

City of Evansville Common Council
Regular Meeting
City Hall, 31 S Madison St, Evansville WI 53536
Tuesday, October 10, 2023, 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

1. **Call to order:** Duggan called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. **Roll call:**

Members	Present/Absent	Others Present
Aldersperson, Abbey Barnes	P (6:20pm)	Leah Hurtley, City Clerk
Aldersperson, Jim Brooks	P	Mark Kopp, City Attorney
Aldersperson, Ben Corridon	P	Jason Sergeant, City Administrator
Mayor, Dianne Duggan	P	Megan Kloeckner, Library Director
Aldersperson, Ben Ladick	P	Carolyn Kleisch, EMS Chief
Aldersperson, Gene Lewis	P	Greg Johnson, Ehlers
Aldersperson, Joy Morrison	P	
Aldersperson, Corey Neeley	P	
Aldersperson, Erika Stuart	P	

3. **Motion to approve the agenda by Brooks, seconded by Morrison. Motion passed 7-0.**
4. **Motion to waive the reading of the minutes of the September 12, 2023 regular meeting and September 26, 2023 special meetings and approve as presented by Brooks, seconded by Neeley. Motion passed 7-0.**
5. **Civility reminder:** Duggan noted the City’s commitment to civility and decorum at Council Meetings.
6. **Citizen appearances other than agenda items listed:**
 - A. **Susan Becker:** Becker voiced traffic safety concerns that are occurring on Garfield Avenue between 2nd and 4th Streets. Becker was looking for direction as to where to turn to next to have these concerns addressed and verify that the next direction should be Municipal Services. Brooks mentioned that while they didn’t have any information at the last Municipal Services meeting, the committee does have an engineer to look into traffic calming measures. Sergeant also mentioned that he has been working with staff looking for more economical and effective measures to avoid construction to a street. Morrison also brought up that the cost of the speed bumps are at \$10,000. There was additional discussion on the possibility of people and agriculture vehicles using Garfield to avoid Main Street.
7. **Reports of Committees**
 - A. **Library Board Report:** Kloeckner read from a written report: Solar Eclipse program this Saturday at 11:30 AM (best viewing for WI is 11:55). We are participating in the Wisconsin Science Festival next week State-wide celebration with activities for people throughout the state: South Pole T-Shirt Prize Drawing – EFPL shirt signed by scientists working on the Ice Cube Project in the South Pole or Science Festival shirt. VR: Neutrinos (10/17) – Program for school-aged kids; use our Meta Quest VR Headset to explore the South Pole and/or capture neutrinos from outer space for scientists to analyze. DNA Sequencing and Its Impact on Our World (10/17) – Joshua Hyman, Director of the DNA Synthesis and Sequencing Facility at the UW-Madison Biotechnology Center, will speak on what happens when we

can sequence everything. STEAM Engines: Shrinky Dink Science (10/18) – Kids in grades 3-5 will learn the science behind “memory” plastic and will create their own “shrinky dink charms.”

Kloeckner confirmed with Duggan that she will be leaving her Director role at the end of October. Council thanked Megan for her tenure.

- B. Parks and Recreation Board Report:** Neeley reported that the “Ride the Parks” event took place. Sergeant shared that there were about 50 people that had turned out to the event. Neeley shared that there was discussion on a possible bench sponsorship program. Sergeant also gave a construction update on the old and new pool. It was also reported that the current pledge amount is \$1.7 million, with a new stretch goal of \$1.85 million to include the sports court.
- C. Plan Commission Report**
- 1) Discussion of Ordinance 2023-11, Annexation of Parcel 6-20-302.2**
Corridon inquired as to why the other part wasn’t being included in the annexation. Sergeant reported that annexation can only be done by parcel. In addition, it was determined that the other part of the property was already part of the city.
- D. Finance and Labor Relations Committee Report**
- 1) Motion to accept the September 2023 City bills as presented in the amount of \$593,625.78 by Brooks, seconded by Neeley. Motion passed by Roll Call 7-0.**
Sergeant reported that the bills are without the bill for the purchase of power (WPPI), that bill will be included with next month’s bills.
 - 2) Quarterly Treasurer’s Report:** Roberts shared that there wasn’t anything that seemed out of line. There are some items over and others that are under budget. Roberts is hoping to have the 3rd quarter report for the next meeting, which will be at the same time that the budget would be approved. (Barnes arrived 6:20pm)
 - 3) Review of 2024 Budget and CIP:** Sergeant shared that there was a category added for Council Professional Development. There was also a change that removed all but one part-time officers’ salary and included one full-time officer. Electric budget calls for an Apprentice Lineworker position. The rate case has enough room for the position to replace the Lineworker that left a year ago. There was additional discussion on reallocation in Health and Human Services for Operating Expense and Repairs & Maintenance for the Youth Center building.
 - 4) Motion to approve Resolution #2023-34 Amended and Restated Resolution Authorizing the Issuance and Establishing Parameters for the Sale of Not to Exceed \$15,430,000 General Obligation Corporate Purpose Bonds, Series 2023A by Brooks, seconded by Neeley. Motion passed by Roll Call 8-0.**
Municipal Advisor, Greg Johnson from Ehler’s, reported that the sale is set to occur of October 18th. The items that are unchanged from the prior month are the borrowing amount, process, time line, and purpose of the bonds. The increase is due to the increase of interest rates by a full percent. During additional discussion it was reported that the increase would be exempt from levy limits and there would be the ability to refinance at seven years.
- E. Public Safety Committee Report:** Stuart shared that there were some Operator Licenses’ that were approved. In addition, there was a meeting with the Chief to discuss “no parking from here to curb” signs on narrow streets, such as Cemetery Street. Duggan added that there will be a community meeting held locally to discuss ATV/UTV routes.
- F. Municipal Services Report:** Brooks reported there was discussion on the budget, the incoming Municipal Services Director, and speed bumps.

- G. **Economic Development Committee:** Brooks shared that they have been working on the Business Summit to ensure that it will be a quality event.
 - H. **Youth Center Advisory Board Report:** Corridon shared that there was a Q&A session with the City Administrator for the Recreation Coordinator position in place of the regular meeting last month. There was another meeting held October 9th discussions were held on building maintenance and updating the EYC handbook to bring it to meet current roles and responsibilities.
 - I. **Historic Preservation Commission:** Lewis shared that The Tower House’s back porch will be getting fix up and being extended a bit. The neighbor tore out the cement steps and will be replacing with wood and the correct railings. Also, the white church will be replacing rear wood windows with vinyl ones, as the windows are not Historic. There was discussion on creating a list of trees that were native to Evansville for those that are in the Historic District if they want to replace one of their older trees when they come down.
 - J. **Fire District Report:** Brooks reported that they had finalized the budget to include one full-time person in the Fire Station that should help with response times and ambulance assists. There was some concern over the city portion of the budget in 2022 was 47% and in 2024, it will be closer to 62%. The city provides the majority of the budget, but only represents 1/3 of the Board.
 - K. **Police Commission Report:** Did Not Meet
 - L. **Energy Independence Team Report:** Did Not Meet
 - M. **Board of Appeals Report:** They met, but Sergeant didn’t have a report to share.
8. **Unfinished Business**
- A. Second Reading and *Motion to Approve Ordinance #2023-07, Amending Chapter 26 – Cemeteries by Brooks, seconded by Morrison.*
Corridon requested changes: 26-6 to replace “records” with “record keeper”, 26-45 remove “c” entirely as it is a duplicate of “a2”, and 26-85: under “2”, remove the word “except”.
Sergeant added that a large amount of the changes to the ordinance can be associated with cleaning it up to align with the state statute. While state statute allows to reclaim spaces after 50 years with no activity, the consideration will be to reclaim the spaces with 100 years of no activity. There was additional discussion on the symbols in “Addendum A” and the possibility of adding more options that are recognized on the federal level.
Motion to amend the ordinance to replace “records” with “record keeper” in 26-6, and to strike “c” in 26-45, and to remove the word “except” under item 26-85 a2, by Corridon, seconded by Neeley. Motion passed 8-0.

Motion to Approve Ordinance #2023-07, Amending Chapter 26 – Cemeteries with amended changes. Motion passed 8-0.
9. **Communications and Recommendations of the Administrator:**
Sergeant reported that the city should find out credit rating with S&P next week. There was some anxiety over the amount of money that will be borrowed. The Building Inspector has left his position, and the Building Inspector from Beloit will be helping in the interim. The new Municipal Services Director will start November 6th, and has come in to meet staff and signed his contract. The email switch had a hiccup when the original domain request was denied, and another request has been sent.
10. **Communications and Recommendations of the Mayor:**
Duggan shared that the next Committee of the Whole has been tentatively been set for December 2, 2023. Duggan also thanked everyone for work on the budget.
11. **New Business**

- A. *Motion to approve the Wahlin Foundation Inc. Agreement, for the Recreation for Generations Lake Leota & West Side Park Capital Campaign by Brooks, seconded by Stuart. Motion passed by Roll Call 8-0.*

Sergeant reported that the donation was a surprise. The only stipulation would be to update the donor annually on the status of the funds for the project. A representative has already pre-signed the agreement. There was no naming request associated with the grant at this point.

12. **Introduction of New Ordinances**

- A. **First Reading of Ordinance 2023-11, Annexation of Parcel 6-20-302.2**, read by Brooks.

13. **Upcoming Meeting Reminder:**

- A. Regular Common Council Meeting, Tuesday November 14, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.
B. Committee of the Whole Meeting, Saturday December 2, 2023, at 8:00 a.m.

14. Closed Session: *Motion that the Common Council shall convene in closed session pursuant to section 19.85 (1) (e) of the Wisconsin statutes to deliberate or negotiate the purchase of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session and where discussion in open session would negatively impact the city's competitive or bargaining position. Upon completion, the Common Council will reconvene in open session by Brooks, seconded by Morrison. Motion passed by Roll Call 8-0 at 7:00pm.*

15. Reconvene into Open Session at 8:00pm

16. **Adjournment:** Duggan adjourned the meeting at 8:00pm.