

**City of Evansville Common Council**  
**Regular Meeting**  
City Hall, 31 S Madison St, Evansville WI 53536  
**Tuesday, April 8, 2025, 6:00 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

1. **Call to Order:** Duggan called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. **Roll Call:**

Aldersperson, Jim Brooks	P	Julie Roberts, City Treasurer
Aldersperson, Bill Lathrop	P	Leah Hurtley, City Clerk
Aldersperson, Ben Corridon	P	Scott Kriebs, Municipal Services Director
Mayor, Dianne Duggan	P	Bronna Lehmann, Librarian
Aldersperson, Joe Geoffrion	P	Nick Bubolz, Town & Country Engineer
Aldersperson, Abbey Barnes	P	Bill Lathrop, Aldermanic District 1 Candidate
Aldersperson, Gene Lewis	P	Sam Wallace, Aldermanic District 1 Candidate
Aldersperson, Lita Droster	P	Chief Jones, Chief of Police
Aldersperson, Erika Stuart	P	Jim Graham, CHS Representative
		Members of the Public, sign in sheet

3. **Motion to Approve the Agenda by Barnes, seconded by Corridon. Motion passed 7-0.**

4. **Candidate Review for Aldersperson District #1.**

A. **Applicants Opening Statements.** Each Applicant had provided a letter of interest but added:

- 1) Sam Wallace, shared that in Madison he had joined the Neighborhood Association. In that Association, there was a focus on driving community engagement. Wallace had enjoyed his involvement and would like to look for ways to participate now that they have lived in Evansville for 5 years.
- 2) Bill Lathrop, shared that Wallace offered several good ideas and was thinking about stepping aside and withdrawing but decided to let the Council make the decision. Lathrop continued to list the achievements acquired by employment, as a former Alder, and with continued involvement within the City of Evansville.

B. Council Review of Applicant's Letter of Interest and potential questions. Corridon and Droster asked questions about Wallace's former role and asked each of them how to build relationships with Council and the Community.

It was decided that there would be paper ballots to decide on the winning candidate.

Bill Lathrop: Stuart, Geoffrion, Brooks, Corridon, Barnes

Sam Wallace: Lewis, Droster

C. **Motion to Appoint Bill Lathrop to the Aldersperson District #1 seat by Corridon, seconded by Barnes. Motion passed 7-0.**

D. **Oath of Office:** Oath of Office was administered by the City Clerk and Aldersperson Lathrop took a seat with the other Council members.

5. **Motion to Waive the Reading of Minutes of the March 11, 2025 Regular Meeting and Approve as Presented by Barnes, seconded by Droster. Motion passed 8-0.**

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

7. **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. **CHS Update:** Graham shared that the project is still under evaluation. The land is purchased and has wheat planted in the fields. The DNR air permit has been approved as of April 1<sup>st</sup>. CHS is investing in community partnerships with donations to AWARE and the local FFA chapter.

B. **Public Hearing:** Assessments for Cherry Street, Mill Street, Railroad Street, Porter Road, N. Madison Street, Farfield Avenue, Brown School Road, and Paths Adjacent to Larson Acres Park and Allen Creek.

**Public Hearing:** Mayor Duggan opened the meeting to the public at 6:25 p.m.

Members of the public that spoke included:

- i) Gene Heiman: 134 N. Madison Street
- ii) Samantha Alisankus: 37 S Windmill Ridge Road
- iii) Kendall Nyhus: 122 Water Street
- iv) Rita Reischel: 453 Cherry Street
- v) Ann Kolash: 39 Mill Street
- vi) Steve Reischel: 453 Cherry Street
- vii) Mike Graffin: 406 Cherry Street
- viii) Landon Vansyckle: 433 Cherry Street
- ix) Dave Miller: 116 E Main Street
- x) John Brandon: 460 Almeron Street

Public Hearing was closed at 7:02 p.m.

1) Staff Report

2) Initial Discussion by Council

3) **Motion to Adopt Resolution 2025-08, A Preliminary Resolution Declaring Intent to Levy Special Assessments Under Municipal Police Power Pursuant to §66.0703, Stats. by Barnes, seconded by Corridon. Motion passed by Roll Call 8-0.**

8) **Reports of Committees:**

A. **Library Board Report:** Lehmann read from the written report: General Updates – We continue to evaluate the impact of the March executive order to eliminate the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Nationwide, libraries receive .003% of the federal budget through IMLS. In Wisconsin, these funds are used to provide DPI consulting and services to the fifteen library systems and their 381 member libraries. Losing core services like our interlibrary loan and delivery between libraries would greatly diminish our community's access to materials as about 10,000 of 47,000 checkouts in Evansville were materials owned by other libraries. Also funded through IMLS are the BadgerLink research databases, library staff continuing education, and grants to libraries. Program Updates – Happy National Library Week! As a thank you to our community for their support, The Friends of the Library will be serving cake on Wednesday starting at 11am. Author and Evansville native Mike McCabe will be discussing his novel *Miracles Along County Q* at 6pm on Thursday April 10. Stop by our table at Family Fun Night at the Grove Field House on Friday from 5:30-7:30pm. We will also be participating in the High School Job Fair on April 16. 4K Families are invited to the Library on April 23 from 5:30-7:00pm. We will be holding a Kids Clothing Swap on May 2-3. Those wanting to donate can bring gently used children's clothing to the Library from April 14-30.

## **B. Parks and Recreation Board Report**

- 1) **Jeff Stevens:** Stevens has noticed that signs are posted to stop ATV use at Leonard Leota Park even though the streets in the Park are legal streets with street names. Stevens shared that the signs are not legal signs. Duggan shared that the situation would be investigated.

## **C. Plan Commission Report.**

- 1) **Motion to Approve the Preliminary and Final Plat Application for the Windmill Ridge 2nd Addition subdivision, finding that it is in the public interest and substantially complies with Chapter 110 of the Municipal Code, subject to the following conditions:**

- i) Land Divider's Agreement completed and executed by both City and Developer.
- ii) Applicant submits Irrevocable Letter of Credit for City Engineer approval.
- iii) City Engineer approves submitted construction drawings for public infrastructure improvements.
- iv) Applicant submits a rezoning application requesting R-2 zoning for all lots in the Windmill Ridge 2nd Addition subdivision prior to receiving City signatures on the final plat document.

*Motion by Barnes, seconded by Lathrop. Motion passed 7-0, with Geoffrion recused.*

- 2) **Motion to Approve the Land Divider's Agreement for Windmill Ridge 2nd Addition by Barnes, second by Droster. Motion passed by Roll Call 7-0, with Geoffrion recused.**

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

- 1) **Motion to Accept the March 2025 City bills in the amount of \$1,841,054.28 by Barnes, seconded by Corridon. Motion passed by Roll Call 8-0.**

Roberts and Kriebs answered Corridon's question to the utility refund on page 1. It was due to the miscommunication of water meters. The charges were flipped between the upstairs and downstairs customers on a property.

- 2) **Motion to Approve Resolution 2025-06 Amending the City of Evansville's Fee Schedule - Swimming Pool Rates by Brooks, seconded by Corridon. Motion passed by Roll Call 8-0.**

Brooks shared that the resolution originally included a reduced rate in the non-resident daily fee but could purchase a 10-punch pass that would reduce the price to 50¢ more than a resident.

- 3) **Motion to Approve Resolution #2025-07: Establishing the Municipal Judge's Salary for the Term Starting in Year 2025 by Brooks, seconded by Corridon. Motion passed by Roll Call 8-0.**

- 4) **Motion to Approve Attendance at the APPA Business and Financial Conference by Brooks, seconded by Corridon. Motion passed 8-0.**

Brooks shared that most of the cost of this will be covered by WPPI. Utility finances are a rough spot for the City so this will help strengthen Sargeant's skills.

*Barnes stepped out at 7:36 p.m.*

- 5) **Motion to Approve Fiscal Policy Handbook by Brooks, seconded by Corridon. Motion passed 7-0.**

*Barnes returned at 7:40 p.m.*

## **E. Public Safety Committee Report:**

**1) Discussion on plans for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July with Evansville Community Partnership President Jim Brooks.**

Brooks shared his plans to begin the event on the evening of July 3 and have the event run through Sunday evening with a car show. Brooks reached out to check on pricing from outside security companies. There was additional discussion of the staffing situation for the Police Department as the Police Department is currently down 4 positions and will be for some time.

- F. **Municipal Services Report:** Brooks shared that there was discussion about the Windmill Ridge addition. It was also announced that the Evansville Water & Light received the Diamond Award for Safety. Only 7 utilities were awarded for the state Wisconsin.
  - G. **Economic Development Committee Report:** Brooks shared that Morgan from Congressman Pocan's office was in attendance. There was discussion on a variety of items from soybeans to railroad tracks.
  - H. **Youth Center Advisory Board Report:** Corridon shared that there was discussion about the Recreation Coordinator position.
  - I. **Historic Preservation Commission Report:** Lewis shared that 129 W Liberty is going to replace windows, side entry and storm door. There was discussion about garage demo at 33 N Second. 205 W Liberty wanted to replace Wood Soffit/Fascia with aluminum, which was denied. 16 E Main wants to expand the Hops Garden and need to replace windows, doors, framing, and trim.
  - J. **Fire District Report:** Brooks shared that there is Clerk position posted and will be open until May 24<sup>th</sup>.
  - K. **Police Commission Report:** There was a meeting this morning that Sergeant Reilly will be promoted to Lieutenant pending a contract.
  - L. **Energy Independence Team Report:** Did Not Meet. Will meet in May.
  - M. **Board of Appeals Report:** Did Not Meet.
8. **Unfinished Business:** None.
9. **Communications and Recommendations of the Administrator:** Duggan shared Sergeant's report of thanks for the outpouring of support for the last two weeks. Sergeant also wanted to thank Chief Reese and now Chief Jones in filling in as Acting Administrator in Sergeant's absence.
10. **Communications and Recommendations of the Mayor.**
- A. **Mayoral Proclamation 2025-04 - Arbor Day 2025**
  - B. **Mayoral Proclamation 2025-05 - World Migratory Bird Day**
  - C. **Mayoral Proclamation 2025-06 - Annual Municipal Clerks Appreciation Week**
  - D. **Motion to Approve Resolution 2025-09 - Commending James A. Brooks for Service to the City of Evansville by Corridon, seconded by Droster. Motion passed 8-0.**
  - E. **Motion to Approve Resolution 2025-10 - Commending Gene Lewis for Service to the City of Evansville by Corridon, seconded by Droster. Motion passed 8-0.**
11. **New Business:** None
12. **Introduction of New Ordinances:**
- A. **First Reading of Ordinance 2025-03, An Ordinance to Reimburse Building Permit Fees For Affordable Housing Projects** read by Barnes.
13. **Upcoming Meeting Reminder:**
- A. Reorganizational Common Council Meeting, Tuesday April 15, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

- B. Regular Common Council Meeting, Tuesday May 13, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.
  - C. League of Wisconsin Municipalities Spring Conference: April 28-29, 2025, at Wilderness Resort in Wisconsin Dells
14. **Adjourn:** *Motion to adjourn by Brooks, seconded by Barnes. Motion passed at 8:09 p.m.*