

City of Evansville Common Council
Regular Meeting
City Hall, 31 S Madison St, Evansville WI 53536
Tuesday, January 13, 2026, 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

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

2. **Roll Call**

Mayor, Dianne Duggan	P	Jason Sergeant, City Administrator
Aldersperson, Bill Lathrop	P	Leah Hurtley, City Clerk
Aldersperson, Abbey Barnes	P	Colette Spranger, Community Dev Dir
Aldersperson, Erika Stuart	P	Bronna Lehmann, Library Director
Aldersperson, Kelly Shannon	P	Mark Kopp, City Attorney
Aldersperson, Chuck Boyce	P	Scott Kriebs, Municipal Services Dir
Aldersperson, Joe Geoffrion	P	John Thielenhouse, Citizen
Aldersperson, Ben Corridon	P	Citizens: Steve Hagen, Jeff Stevens,
Aldersperson, Lita Droster	P	Julie Paton, Jill Paugel, John Paugel, and Bill Hurtley

3. **Motion to Approve the Agenda by Barnes, seconded by Corridon. Motion passed 8-0.**

4. **Motion to Waive the Reading of Minutes of the December 9, 2025 Regular Meeting and Approve as Presented by Barnes, seconded by Droster. Motion passed 8-0.**

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

6. **Special Presentations:** None

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.)

A. **John Thielenhouse, 637 Windsor Lane:** Thielenhouse shared concerns about property conditions at 660 Windsor Lane regarding junked property. Mr. Thielenhouse said that he has made official complaints to the city and would like to see action. Community Development Director Spranger and City Administrator Sergeant explained there have been letters and can be daily citations if need be. Spranger and Sergeant will work together.

8. **Reports of Committees**

A. **Library Board Report:** Lehmann read from written report: General Updates: Rachel Frye joined our staff as a Library Clerk this month. She comes to us with 12 years of experience helping library patrons. The Library will open at 1pm on Monday, January 19 to allow for a staff in-service in the morning. Planning is underway for our spring and summer programming. This summer's theme is Unearth a Story. Don't be surprised to see a dino or two at the library this summer. Program Updates: We are adding some extra opportunities for families with young children

to get out of the house during the winter. Once Upon a Time Storytellers will be on Thursday mornings in January. Children ages 3-8 will listen to a classic children's tale and then play, craft, and act out their own version. We will also offer a weekly Open Play Time in February and March for preschoolers and their caregivers. The Friends of the Library have partnered with Hop Garden on a new fundraiser planned for February 4th. Register your team of up to 4 adults to compete in a spelling bee at Hop Garden. Funds raised will support more adult programming. Historian and Monroe native Andrea Nolen will talk about her book *Lincoln's Counterfeiters* on February 12. It's a little-known story about an obscure Wisconsin gang that funded the Union and started the Chicago mob.

Lehmann answered questions on reasons for discontinuing Hoopla service.

- B. **Parks and Recreation Board Report:** Stuart reported that the meeting was short and highlighted the Adopt-A-Park Program still needing one area within Leonard Leota Park to be adopted and winterization process for the park areas.
- C. **Plan Commission Report:** Spranger shared that there was a review of a conditional use permit (CUP) application for Romano's to go into 155 Union Street. Romano's plans are to be primarily delivery/carry out, with a small dine in area. There was also a preliminary Certified Survey Map (CSM) for Railroad St, but still looking for answers from the surveyors'.
- 1) **Staff Report on Boundary Agreement Update with Town of Porter**
Spranger visited Porter in October to discuss the possibility of entering into a boundary agreement. Spranger theorized the Extra Territorial Jurisdiction agreement would go to 1 mile boundary from the current 1.5 mile line. There was additional discussion between Spranger and Council about pros and cons moving forward.
 - 2) **Staff Report and Discussion on Ordinance #2026-01**
Spranger has been approached by local small developers/property owners with proposals for requests to add units to existing parcels. Spranger outlined the information in the staff report.
- D. **Finance and Labor Relations Committee Report:** Barnes shared the committee discussed a calendar to cover the larger action items that they address throughout the year. The City Treasurer position has been posted.
- 1) **Motion to Accept the December 2025 City bills in the amount of \$1,305,408.18 by Barnes, seconded by Corridon. Motion passed by Roll Call 8-0.**
Discussion on insurance and CBDG charges, and a fence repair.
 - 2) **Motion to Approve the MSA Professional Services, Inc (MSA) City of Evansville CDBG Discontinued Housing Program Agreement by Barnes, seconded by Lathrop. Motion passed by Roll Call 8-0.**
 - 3) **Update on PSC Debt Approval:** Sergeant reported that the last rate case was in 2023. There had been a clause that expenditures needed PSC approval. PSC has acknowledged the delays and will be eliminating the approval for expenditures. PSC's intention in being responsible about spending has had the opposite effect due to the extended delays in the approval process, leaving Evansville Water & Light in a negative cash-on-hand situation.
 - 4) **Discussion and Possible Motion to Approve Resolution #2026-01 Reimbursement of Expenditures by Barnes, seconded by Lathrop. Motion passed 8-0 by Roll Call.**

Sergeant shared that this is something that occurs each year. The work begins prior to having the funding on hand. This allows the City to reimburse after the funding comes in.

5) **Discussion and Possible Motion to Approve Resolution #2026-02 Responsible Bidding Criteria by Corridon, seconded by Shannon.**

Sergeant had put together the Resolution based on items that had been discussed at various meetings. A Resolution would speed up the approval process compared to an Ordinance. The goal is to have it approved at the February meeting to have in place for the upcoming bidding season. There was discussion about concerns about the apprenticeship aspect and how that could effect smaller companies and/or general contractors.

Motion to Amend the Motion to provide the definition of a contractor by Corridon, seconded by Droster. Motion passed 6-0, with Barnes and Geoffrion recused.

Definition of a contractor; Contractor means a person, corporation, partnership, or any other business entity that performs work on a public works contract, prime contractor, or subcontractor at any tier.

Motion to Amend the Motion to modify (e) to remove “in training” and add that the contractor participates in a Registered Apprenticeship Program with the Wisconsin Bureau of Apprenticeship Standards by Corridon, seconded by Droster. Motion fails with 2 nays, and Barnes, Geoffrion recused.

Motion to Amend the Resolution to include that whenever the City lets Public Works by Contract at or greater than \$500,000 by Corridon, seconded by Boyce. Motion passed with 1 nay by Lathrop, Barnes and Geoffrion recused.

Motion to Approve the Amended Resolution #2026-02 Responsible Bidding Criteria passed 5-1-2 by Roll Call, with Lathrop opposed, Barnes and Geoffrion recused.

- E. **Public Safety Committee Report:** Stuart reported that an Officer had left and one had started. Roger Berg had held a gathering with businesses and had donated some money to the Rescue Services. BASE also received a grant that allowed them to donate money to the Rescue Services as well. Spranger had also come to the meeting to have discussion about updating the Municipal Code for property maintenance and solid waste.
- F. **Municipal Services Report:** Corridon reported on Value Local Utility funds were allocated to police presence towards the 4th of July event or public outreach if the July 4th event were to not occur. Additional discussion was on public sidewalk life extension by grinding down heaved slabs of sidewalk.
- G. **Economic Development Committee Report:** Geoffrion reported 2026 goals were confirmed along with items to be covered during the business visits. Otterstein from Rock County came and shared that CHS does want to proceed with Evansville, it's just a matter of when.
- H. **Youth Center Advisory Board Report:** Did Not Meet
- I. **Historic Preservation Commission Report:** Shannon reported discussion occurred at the meeting regarding mural placement.
- J. **Fire District Report:** Stuart shared Fahey was sworn in as Chief again along with a couple Lieutenants. Concerns regarding decrease in daytime volunteers.

9. **Communications and Recommendations of the Administrator:** Sergeant shared staff was thin during the end of December due to illnesses. Staff are currently working with Johnson Block to figure out some TIF payments and other end-of-the-year items. RFP is out for the Code Enforcement aspect from the Building Inspector position that has not been filled in the last year. The Water & Light Foreperson posting has closed, and the City Treasurer position is posted. Public Works has been out on the warm days trying to pick up leaves now that the leaf vacuum has been repaired. In addition, the last snow event saw the breakdown of 2 plow trucks.
10. **Communications and Recommendations of the Mayor**
 - A. *Motion to Appoint/Reappoint members to the Tourism Commission for a one year term ending January 2027, 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; Abbey Barnes, 228 W Main St, Evansville serving as a business owner; Kelly Shannon, 462 Badger Dr, Evansville serving as Alderperson serving on the Economic Development Committee; Brandi Sperry, 38 W Main St, Evansville, serving as ex-officio and a representative from Creekside Place; Shawn Dunphy, 22 Montgomery Ct, Evansville, as Executive Director of the Evansville Chamber of Commerce; and Jim Brooks, 310 S 6th St, Evansville, serving as ex-officio and a representative of Evansville Community Partnership by Lathrop, seconded by Corridon. Motion passed by Roll Call 6-0-2, with Shannon and Barnes recused.*
11. **Old Business:** None
12. **New Business:** None
13. **Introduction of New Ordinances**
 - A. **First reading of Ordinance #2026-01, Updating Divisions 17 (Residential District Three) of Chapter 130 (Zoning)** read by Duggan.
14. **Upcoming Meeting Reminder:**
 - A. Regular Common Council Meeting, Tuesday, February 10, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.
 - B. Committee of the Whole Meeting TBD
 - C. 2026 Meetings: January 13, February 10, March 10, April 14, April 21 (Special Reorg Meeting), May 12, June 9, July 14, August 11, September 8, October 13, November 10, December 8, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.
15. **Adjourn:** Duggan adjourned the meeting at 7:53 p.m.