The estimate for the work is $98,958.12, under the IDOT limit of $105,393. Dunn motioned to approve the IDOT bid. Goins seconded. The motion passed on a roll-call vote, 8-0. Yeas: Waldrop, Volkman, Hedge, Greene, Goins, Fritch, Dunn, Brewer. Nays: None.

Brewer reported the committee considering the use of time clocks to calculate employee pay is looking to analyze the entire process before rendering a recommendation. Volkman questioned why a previous motion was ignored.

Chief Jim White informed the Council the Lawrence County Jail is closed, causing Lawrenceville police to transport arrested individuals to a jail in Olney. The situation will manifest into higher staffing and vehicle costs. If this is a long-term arrangement, the department may need to hire two more police officers, White said. He suggested the Council have serious discussions with the Lawrence County Board concerning the closure. With the homeless population brought to town by Lawrence County Health Department programming and serious crimes, the City of Lawrenceville is likely to take a big financial hit, Chief White said.

Volkman asked why any grant work for a jet vac truck wasn't directed toward buying new equipment. When he asked why the Mayor is reluctant to communicate with him, Mayor Courtney said it was in part because of the lawsuit Volkman has against the City and the Mayor. Volkman requested City crews remove bushes near a sidewalk in the 900 block of Lexington.

Dunn acknowledged the effort from Mike Webster concerning property at the former Methodist Village. Green reported a lot for mowing near the corner of Wabash and Crackel. Brewer informed the meeting she had a building permit for a personal project.

The Mayor reported citizens have requested no parking on 15th Street. The jet vac truck is busy, the armory roof repairs are scheduled to begin and playground equipment should be installed in City Park soon. The City is also working with IDOT on sidewalk improvements and HMG concerning the new sewer plant.

The Mayor asked for a motion to name Ron Waldrop as protem in the Mayor's absence the following week. Greene motioned. Goins seconded. The motion passed on a voice vote.

Brewer moved to adjourn. It passed on voice vote.

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Rodney Nolan, City Clerk