CITY OF LAWRENCEVILLE, ILLINOIS
OCTOBER 8, 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, October, 8, 2026 at the hour of 7 p.m. The following Aldermen were present on roll call: Fritch, Volkman, Dunn, Hedge, Brewer, Waldrop, Goins, Greene.

Mayor Courtney called the meeting to order. Waldrop gave the prayer. All present then recited the Pledge of Allegiance while facing the flag. Gayle Bowman, Doug Bowman, Hannah Durrant, Janet Horn, Bill Horn, Shelby Hatfield, Staci Middaugh, Louie Campbell and Vanessa Spruell asked to speak to the Council.

The Council earlier received copies of the minutes of the regular Council meeting of September 10, 2026. Mayor Courtney asked for questions or comments. Dunn made a motion to approve the minutes. Greene seconded. Motion passed on a voice vote.

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

Treasurer White and the Council discussed the perpetual fund with the City Cemetery. White has been unable to find information on the fund in an attempt to determine the principal amount. Volkman said it's important to determine the principal because the City could use a portion of the account to pay other bills. Neal, the City attorney, advised a search of the ordinances could provide information.

Gayle Bowman told an apparent fictional account about a fire and a fire department. Hannah Durrant informed the Council she was invited to a meeting with Sen. Tammy Duckworth and urged the Council to work with Duckworth. Janet Horn spoke about the Illinois Environmental Protection, whose results on the City of Lawrenceville sewer department are available and said the state constitution guarantees a safe and healthy environment. Bill Horn said the City should sue the IEPA for negligence and failing to perform due diligence concerning the City wastewater operations.

Shelby Hatfield stressed the importance of regular maintenance of City facilities. Middaugh felt the City should terminate Tipsword, the Utilities Superintendent.

Campbell said the Council shares responsibility to manage accountability in terms of failures at the City wastewater plant. Spruell urged a change in behavior concerning trash around town. City manpower can only do so much, she said. Doug Bowman said social media has been rough on Campbell and Volkman.

Courtney asked the Council to consider a contract update from EJ Water, a consultant hired to manage the Wastewater facility. The new contract would reduce EJ Water hours weekly, moving from five days a week to four. IEPA has already approved the change. Volkman motioned to approve the new contract. Brewer seconded. The motion passed on a roll-call vote, 8-0. Yeas: Waldrop, Volkman, Hedge, Greene, Goins, Fritch, Dunn, Brewer. Nays: None.

Mayor Courtney informed the Council of an update to the Republic Services sanitation contract which is up for renewal in early 2027. The contract calls for annual 3 percent increases, mirroring the current contract. The contract update will be presented in ordinance form for the Council to consider in November.

Courtney presented Ordinance 1629, which would ban street parking on 15th Street/Route 1. Waldrop motioned to approve Ordinance 1629. Goins seconded. Motion passed on a roll-call vote, 8-0. Yeas: Waldrop, Volkman, Fritch, Goins, Greene, Hedge, Dunn, Brewer. Nays: None.

Ordinance 1630 would increase water rates within the City of Lawrenceville after the first study completed since 2012. The change in rates would start fiscal 2026-27 and run through 2031-32. Dunn motioned to approve the ordinance. Greene. Seconded. The motion passed on a roll-call vote, 8-0. Yeas: Brewer, Dunn, Fritch, Goins, Greene, Hedge, Volkman, Waldrop. Nays: None.

Courtney proposed Ordinance 1631, calling for an increase in the sewer rate for the first time since 2007. Brewer motioned to adopt the ordinance. Fritch seconded. Motion passed by a roll-call vote, 8-0. Yeas: Brewer, Dunn, Fritch, Goins, Greene, Hedge, Volkman, Waldrop. Nays: None.

Ordinance 1632 would authorize an agreement with Petrolia Water District. Waldrop motioned to adopt the ordinance. Goins seconded. The roll-call vote passed, 8-0. Yeas: Waldrop, Volkman, Hedge, Greene, Goins, Fritch, Dunn, Brewer. Nays: None.

Brewer brought a recommendation from the Legislative-Finance Committee to keep the paper timekeeping method currently used with updated training to employees. Brewer motioned to adopt the recommendation. Greene seconded. Motion passed on a voice vote.

During the meeting, Volkman got into a confrontation with a member the audience. The Mayor and Chief White called the meeting back to order. Later, Volkman asked privately to meet with the mayor and urged cooperation. He mentioned a closed valve to a wastewater line, as referenced in a report by EJ Water.

Greene said Wreaths Across America would place wreaths at the graves of veterans on Dec. 19. A fundraiser will be held at the Moose on Nov. 7.

Courtney said the recycling station would move to 1500 3rd Street, just in front of the City street department. The trunk or treat, sponsored by the City, Lawrence County Memorial Hospital and Lawrence County Health Department, is Oct. 29. Trick or treat is Oct. 31 from 5-8 p.m. He asked the Council to review information concerning scooters and e-bikes leading up to changes in state law.

Brewer motioned to adjourn. Greene seconded.

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Rodney Nolan, City Clerk