

**City of Evansville Common Council
Regular Meeting and
Special Budget Hearing Meeting**
City Hall, 31 S Madison St, Evansville WI 53536
Tuesday, November 12, 2024, 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, Jim Brooks	P	Jason Sergeant, City Administrator
Aldersperson, Cory Neeley	P	Colette Spranger, Community Dev. Dir.
Aldersperson, Ben Corridon	P	Jolene Klitzman, Deputy Clerk
Mayor, Dianne Duggan	P	Bronna Lehman, Library Director
Aldersperson, Joe Geoffrion	P	Mark Kopp, City Attorney
Aldersperson, Abbey Barnes	P	Jeff Stevens, Resident
Aldersperson, Gene Lewis	P	Gary Roessler, Resident
Aldersperson, Lita Droster	P	
Aldersperson, Erika Stuart (Arrived at 6:01 p.m.)	P	

3. **Motion to Approve the Agenda by Neeley, seconded by Corridon. Motion approved 7-0.**
4. **Motion to Waive the Reading of Minutes of the October 8, 2024 Regular Meeting Approve as Presented by Neeley, seconded by Droster. Motion approved 7-0.**
Stuart arrived at 6:01 p.m.
5. **Civility Reminder:** Duggan noted the City’s commitment to civility and decorum at Council Meetings.
6. **Citizen Appearances:**(Public comments on items on the agenda not requiring a public hearing and on matters which can be affected by Council action.)
 - A. **Jeff Stevens, 75 Countryside Dr:** Stevens wanted to extend an offer from the Western Rock Country ATV Club to fund the signs and posts after the ATV/UTV ordinance was approved. Sergeant stated that there would be a meeting with staff and would let Stevens know what may be needed after discussions occur. Stevens said the club actually has some signs on hand.

Corridon thanked Jeff on behalf of the ATV club for the nice gesture.
7. **Reports of Committees:**
 - A. **Library Board Report:** Lehman read from a written report: General Updates-Lorrie Reed joined us as a Library Clerk on Monday. As part of the maintenance and repair project that we are doing with Destree Design, NAMI is onsite this week to replace insulation and flashing around the RTU on the roof and some insulation on the RTU that’s on the ground. The Library Director attended the Wisconsin Library Association conference on November 6-8. The Library Director and the Assistant Director participated in a five-part webinar series on marketing library services. We will be evaluating current marketing activities in preparation for the implementation of a new Prairie Lakes Library System marketing tool

and a website refresh planned for 2025. Program Updates: About forty children and adults attended our Dia de los Muertos celebration on November 1st. The Library is hosting a set of Smithsonian posters about “The Bias Inside Us” displayed by the History Room. This traveling display, sponsored by Becoming Better Neighbors, will be at the library through the end of the week and then move on to City Hall and other Evansville locations. More information is available at <https://biasinsideus.si.edu/homepage> under the Online Exhibit tab. The Friends of the Library Pie Sale is coming up on November 27. The Friends are currently recruiting pie bakers and taking pie orders for the fundraiser. There will be two book discussions this month. Bookaholics will meet at 6:30pm on Wednesday, Nov. 20. The Antemeridian group will meet at 10:30 on Thursday, Nov. 21. The books and audiobooks are available for checkout at the library. Other programming this month includes a slime making activity this Saturday, a jewelry making program on Nov. 22, making a bobble-headed cat, a DIY cup cozy, two repurposed book projects, and Storytimes for babies through preschoolers.

- B. **Parks and Recreation Board Report:** Neeley reported the committee mainly focused on end-of-the-year reports for the Aquatic Center. Committee is still waiting for profit and loss reports and information on pool income as information will be helpful in determining fees. Neeley reported end-of-the-season park closures and comments on the condition of the soccer fields. Sergeant point out the last conversation with the MAYSA Field Coordinator was that the fields were acceptable and they wanted to take play on the fields.

C. **Plan Commission Report:**

Duggan reported no actionable items at Plan Commission, and two Public Hearings.

- 1) **Second Reading and Motion to Approve Ordinance 2024-09 Annexing Three Parcels for Right-of-Way by Duggan, seconded by Barnes. Motion approved by Roll Call 8-0.**

Sergeant explained that the Ordinance is part of the ongoing cleanup of the annexation of CHS for the creation of TID 10.

D. **Finance and Labor Relations Committee Report:**

- 1) **Public Hearing: 2025 Operational Budget:**

- i) **Staff Summary:** FMP originally had a \$30k levy gap that has been closed in this budget. In the beginning there was an underestimate of revenues and as the Aquatic Center numbers came in, they closed the levy gap. Budget includes a 3.5% cost of living wage increase for staff. There are larger increases in Public Works, Parks and Recreation, and Police that are primarily Capital Project driven. The Cemetery and Library have decreased their line items compared to previous years. Sergeant explained that there is an increase of debt to be paid back, primarily due projects from last year such as the pool project. Municipal Bonds and borrowing are our strongest ways of funding major street and building construction. The reimbursement resolution will allow us to get better pricing by getting projects out to bid and replenish with borrowing. The utility has the biggest increase with capital and equipment driving the increase. The dam conclusion is driving the Stormwater increase. There is a base electric budget without a rate case and proposed budget with a rate case. Water and Electric will have to submit rate cases as the Water will be drawing from reserves for 2025. The budget will increase taxes on \$300,000 homes by \$130 per year. Sergeant added discussion points on anticipated City needs in the coming years.

- ii) **Public Hearing:** Duggan opened Public Hearing at 6:30 p.m.

Jeff Stevens: Stevens noticed that past year expenditures to proposed is 33% increase to property and liability insurance.

Sergeant described the cost increases that have been seeing in the past few years.

Gary Roessler: Roessler wanted to know what could be done to Grove Street as it is in rough shape. Roessler shared that the street just keeps getting patched but wanted to know if something could be done to make it last longer.

Sergeant explained the road resurfacing plan in the next two to three years. The primary focus has been resurfacing those that do not require any underground work. There has been a delay with road work for the streets that have a 4" water main, as they will need to have underground upgrades. The vehicle registration fee money has allowed the city to get ahead on those streets that only need a topcoat, but for those that need underground work the city is behind. Stuart followed up with explaining the state funding available has been continually shrinking. Neeley suggested that the fee schedule as well as the services that are offered be looked at to properly ensure they are appropriately covering the cost of the services.

Duggan closed Public Hearing at 6:36 p.m.

iii) **Final Discussion by Council:**

iv) **Motion to Approve the 2025 Pay Philosophy by Neeley, seconded by Brooks. Motion approved by Roll Call 8-0.**

Neeley suggested looking at the MEUW pay scale.

v) **Motion to Approve Resolution 2024-23, Amending the City of Evansville's Stormwater Fee by Neeley, seconded by Corridon. Motion approved by Roll Call 8-0.**

Corridon asked if the Stormwater Fee could be put on an index. Sergeant explained that it's not on an index because the costs cannot increase without a reason such as a road project. Brooks followed up that the law had been changed in 2011 that any cost increases need to be defensible.

vi) **Motion to Approve Resolution 2024-25, Declaring Official Intent to Reimburse Expenditures from Proceeds of Borrowing for 2025 Capital Improvement Projects by Brooks, seconded by Corridon. Motion approved by Roll Call 8-0.**

vii) **Motion to Adopt Resolution 2024-24, Adopting the 2025 Operating and Capital Budget and Setting Tax Levies by Brooks, seconded by Neeley. Motion approved by Roll Call 8-0.**

2) **Motion to Accept the October 2024 City bills in the amount of \$2,202,546.30 by Brooks, seconded by Corridon. Motion approved by Roll Call 8-0.**

There was discussion on lawn bills for the Aquatic Center and sidewalk repair bill from Town & Country.

3) **Motion to Approve the agreement with Johnson Block CPAs for 2024 Audit Services by Brooks, seconded by Corridon. Motion approved by Roll Call 8-0.**

4) **Third Quarter Treasurer's Report:** No questions on the report.

E. **Public Safety Committee Report:**

Stuart shared that the EMS have now added some medications to the Firetrucks that can be administered.

- 1) **Second Reading and Motion to Approve Ordinance 2024-10 Amending Chapter 82—Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions by Stuart, seconded by Droster. Motion approved 8-0.**
- 2) **Second Reading and Motion to Approve Ordinance 2024-11 Amending Chapter 122—Traffic and Vehicles by Stuart, seconded by Droster. Motion approved 8-0.**

F. **Municipal Services Report:** Brooks reported that there was some discussion on a new subdivision and the quality of service that we offer as a utility. There was some discussion about changing call centers to offer better service. There is also an email service through WPPI to send reminder emails to those who have applied for energy assistance in the past, to do

G. **Economic Development Committee Report:** Brooks shared that the Job Fair went well. Brooks believes that there is an intention to do something similar each year moving forward. Barnes added that Southwest Wisconsin Workforce Development Board would like to have the Job Fair as their main event next year that would include more advertising and outreach for the event.

H. **Youth Center Advisory Board Report:** Did Not Meet.

I. **Historic Preservation Commission Report:** Lewis shared application updates for: 109 S First for removing and updating a rear addition; 39 W Liberty with restoring wood porch railings, 39 W Main will be replacing an exterior door at the library. Staff Issued work included: a new fence at 109 S First, reroof at 109 S Madison, and at 303 W Main they are replacing wood joists, floorboards, stringers, and stairs with the same materials.

J. **Fire District Report:** Brooks reported that the new fire truck should be able to be picked up in February or March.

K. **Police Commission Report:** Did Not Meet.

L. **Energy Independence Team Report:** Did Not Meet.

M. **Board of Appeals Report:** Did Not Meet.

8. **Unfinished Business:** None

9. **Communications and Recommendations of the Administrator:** Sergeant gave some updates about the conclusion of the Aquatic Center season. There are some concrete concerns that will result in replacement of the top layer of concrete around the pool. Public Works has finished winterizing the Aquatic Center. There are discussions with staff about the ATV/UTV signage implementation. Sergeant shared updates about the possibility of having a text program for Snow Emergencies and that CHS will be at the Common Council meeting in December to provide updates. Other discussion items included how well the election went, Chapter 86 and Fee Schedule Updates, and with the budget passing the positions for a Building Inspector and Recreation Coordinator.

10. **Communications and Recommendations of the Mayor:**

A. **Mayoral Proclamation 2024-10; In Recognition of Evansville Veterans' Participation in the Badger Honor Flight Program:** read by Neeley.

B. **Mayoral Proclamation 2024-11; Commending Chase Stiklestad and Anthony 'Tony' Brady for their Service to the City of Evansville:** read by Neeley.

11. **New Business:** Barnes shared some information about job security concerns from City Employees over their job performance and the proper way to handle that type of situation. Stuart added the desire to keep staffing levels and how it has been difficult to keep up with the staffing demand.

12. **Introduction of New Ordinances:** None

13. **Upcoming Meeting Reminder:**

A. Regular Common Council Meeting, Tuesday December 10, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

B. *Special Common Council Meeting – Alcohol Establishment Hearing* _____

Discussion resulted in meeting time set for Monday, December 9 at 3:00 p.m.

C. Holiday Gathering—December 13, 2024, at 1:30 p.m.

14. **Closed Session:** *Motion to convene in closed session pursuant to section 19.85 (1) (e) of the Wisconsin statutes where discussion in open session would negatively impact the city's competitive or bargaining position and pursuant to Sec. 19.85(1) (e) Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session. Upon completion, the Common Council will not reconvene in open session by Neeley, seconded by Brooks. Motion approved by Roll Call 8-0 at 7:40 p.m.*