

City of Evansville Common Council
Regular Meeting
City Hall, 31 S Madison St, Evansville WI 53536
Tuesday, January 14, 2025, 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	Leah Hurtley, City Clerk
Aldersperson, Ben Corridon	P	Scott Kriebs, Municipal Services Director
Mayor, Dianne Duggan	P	Bronna Lehmann, Library Director
Aldersperson, Joe Geoffrion	P	Mark Kopp, City Attorney
Aldersperson, Abbey Barnes	P	Bill Lathrop, Citizen
Aldersperson, Gene Lewis	P	Chuck Boyce, Citizen
Aldersperson, Lita Droster	P	
Aldersperson, Erika Stuart	P	

3. **Motion to Approve the Agenda, striking 10A, 10B, and 10D from the Agenda by Neeley, seconded by Corridon. Motion passed 8-0.**
4. **Motion to Waive the Reading of Minutes of the December 9, 2024 Special Meeting, December 10, 2024 Regular Meeting, and January 6, 2025 Special Meeting and Approve as Presented by Neeley, seconded by Droster. Motion passed 8-0.**

Neeley 5A, 1/6/2025 special meeting minutes: adding City Administrator to Foreperson
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.) None.
7. **Reports of Committees:**

A. **Library Board Report:** Lehmann read from a written report: General Updates: To help their member libraries reach out to new residents, the Prairie Lakes Library System is coordinating a second mailing of 5,128 post cards to those who have moved into or changed zip codes within Rock, Walworth, and Racine counties between July 1 and November 30. The post card invites them to visit their library and encourages people to get a library card. The first mailing in June resulted in a 40% increase in library card applications. A free annual membership to MasterClass is available to library card holders to access online classes taught by the best in arts & entertainment, writing, business, food, home & lifestyle, music, sports 7 gaming, and more. See the library website homepage to sign up. If you had a membership in 2024, it can be renewed for 2025. We greatly appreciate the help from Public Works for replacing all of the light bulbs in the original section of the library with new LED bulbs. People have been glad that the area is well lit again. Program Updates: The schedule for March through May programming and events is complete and has been sent to the Prairie Lakes marketing coordinator. In addition to our regular storytimes and book discussions, upcoming programs include making bath bombs, the MLK “I Have A Dream” art contest, Penguin Science Day on Saturday, Jan 25, a teen waffle making program on Feb. 7, and a SOUPer Bowl soup meal on Saturday Feb. 8th.

The Friends will be holding a used book sale on February 6-8 in the Grange Building and celebrating their 30th anniversary with an open house at the Library on February 22.

B. Parks and Recreation Board Report: Neeley reported that they had met last month and had recommended to Common Council a Memorandum of Understanding for the Boy Scouts to be able to use Leonard Leota Park. There was discussion about the pool utilities and park pass sales.

C. Plan Commission Report:

- 1) *Motion to approve land division application LD-2025-01 for a condominium plat on parcels 6-27-559.5168 and 6-27-559.5169, finding that the application is in the public interest and meets the objectives contained within Section 110-102(g) of city ordinances, with the condition that the final condominium plat is recorded with Rock County Register of Deeds by Neeley, seconded by Brooks. Motion passed 8-0.*

A zero lot line duplex are not allowed in the B1 zone, so this land division is needed to allow two different owners be allowed to have separate mortgages.

D. Finance and Labor Relations Committee Report:

- 1) *Motion to Accept the December 2024 City bills in the amount of \$1,250,341.03 by Brooks, seconded by Corridon. Motion passed by Roll Call 8-0.*

Brooks explained that there was additional discussion about grievance and whistle blower policies. The grievance policy is tied to individual discipline. The whistle blower policy would better cover the items that were discussed at the January 6th meeting. The whistle blower policy is less strict than the grievance policy with few steps to get to escalate. Brooks explained that when there are issues with current policies and/or procedures, there is not anything written about how to go about reporting and escalating those particular issues. Employees have had input from employees on the handbook over the last 10 years, with approval from the Common Council. Brooks explained that it was decided to run the policies past the lawyer to make sure that they were still compliant and relevant.

E. Public Safety Committee Report: Stuart shared that there was 1 operator license to approve and had the usual reports from Police and EMS.

F. Municipal Services Report: Did Not Meet.

G. Economic Development Committee Report: Brooks reported that the committee looked at 2025 and what goals that they would like to attain, as well as offsite locations to visit.

H. Youth Center Advisory Board Report: Did Not Meet

I. Historic Preservation Commission Report: Lewis shared that there was an approval for the AWARE sign at 25 W Main and discussion on basement windows at 21 Montgomery Court and possible zoning update for Affordable Housing Funding.

J. Fire District Report: Brooks said that the new fire truck had an inspection and a punch list was created to be completed prior to delivery. Fahey sent out a report showing that there are 39 Firefighters on the roster, with an average of 11.1 firefighters reporting to each call, but the average drops to less than 7 firefighters responding during the daytime calls. There will be some further evaluations to help bring up the response numbers for daytime calls.

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:**

9. **Communications and Recommendations of the Administrator:** Sergeant shared that AV equipment is scheduled to be repaired on January 17th. Clerk Hurlley has been filling in the absence

of City Treasurer Julie Roberts and has learned about tax settlements. Sergeant also shared that Kwik Trip will be filing a Zoning Appeal in regard to the width of driveways. Culvers will also be breaking ground soon. Public Works also spent some time cleaning up City Hall’s garage and archive room in addition to getting the garage door usable again.

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

~~A. Motion to Approve Resolution 2025-01—Elected Officer Communication with the City Attorney and Event Attendees.~~

~~B. Removal of Alderperson Neeley from Park Board~~

C. Removal of Alderperson Neeley from Municipal Services Committee

Duggan suggested there may be someone assigned later to the Municipal Services Committee and/or again for the April Re-organization meeting. When Neeley requested reasoning for the decision, Duggan responded, stating there is a disruption in the Committee being able to complete tasks to make forward progress.

~~D. Removal of Alderperson Neeley from position of Council President~~

E. *Motion to appoint/reappoint members to the Tourism Commission for a one year term ending January 2026, as follows: Lindsey Kennedy as the lodging industry representative; Sue Berg, 321 Garfield Ave, Evansville, as the Economic Development Committee member with public relations background; Jim Brooks, 310 S Sixth St, Evansville, as Alderperson serving on the Economic Development Committee; Abbey Barnes, 228 W Main St, Evansville serving as a business owner; Rhonda Fahey, as a Creekside member; Ben Corridon, 29 W Liberty St, Evansville serving as a citizen member and Shawn Dunphy, 213 Maple St, Evansville, as Executive Director of the Evansville Chamber of Commerce by Neeley, seconded by . Motion passed by Roll Call 8-0.*

11. **New Business:** None

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

13. **Upcoming Meeting Reminder:**

A. Regular Common Council Meeting, Tuesday February 11, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

B. Meeting Dates for 2025:

February 11	March 11	April 8
April 15 (Reorganization)	May 13	Monday, June 9
July 8	August 12	September 9
October 14	November 11	December 9

14. **Adjourn:** Duggan adjourned the meeting at 6:36 p.m.