

City of Evansville Common Council
Special Meeting
City Hall, 31 S Madison St, Evansville WI 53536
Monday, January 6, 2025, 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order:** Duggan called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

2. **Roll Call**

Members	Present/Absent	Others Present
Aldersperson, Jim Brooks	P	Jason Sergeant, City Administrator
Aldersperson, Cory Neeley	P	Leah Hurlley, City Clerk
Aldersperson, Ben Corridon	P	Scott Kriebs, Municipal Services Director
Mayor, Dianne Duggan	P	Melanie Bolden, Executive Assistant
Aldersperson, Joe Geoffrion	P	Julie Roberts, City Treasurer
Aldersperson, Abbey Barnes	P	Chief Reese, Police Chief
Aldersperson, Gene Lewis	A	Mark Kopp, City Attorney
Aldersperson, Lita Droster	P	Chase Stiklestad
Aldersperson, Erika Stuart	P	Phil Pickering

Bill Hurlley and other members of the public.

3. **Motion to Approve the Agenda by Neeley, seconded by Droster. Motion passed 7-0.**

4. **Civility Reminder:** Duggan noted the City’s commitment to civility and decorum at Council Meetings.

5. **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. **Phil Pickering:** Pickering shared some experiences that had involved safety concerns about projects that were completed during Pickering’s past tenure with Evansville Water & Light. Pickering also brought up concerns about projects that were completed for others that were not in Evansville Water & Light jurisdiction.

Roberts confirmed with Pickering that the events did not occur under the current Municipal Services Director but did under the same Foreperson and City Administrator.

6. **Meeting Purpose/Introduction (Mayor Duggan):** Duggan explained that the goals are to determine if the items covered are something that needs or can be brought to Common Council or a particular Committee.

Brooks explained that there are processes in place for grievances and disciplinary concerns. Brooks wanted to understand what the goal of the meeting. Duggan wanted to break down the concerns and be able to move forward.

7. **Municipal Services Concerns Raised:**

A. **Safety:** Neeley shared that there is electrical work that has been done without inspections. Duggan shared that there will be a safety inspection.

B. **Process and Procedure:** Brooks asked City Clerk Hurlley to add an agenda item to the Finance & Labor Relations meeting to have a discussion on the grievance process.

Bill Hurlley: Hurlley shared that there was 1 safety complaint that was brought up during the time that Hurlley was the Mayor. Hurlley shared that the person that was involved had left, and it was agreed that no one would talk about it. Hurlley also

shared that during the time of being Mayor, there had been a \$9 and a \$7 raise given to help get the Linepersons caught up to the average wage. Hurley gave a complaint to Mayor Duggan to have Neeley removed from Council.

Duggan shared that there had been allegations that Kriebs and Sergeant has been addressing the concerns and complaints that have been raised by the team.

- C. **Organization Structure:** Duggan expressed that Neeley has had concerns about the utility being combined with the City. Duggan also indicated that Neeley had concerns about where the money had been spent. Neeley expressed concern that not enough money or time is being spent on the utility. Roberts explained how the timesheet process works with the Municipal Services.

Chase Stiklestad: Stiklestad shared that as a former lineperson, Stiklestad can see that Evansville has the correct tools available between Scott Kriebs and Cory Neeley. Stiklestad explained that the items that Neeley has brought up are valid and it would be a bad if Council would tie Kriebs' hands. Stiklestad feels that it would be beneficial for Neeley and Kriebs to sit down to talk.

- 8. **Discussion Regarding Potential Actions:** Finance & Labor Relations-look at the grievance and whistleblower process; Municipal Services-needs to look at permitting and check to make sure that the City's process is in accordance with State Law, see if any safety inspections need to be completed in places that have been identified.
- 9. **Upcoming Meeting Reminder:**
 - A. Special Municipal Service Concerns Meeting (follow up if applicable): Mayor Duggan and Council unanimously decided another meeting regarding the matter was not necessary.
 - B. Special Pete's Inn Hearing, Monday, January 13, 2025, at 4:30 p.m.
 - C. Regular Common Council Meeting, Tuesday January 14, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.
- 10. **Adjourn:** 7:09 p.m.