

**City of Evansville Common Council
Regular Meeting**
City Hall, 31 S Madison St, Evansville WI 53536
Tuesday, February 11, 2025, 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order:** Duggan called the meeting to order at 6:02 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	Bill Hurtley, Police Commission Chair
Aldersperson, Joe Geoffrion	P	Julie Paton, Citizen
Aldersperson, Abbey Barnes	A	Jeff Stevens, Citizen
Aldersperson, Gene Lewis	P	Chuck Boyce, Citizen
Aldersperson, Lita Droster	P	Troy Mleziva, Kwik Trip Representative
Aldersperson, Erika Stuart(arrived 6:04 p.m.)	P	John Brandon, Citizen

3. **Motion to Approve the Agenda with moving 7C to 7J and moving 7H to 7B, and to flip Agenda items 3 & 4 within Plan Commission by Neeley, seconded by Corridon. Motion passed 6-0.**
4. **Motion to Waive the Reading of Minutes of the January 13, 2025 Special Meeting, and January 14, 2025 Regular Meeting and Approve as Presented by Neeley, seconded by Corridon. Motion passed 6-0.**
 Corrections to 1/13/2025: Kriebs was not at the meeting, and adjust revocation date to April due to a 90 day suspension
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. **John Brandon:** Brandon expressed concerns about letters that had been received during the Almeron Street project in 2024.
7. Reports of Committees.
 - A. **Library Board Report:** Duggan shared that Lehman’s report had been in the Friday Report.
 - B. **Parks and Recreation Board Report:** Did Not Meet.
 - C. **Plan Commission Report:**
 - 1) Motion to Approve the Preliminary and Final Plat for the Settler’s Grove subdivision, finding that it is in the public interests and substantially complies with Section 110 of the Municipal Code, subject to the conditions as written in the staff report. *No Action Taken*
 - 2) Motion to Approve Land Divider’s Agreement for Settler’s Grove. *No Action Taken*

Spranger shared communication between the current (selling) Developer to a potential (buyer) Developer including a transfer of the Park Plan Credit. The

current agreement doesn't allow for a transfer of the credit to another Developer. The proposal would be to hold a special meeting to allow time to draft a new agreement that the Park Plan Credit will transfer with the land and not the Developer. Spranger recommended the Council take no action on items 1 and 2 at this time. Council agreed.

- 3) **Second Reading and Motion to Approve Ordinance 2024-13 and the Annexation Agreement with the condition that the applicant sign and accept the agreement by Neeley, seconded by Brooks. Motion passed by 7-0.**

Spranger shared that Kwik Trip will be purchasing this lot for development. Ordinance 2024-13 will bring the property into the City of Evansville so that the City will be able to move forward with decisions about this property and its development.

- 4) **Motion to Approve application LD-2025-02 for a certified survey map creating three lots and one Outlot from parent parcel 6-20-218.B in the Town of Union, finding that the application is in the public interest and meets the objectives contained within Section 110-102(g) of city ordinances, granting a variance for the size of Outlot 1, per Section 110-5, because a literal interpretation of Section 110-230 in this instance would be inappropriate and cause an extraordinary hardship on the property owner, with the conditions as written in the staff report by Neeley, seconded by Brooks. Motion passed 7-0.**

Spranger reminded Council about the denial of this property in the past. The land is being preserved as open space for Conifer Hills. The purpose of the outlot is in accordance with our Extraterritorial Jurisdiction to have large chunks of land preserved.

D. Finance and Labor Relations Committee Report:

- 1) **Motion to Accept the January 2025 City bills in the amount of \$1,793,438.56 by Brooks, seconded by Corridon. Motion passed by Roll Call 7-0.**

Stevens asked why the City purchased the ATV/UTV signs when they were offered free of charge by him on behalf of the ATV/UTV club. Committee was unsure of how the decision was made. Mayor Duggan asked Kreibs to look into the process and reach out to Jeff Stevens for a response.

- 2) **Motion to Approve the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) Contract with Employee Assistance Group (ESI) by Brooks, seconded by Corridon. Motion passed 7-0 by Roll Call.**

- 3) **Motion to Approve Destree Architecture & Design Master Plan for the Municipal Services Campus by Brooks, seconded by Corridon. Motion passed 7-0, by Roll Call.**

Brooks explained that this helps start the forward progress by creating a concept of the project.

Brooks reported Finance and Labor will be looking at the job descriptions for Police Lieutenant and Police Sergeant and asked staff to attend to assist the process of getting them up to date.

- E. **Public Safety Committee Report:** Stuart shared that there were 4 Operator License Application approvals. Stuart also reported that there had been some discussion about the loss of a Chief who was very active in the community, as well as the loss of another officer (Detective Rittenhouse) who will be going to a larger community.

- F. **Municipal Services Report:** Brooks shared the utility will be switching to Daupler Dispatch Services to offer better customer service and a better presence in the community. Approval of unit price contracts on some overhead and underground work to have approved contractors when bids on jobs are done occurred. Commitment to Community funds are increasing this year with discussions on how to utilize the revenue.

- G. **Economic Development Committee Report:** Did Not Meet. Brooks did share that there was a roundtable at Emma's Table for Wisconsin Economic Development Committee (WEDC) with a number of communities to discuss the common concerns and activities on downtowns in Wisconsin.
 - H. **Youth Center Advisory Board Report:** Did Not Meet
 - I. **Historic Preservation Commission Report:** Lewis reported that 403 W Main came in to get guidance on doors and windows on the garage. 375 Burr W Jones Circle, city owned, has a utility shed that has rotted out and needs to be rebuilt.
 - J. **Fire District Report:** Brooks shared that the new fire truck is in and that another firefighter will be going through the training to be certified for infant car seat inspections.
 - K. **Police Commission Report:** Police Commission Chair, Bill Hurtley reported how the decision process proceeded to approve the promotion of Lieutenant Jones to Chief with the impending resignation of Chief Reese. The contract for this promotion is in the process of being drafted.
 - L. **Energy Independence Team Report:** Brooks shared that there was a plan shared by the Upper 90 Group on the facilities review. Slipstream was used to evaluate the actual usage and this moves into the planning stage.
 - M. **Board of Appeals Report:** Did Not Meet
8. **Unfinished Business:** None
9. **Communications and Recommendations of the Administrator:** Clerk Hurtley reported Sergeant asked Council to refer to last week's Friday Report for upcoming events and updates as Department Heads have been responsive with sharing updates.
10. **Communications and Recommendations of the Mayor:**
- A. *Motion to Approve the Committee Aldermanic Appointment of Ben Corridon to the Municipal Services Committee by Brooks, seconded by Stuart. Motion passed by Roll Call 4-2, with Corridon abstaining, and Neeley, Droster opposed.*

Neeley brought up concerns about the appointment when there have been labor issues with the utility workers and this would be creating a quorum for Finance and Labor Committee. ~~Additional concerns about the relationship between Corridon and the Mayor, as well as having someone on the committee that verbally assaulted an employee.~~

- B. **State of the City Address:** Duggan read from a written statement:

State of the City-February 11, 2025

We continue to face the challenges of the time.

HOUSING: There is a national housing crisis, and we've got to do our part; to work with developers and with housing agencies to make sure that Evansville has places for our citizens to live. We need a wider range of housing. We need rentals, starter homes, and 'forever' homes. Local developers are working with the city to meet our housing density goals; we will continue to keep our Smart Growth plan guidelines in place and in the forefront.

UNSURE ECONOMIC TIMES: With any change in administration, there are questions and concerns. Like everyone else, Evansville is wondering about federal and state funding. We are doing our best to keep a more conservative budget, to stay within our borrowing limit, and to provide Evansville citizens with the services that they need. Over the last few years, we've completed major projects such as the library expansion and restoration and our Larsen Acres Park. These have been directly for our citizens. We also have some city needs in our capital spending plan. We are in desperate need of a new public works building and we need to determine the future of the Evansville Youth Center. Both projects appear in our capital spending plan. We will continue to move forward taking care of Evansville.

EMPLOYMENT: In terms of community development; we are bringing more businesses to town. Culvers officially breaks ground next week. Kwik Trip is working through the zoning and approval processes to bring their business to the city. CHS has not yet made a final decision about locating their new Soybean Processing Plant in Evansville; like everyone else, they are trying to get a read on the economic forecast.

All that being said, the needs and safety of Evansville is our primary concern. We, as the council, try to represent our constituency in the best way possible. We work hard to cooperate with each other; to collaborate with all sectors of our community; to weigh the desires of the electorate with the constraints of our budget; and to look forward for Evansville while we make the hard decisions in the present and maintain what we have.

The only way to get to where we want to be - to where we want Evansville to be is to work together.

If you, or anyone, have concerns or issues, reach out. If you don't know, ask. If you want to be heard, talk- attend meetings, reach out to your alders. If you want to see change, get involved. There are always committees that need members, projects that need attention, and Alderpersons who need to hear from you.

To all who give of their time, thank you. We are self-governed. We are our actions. Let us be the example to others and not a warning.

11. New Business:

- A. *Motion to Approve Resolution 2025-02, Elective Street Tree Removal by Corridon, seconded by Brooks. Motion passed 7-0.*
- B. **First Reading of Ordinance 2025-01, Rezoning Lands within Settler's Grove Subdivision:** Read by Neeley.
- C. **First Reading of Ordinance 2025-02, Rezoning 3 Parcels Associated with Annexation Ordinance 2024-13:** Read by Neeley.

12. Introduction of New Ordinances: None

13. Upcoming Meeting Reminder:

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

14. Adjourn: Duggan adjourned the meeting at 7:04 p.m.