

City of Evansville Common Council
Regular Meeting
City Hall, 31 S Madison St, Evansville WI 53536
Tuesday, October 14, 2025, 5:00 p.m.

MINUTES

1. Call to Order: Barnes called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

2. Roll Call:

Mayor, Dianne Duggan	A	Jason Sergeant, City Administrator
Aldersperson, Bill Lathrop	P	Leah Hurtley, City Clerk
Aldersperson, Abbey Barnes	P	Scott Kriebs, Municipal Services Director
Aldersperson, Erika Stuart	P	Colette Spranger, Community Development Director
Aldersperson, Kelly Shannon	P	Bronna Lehmann, Library Director
Aldersperson, Chuck Boyce	P	Mark Schroeder, City Attorney
Aldersperson, Joe Geoffrion	P	Carolyn Kleisch, EMS Chief
Aldersperson, Ben Corridon	P	Greg Johnson, Ehlers
Aldersperson, Lita Droster	P	Jeff Herbers and Steve Hagen, Lion's Club
		Jeff Stevens, Citizen

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

4. Motion to Waive the Reading of Minutes of the September 9, 2025 Regular Meeting and the September 25, 2025 Special Meeting and Approve as Presented by Lathrop, seconded by Droster. Motion passed 7-0.

5. Civility Reminder: Barnes noted the City's commitment to civility and decorum at Council Meetings.

6. Special Presentations

A. Mayoral Proclamation 2025-11 Evansville Lion's Club 100th Anniversary

Jeff Herbers and Steve Hagen were in attendance to accept the proclamation. Herbers gave an overview on the efforts made by the club. Stuart and Lathrop expressed their additional appreciation. Herbers explained there are 26 members and Evansville does not currently have an active Leo's Club which targets the younger generation of volunteers.

7. Public Comments on Items on the Agenda not Requiring a Public Hearing and on Matters Which can be Affected by Council Action. (Individuals wishing to address the City Council are required to sign in on the roster and must keep their comments under three minutes. Any materials must be delivered only to the City Clerk.)

Jeff Stevens, 75 Countryside Dr made notes of appreciation and confusion for the following items: Public Hearing Notices and staff adding addresses as opposed to just parcels. Increased utility bills for park shelters especially with respect to the WWTP, and the PSC letter in the packet.

8. Reports of Committees

A. Library Board Report: Lehmann read from written report: General Updates: Replacement of the flat membrane portion of the library roof is scheduled for the last week in October. The clay tile roof will be done in the spring. Sidewalk work to improve downspout drainage away from the building was done on the south and west sides of the building. The fence post caps damaged by hail have been replaced. The exterior lights on the building are functioning again. Also, emergency exit sign batteries are being replaced. The old west door which was rotted has been replaced. Four library staff will attend the Wisconsin Library Association conference on Oct. 29. The library will open at 2pm that day to allow for staff to be gone. Program Updates: Thanks to a donation from the Ice Trail Alliance we now have an Explorer's Backpack available for checkout with trail guides, identification cards, binoculars, and more. Need costumes for your kids? We will have free, gently used costumes to choose from on Friday, Oct. 17, from 3-6pm and Saturday, Oct. 18, from 9:30-12. As part of the Wisconsin Science Festival, we will be having Larry Dobbs at the library on Oct. 21 for an afterschool program showcasing his collection of rocks and gems.

B. Parks and Recreation Board Report: Did not meet.

C. Plan Commission Report:

- 1) Second Reading and **Motion to Approve Ordinance 2025-09 An Ordinance Rezoning Territory from Local Business (B-1) to Residential District Two (R-2) for parcels 6-27-396.207A and 6-27-396.207B by Lathrop, seconded by Corridon. Motion passed 7-0-1 with Geoffrion recused.**
- 2) **Community Development Director Report.**

Spranger shared she will present outdates to new businesses looking to come to Evansville at next month's meeting. Staff are still working through building permits from the hailstorm. Shared the Park & Outdoor Recreation Plan is live and shared outreach efforts. Economic Development is hosting a Job Fair at Creekside. Now seeking Building Inspector/Code Enforcement and the job is posted.

D. Finance and Labor Relations Committee Report

- 1) **Motion to Accept the September 2025 City bills in the amount of \$2,503,379.58 by Lathrop, seconded by Corridon. Motion passed by Roll Call 8-0.**
- 2) **Motion to Approve the 3-year ChargePoint Contract in the amount of \$4,380.00 by Lathrop, seconded by Corridon. Motion passed by Roll Call 8-0.**
- 3) **Motion to Approve the four 15 kV Breaker Purchases with the arc resistant enclosure for a Base Bid of \$168,180 by Lathrop, seconded by Corridon. Motion passed by Roll Call 8-0.**
- 4) **Motion to Approve the Joint Powers Agreement between the Rock County Communications Center and the City of Evansville for 2026 by Lathrop, seconded by Corridon. Motion passed by Roll Call 8-0.**
- 5) **Motion to Approve Resolution #2025-17 Authorizing the Issuance and Establishing Parameters for the Sale of Not to Exceed \$3,235,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes, Series 2025A by Lathrop, seconded by Corridon. Motion passed by Roll Call 8-0.**

Greg Johnson, Senior Municipal Advisor, Ehlers Public Finance Advisor was in attendance and presented from the presentation in the packet.

- 6) **Motion to Authorize Staff Action on PSC Requested Simplified Water Rate Case by Corridon, seconded by Stuart.**
 - A. **Motion to Amend the Motion to Authorize Staff Action on PSC Requested Simplified Water Rate Case to Start on January 1, 2026 by Corridon, seconded by Barnes. Motion passed 8-0.**
 - B. **Motion to Authorize Staff Action on PSC Requested Simplified Water Rate Case to Start on January 1, 2026 by Corridon, seconded by Stuart. Motion passed 8-0.**

Sergeant explained the PSC gave the notification mainly because the PSC combines coverage between the water and the electric and the electric lost money last year. And the City took on projects based upon bond revenue coming in but the PSC didn't approve it in time, putting the city behind. The challenge is now that as the city moves forward, there are other capital projects that will have to be borrowed for.

Greg Johnson presented from the handout in the packet of the impact on the rate payer.

Lathrop stated he reviewed the PSC filings over the past several years and questioned the decline in revenue since the water rate case. Specifically highlighting the 2023 commercial water usage from 15 million gallons to about 1 million gallons. Lathrop questioned the possibility of the new meter system potentially impacting the water it is measuring.

7) Update on 2026 Budget and CIP

Sergeant shared highlights of the Budget and CIP. Stating staff was able to take previously presented \$130,000 levy gap down to about a \$50,000 levy gap. Sergeant states there is forward progress and the department heads have done a good job. Sergeant stated that any numbers highlighted in yellow are not available yet.

E. Public Safety Committee Report

- 1) **Motion to Approve the Intergovernmental Emergency Medical Service Contract with Towns of Union, Porter, Magnolia, and Brooklyn by Stuart, seconded by Barnes. Motion passed 8-0.**
- 2) **Motion to Approve the Temporary Class "B" Beer Application for Evansville Community Theater by Stuart, seconded by Barnes. Motion passed 8-0.**
- 3) **Motion to Approve the Temporary Class "B" Beer Retailer License Application for the sale of Fermented Malt Beverage for Fall Fest and Monster Mash Market (Evansville Area Chamber of Commerce) by Stuart, seconded by Corridon. Motion passed 8-0.**

Barnes made note that the application should reflect the actual name on the application which is Fall Fest and Monster Mash Market. This update will be reflected on the license.

- 4) **Motion to Approve the Class “B”/Class B” Temporary Extension of Premises Application for Evansville Area Chamber of Commerce with conditions to have workers/signage/trash cans at the intersection of Madison and Main on each side of Madison Street)** by Stuart, seconded by Corridon. *Motion passed 8-0.*
- 5) **Motion to Approve the Class “B”/Class B” Temporary Extension of Premises Application for Slice Golf with conditions to have workers/signage/trash cans at the intersection of Madison and Main on each side of Madison Street** by Stuart, seconded by Corridon. *Motion passed 8-0.*

Stuart reported on other recent activities pertaining to public service included the Evansville FFA Corn Roast 50/50 fundraiser, Luke Bryan’s concert coverage by Evansville EMS, and EMS CPR trainings at ECSD. Stuart also reported Rock County Sheriff’s Department is still providing coverage in Evansville.

Corridon asked Chief Kleisch to share details on Bad Debt. Kleisch reported notices get sent to City Treasurer Julie Roberts. Some of the Bad Debt is the difference between Medicare and Medicaid will not pay in contrast to private insurance. They also will only pay if the patient gets transported versus ambulance run i.e. lift assists.

- F. Municipal Services Report:** Corridon reported the Finance and Labor agenda items were the main topics, including ChargePoint Contract and the breaker purchases. Other discussion points were city project statuses from the city engineer, and WPPI allocations pertaining to Commitment to Community funds for the remaining months of 2025.
- H. Economic Development Committee Report:** Geoffrion reported the committee did not meet but shared efforts on the upcoming job fair.
- I. Youth Center Advisory Board Report:** Did Not Meet
- J. Historic Preservation Commission Report:** Shannon reported a Historic Preservation Resolution was approved, along with 5 applications from the commission and 30 applications from staff, mainly pertaining to siding from the hail damage.
- K. Fire District Report:** Stuart reported calls are up with a total of 207 (at the time of the meeting) for 2025, compared to 198 in 2024. A grant was applied for to assist with the cost for new airbags. A grant was received from the DNR to pay for half barrels of foam. The driveway was asphalted and all material and labor was donated. Spaghetti dinner was a success.

9. New Business

- A. Discussion Regarding City-Owned Property at 155 E. Main St. and 170 E. Church St.** Sergeant shared brief history on how the city owned properties were acquired. Sergeant reported the goal of the property was to create a connecting access drive from Church Street to Main Street to what could be considered a gateway downtown. Another goal could be to

increase density in the area. Sergeant also referenced a visual preference study that was done roughly 8 years ago and included images in the packet. Sergeant reports that since 2018 the city has been approached by 4 different developers to operate on the lot. Proposals included: 1) an existing business wanting to build to relocate and a couple rentals, 2) one proposal included all duplexes, 3) and one recently that included multi-building commercial and residential.

- i. **Closed Session: Motion that the Common Council convene in closed session pursuant to section 19.85 (1) (e) of the Wisconsin statutes to discuss negotiation strategies and potential terms regarding the possible development of 155 E. Main St. and 170 E. Church St., city owned properties. Also to be discussed in closed session are negotiation strategies and potential terms regarding a possible boundary agreement with adjacent township. For both items, competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session because discussions in open session would negatively impact the city's competitive or bargaining position. Upon completion, the Common Council will reconvene in open session. Motion was made by Corridon, seconded by Lathrop. Motion passed 8-0 at 7:13 p.m.**
- ii. **Reconvene into Open Session: Motion to reconvene in open session pursuant to Wisconsin statutes 19.85 (2) to address the remaining issues on the agenda and to possibly discuss and/or take action regarding the matters discussed in closed session as specifically identified in the motion to convene in closed session. Council reconvened into open session at 8:18 p.m.**

10. Communications and Recommendations of the Administrator

- A. **Motion to Approve Changes to Section 5-10, Longevity Bonus in the Employee Handbook by Boyce, seconded by Droster. Motion failed by Roll Call 5-3, with Shannon, Geoffrion, Corridon, Barnes, Lathrop opposed.**

11. Communications and Recommendations of the Mayor

- A. **Discussion of Compensation and Rules for Mayor (\$550/month Ordinance 2020-01) and Alderperson (\$100/meeting Ordinance 2020-01). Council took no action and tabled motion until next month when the Mayor was present.**

12. Old Business: None.

13. Introduction of New Ordinances

- A. **First Reading Ordinance 2025-11: Rezoning Territory from Local Business (B-1) to Central Business (B-2) for parcel 6-27-801 (129 N Madison Street), read by Barnes.**
- B. **First Reading Ordinance 2025-12: Rezoning Territory from Residential District One (R-1) to Community Business (B-3) for parcel 6-27-834 (343 Union Street), read by Barnes**

14. Upcoming Meeting Reminder:

- A. **Regular Common Council Meeting, Tuesday, November 11, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.**
- B. **2025 Meetings: December 9, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.**

15. Adjourn at 8:40 p.m.

Dianne C. Duggan, Mayor