

City of Evansville **Municipal Services Committee**
Regular Meeting
City Hall, 2nd Floor Conference Room
Tuesday, February 18, 2025, 5:00 p.m.

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order:** Brooks called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.
2. Roll Call

| Members | Present/Absent | Others Present |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| Aldersperson Jim Brooks | P | Scott Kriebs, Municipal Services Director |
| Aldersperson Lita Droster | P | Jason Sergeant, City Administrator |
| Aldersperson Ben Corridon | P | Dale Roberts, Public Works Foreperson |
| | | Nick Bubolz, Town & Country |
| | | John Brandon, Citizen |

3. **Motion to Approve the Agenda by Corridon, seconded by Droster. Motion passed 3-0.**
4. **Motion to Waive the reading of the minutes of the January 28, 2025 regular meeting and Approve them as printed by Corridon, seconded by Droster. Motion passed 3-0.**

Brooks corrected the removal of “Motion to Recommend to Common Council the Purchase of” from 8B. Brooks discussed concern with unit pricing contracts not moving forward to Common Council, Kriebs will work on this for the next meeting.

5. **Civility Reminder:** Brooks issued a reminder that all City business will be held with civility and decorum.
6. **Citizen appearances: John Brandon:** Brandon explained he has done extensive research over the last month regarding how things came to occur in Madison. Brandon expressed that science was poor to justify and time doesn’t allow him to go into more detail. Brandon shared he is a process scientist relating to the pharmaceutical industry and is not an expert in pumping system and filters but knows how some of it works. Brandon explained to Brooks that similar to truck driving, he can ‘drive’ across the country using science and has a broad background on how to get things from point a to point b but is not an expert. He informed he is very serious about what he is going to do and said that everyone has had some words and difficult discussion. He shared that if at anytime before this happens and anyone comes to him and says they want to be his friend, he will be their friend. He explained that being his friend means that when things come to be he will do everything he can to protect those people because he knows everyone has families. He explained he is divorced. Brandon explained he spoke with Bradley Rose and expressed anger that a letter was sent and a neighbor told the city it was stupid so he went to Madison to share the letter that was cowardly and moronic with the state. Brooks asked Brandon to stop insulting and explained that an additional opportunity to hear what Brandon was asking for had been given, but insulting is not acceptable. Brooks informed Brandon that he is no longer permitted to continue his presentation as it has been 4 minutes. Brandon informed Brooks will be held accountable. Brandon distributed a “get out of jail free paper” to a member of the committee before leaving.

7. **New Business**

- A. **Motion to Recommend to Common Council Resolution 2025-03, Amending 2025 Budget by Corridon, seconded by Droster. Motion passed 3-0.**

Kriebs shared that Public Works sold some equipment that makes some extra money available to purchase some equipment to fix the ball diamonds at Larson Acres Park. This equipment will

allow improvement

8. Electric & Water Utility

- A. **Monthly Usage & Outage Reports:** Kriebs explained that there is no Kilowatt usage report due to the illness of Donna Hammett in the office. There was an outage at each of the substations.
- B. **WPPI Energy Report:** Kriebs shared that Jacobson is working on the Home Energy Reports that are done every 3 years. In addition, Jacobson is helping to continue forward progress on the marketing plan, as well as asking for input on the usage of the VLU Funds for the current year.
 - 1. **VLU Funds:** Brooks shared an idea with Tourism to decorate the Utility Boxes in the Downtown area. Brooks also shared with Common Council that the funds would be a larger amount than they had been in the past.
 - 2. **WPPI Conference Scholarship:** Brooks explained that every 3 years, WPPI offers a Utility Scholarship available to one of the four National Conferences.
- C. **Daupler Dispatch Service Switchover Update:** Kriebs updated that they are building up our site plans. The tentative timeline is to be live in April. Kriebs shared that in the future the services could be expanded to include a tie in with NorthStar/MyAccount with Open Point.
- D. **APPA Legislative Rally:** There was discussion about the schedule of events at the Rally.

9. Public Works

- A. **Wastewater Utility:** The flow chart shows that the Treatment Plant is processing almost 400,000 gallons each day. Capacity is at 750,000 gallons/day.
- B. **Stormwater Utility:** No Update
- C. **City Engineer Report:** Bubolz shared that the plans and specifications are out for the Streets, Utility, Sidewalk, and Path Project with the hope to open up for bids in the next week. There is a wait on soil boring reports that could push back on the opening of the bids. There was discussion about the process of issuing letters for the Projects in regard to Service Laterals. Corridon asked about available DNR grants. Sergeant shared that the DNR grant the City used to get was a grant and now is need based. The DNR evaluates low income status of the entire community now and Evansville no longer qualifies for grants. The only other option is a low interest loan from the DNR, however this grant will double the cost of a lateral replacement for a resident. Sergeant expressed that DNR money is available, and many residents will share this, including John Brandon, but the available loan money will cost a lot more to each resident. Corridon asked if this was communicated to residents and he would be happy to go door to door. Bubolz shared the information and will share at upcoming assessment hearings. He also shared that often times the DNR doesn't know about all of its own programs and will provide inaccurate information. The committee would like to see the letters before they are sent out. It was agreed that the letter would be sent to the committee for any comment before being distributed. Letters will be mailed this year instead of just taping to door.

- 10. **Parks and Recreation Report:** Dale Roberts explained the equipment that will be purchased with the budget amendment: aerator, spreaders for fertilizer, and other supplies to fix up the baseball diamonds. Boy Scouts had a fishing tournament that went well. Brooks inquired on skating on the lake, Kriebs confirmed there is 14 inches of ice. Brooks asked how much usage on ice is done by UTVs as he has had a report of one ATV on the lake. Kriebs and Roberts said there hadn't been any observed. Brooks confirmed there is not a flotation requirement on the lake referencing ATV/UTVs. Sergeant said there should not be any on the lake and there should be a notice posted for that. Kriebs asked if signs were posted to prevent ATVs in the park, as he thought that was done. Roberts said it wasn't. Kriebs said there was talk about closing the park to UTVs. Sergeant

confirmed this was discussed and the ability for an ATV to easily go onto trails and grass could be an issue, but they could park outside the park and walk into the park and he thinks that is what the committee is asking for. Roberts asked if there should be no ATV signs posted at the entrances to the parks. The committee confirmed, Roberts will post the signs preventing ATV/UTV usage at Leonard Leota Park.

11. Old Business: None

12. Next Meeting Dates: March 25, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

13. Adjourn: Brooks adjourned the meeting at 5:43 p.m.