

City of Evansville Common Council
Regular Meeting
City Hall, 31 S Madison St, Evansville WI 53536
~~Tuesday, April 14, 2026, 6:00 p.m. POSTPONED TO~~
Wednesday, April 15, 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, Com Dev Director
Aldersperson, Erika Stuart	P	Scott Kriebs, Municipal Services Director
Aldersperson, Kelly Shannon	P	Carolyn Kleisch, Chief of EMS
Aldersperson, Chuck Boyce	P	Mark Kopp, City Attorney
Aldersperson, Joe Geoffrion	P	Nick Bubolz, Town & Country Engineering
Aldersperson, Ben Corridon	P	Tom Alisankus, Municipal Judge
Aldersperson, Lita Droster (arrived 6:02 p.m.)	P	Greg Johnson, Ehler's

Others Present: Steve Hagen, Meg Wietse, Dana Palmer, Jana McKinney, Cori Vangalder, Dana Basch, Bud & Sue Barnett, Diane Guernsey, Bob McCallister, Jon Powers, Carlton Wichser, Priscilla & Gary Sarow, Claudia Laak

3. **Motion to Approve the Agenda by Barnes, seconded by Corridon. Motion passed 7-0.**
4. **Motion to Waive the Reading of Minutes of the March 10, 2026 Regular Meeting and the March 30, 2026 Special Joint Meeting with Town of Porter and Approve as Presented by Barnes, seconded by Stuart. Motion passed 7-0.**

Corridon asked that the titles for the Town of Porter representatives be added to the minutes.

Droster arrived at 6:02 p.m.

5. **Civility Reminder:** Duggan noted the City's commitment to civility and decorum at Council Meetings.
6. **Special Presentations:** None
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.)
 - Dana Basch: Basch wanted to show appreciation for the time and work that Duggan had done during the term as Mayor. Basch also wanted to congratulate Mayor-Elect Barnes and those that were elected to new terms during the recent election. In addition, Basch shared that they had worked the Polls and was impressed with how the election was run and how knowledgeable and willing to help with anything Clerks Hurtley and Klitzman are.
 - Ben Corridon: Corridon wanted to show appreciation for Mayor Duggan's leadership.
 - Bob McCallister: McCallister wanted to issue appreciation for supporting a Earth Day presentation about Hailstorms which will take place on April 22nd at 6:00 p.m. at Creekside Place.
- A. **Public Hearing:** Special Assessments for Public Improvements on Longfield Street
 - 1) **Staff Report:** Bubolz gave a summary of the project.
Public Hearing: Mayor Duggan opened Public Hearing at 6:29 p.m.
Members of the public that spoke include:

- i. Jana McKinney: 416 Longfield Street
- ii. Dana Palmer: 410 Longfield Street
- iii. Claudia Laak: 409 Longfield Street
- iv. Warren Janisch: 403 Longfield Street
- v. Mark Merrill: 404 Longfield Street
- vi. Kelly Koehler-Mason: 427 Longfield Street

Public Hearing was closed at 6:47 p.m.

- 2) Initial Discussion by Council
- 3) **Motion to Adopt Resolution 2026-11, A Preliminary Resolution Declaring Intent to Levy Special Assessments Under Municipal Police Power Pursuant to §66.0703, Stats. by Barnes, seconded by Droster. Motion passed 8-0.**

8. **Reports of Committees:**

- A. **Library Board Report:** The Director's written report was given to the Council that read: Library Board Report April 2026

General Updates

We hosted the April Prairie Lakes Library System directors meeting and received many compliments on our historic library.

Library staff will be attending several meetings at other libraries to collaborate on different aspects of library programming for all ages. This is a rare opportunity for our part-time staff to meet with peers at other libraries.

Prairie Lakes Library System is also coordinating a series of roundtable discussions regarding HR topics for library directors.

The Grove Society and the Eager Free Library are collaborating on a project to produce a commemorative coin for America's 250th anniversary. We are holding a design contest for one side of the coin. Entries from all ages are due May 1st. Coins will be available for the Fourth of July celebration.

Program Updates

We participated in Family Fun Night last Friday. Kids enjoyed making scratch art dinosaurs to help us decorate the library for this year's "Unearth A Story" summer reading program.

Join us in celebrating how libraries bring joy to their communities during National Library Week on April 19-25. Some of next week's activities include cake on Wednesday after 10:30am to thank our wonderful library patrons, a Wisconsin author talk on Thursday evening, and the free, 60 foot, walk-through Wonder Whale and fossil show at JC McKenna Middle School on Saturday from 11-4.

- B. **Parks and Recreation Board Report:** Did Not Meet
- C. **Plan Commission Report:** Spranger shared the information in the Staff Report.
 - 1) **Second Reading and Motion to Approve Ordinance 2026-03: Rezoning Parcel 6-27-830 by Barnes, seconded by Lathrop. Motion passed 8-0.**
- D. **Finance and Labor Relations Committee Report:** Barnes reported Lathrop had compiled a simplified breakdown of the City's bills. Pay grade edits were completed to the City Clerk and the City Treasurer position descriptions. Barnes reported Council members will be added to sponsor ordinance changes to give ownership to proposed changes.
 - 1) **Motion to Accept the March 2026 City bills in the amount of \$3,678,376.21 by Barnes, seconded by Lathrop. Motion passed by Roll Call 8-0.**
 - 2) **Motion to Approve Revised Employee Handbook by Barnes, seconded by Corridon. Motion passed 8-0.**

- 3) **Motion to Approve Employment Contract with Ryon Riggan by Barnes, seconded by Droster.**
Lathrop made note of high consulting service fees that were previously incurred and should be eliminated going forward by having a qualified Treasurer. Stuart wanted to reinforce that becoming a CPA is a lengthy process with tests that many fail.
Motion to Amend the Motion to Approve the Altered Document from the one that was presented in the packet by Lathrop, seconded by Corridon. Motion passed 8-0.
Motion to Approve Employment Contract with Ryon Riggan with Revisions Motion passed by Roll Call 8-0.
- 4) **Motion to Approve Head Lifeguard Position Description by Barnes, seconded by Droster. Motion passed 8-0.**
- 5) **Motion to Approve Reimbursement Resolution 2026-12 for a Short-Term Advance to the Electric and Water Utility from the City General Fund by Barnes, seconded by Corridon. Motion passed by Roll Call 8-0.**
Sergeant shared that PSC has finally approved the borrowing requests that were submitted starting 3 years ago. As a result, the utility was spending money with the expectation that the borrowing would be approved. This resolution would allow temporary loan from City finances to the Utility to be paid back.
- 6) **Motion to Approve Hunt Brothers Lease Agreement to farm vacant land at Maple Hill Cemetery ending December 15, 2026 by Barnes, seconded by Corridon. Motion passed by Roll Call 8-0.**
- 7) **Motion to Approve Resolution 2026-13 Approving the Affordable Housing Extension for Tax Incremental District (TID) #6 by Barnes, seconded by Droster. Motion passed by Roll Call 8-0.**
- 8) **Motion to Approve Resolution 2026-14 Terminating Tax Incremental District (TID) #6 by Barnes, seconded by Lathrop. Motion passed by Roll Call 8-0.**
- 9) **Motion to Approve Resolution #2026-15: Establishing the Municipal Judge's Salary for the Term Starting in Year 2026 by Barnes, seconded by Droster. Motion passed by Roll Call 7-0-1, with Lathrop recused.**
- E. **Public Safety Committee Report:** Stuart's report included a Bluescope luncheon for all emergency services and families. Stuart thanked Geoffrion for the insight and knowledge spent on the committee while serving. Chief Kleisch wanted to let everyone know that both ambulances are out of service and they are currently borrowing an ambulance from Oregon.
- F. **Municipal Services Report:** Corridon shared the hailstorm roof replacements that still need to be replaced and the timeline for the work. Further discussion included creation of create a subcommittee to address rural and industrial representation to include 5 members.
- 1) **Motion to Approve BKS Excavating Inc. Contract in the amount of \$1,429,854.00 for Longfield Street Reconstruction Project by Corridon, seconded by Droster. Motion passed by Roll Call 8-0.**
- 2) **Motion to Approve Resolution 2026-04 Authorizing Chloride Reduction Program; Water Softener Rebate by Corridon, seconded by Droster. Motion passed 8-0.**
- G. **Economic Development Committee Report:** Geoffrion reported that there was discussion about the Youth Center, Porter Boundary agreement, Grange Building signage, and Code Enforcement.
- H. **Youth Center Advisory Board Report:** Did Not Meet
- I. **Historic Preservation Commission Report:** Shannon hadn't been at the meeting to report anything.

Recess at 7:25 p.m.

Reconvened at 7:35 p.m. with Droster absent.

- J. **Fire District Report:** Stuart reported that there was the passing of Phil Hamilton who had been on the Fire District Board for many years. Fire calls are about where they were for 2025.
 - K. **Police Commission Report:** Did Not Meet
 - L. **Energy Independence Team Report:** Did Not Meet
 - M. **Board of Appeals Report:** Did Not Meet
9. **Unfinished Business**
- A. **Second Reading and Motion to Approve Ordinance 2026-04: Amending Chapter 2-Administration by Barnes, seconded by Corridon.**
Sergeant shared that the update corrects gender references, Clerk-Treasurer references, adds that Sergeant would create a reference book for Council, and puts in a provision to not share confidential information. Lathrop confirmed that Mayor Duggan was involved in the revision process but none of the other Council members were. Lathrop has concerns about Sergeant is drafting the rules of business for Council without guidance. Lathrop shared concerns about the number of revisions between the first and second readings. Stuart shared that some of the changes seem to have been a long time coming.
Barnes withdraws the motion.
Motion to Refer to Finance and Labor Relations Committee for further review by Corridon, seconded by Lathrop. Motion passed 7-0.
10. **Communications and Recommendations of the Administrator:** Nothing to report.
11. **Communications and Recommendations of the Mayor:**
- A. **Mayoral Proclamation 2026-04 - Arbor Day 2026**
 - B. **Mayoral Proclamation 2026-05 - Annual Municipal Clerks Appreciation Week**
 - C. **Mayoral Proclamation 2026-06 - World Migratory Bird Day**
 - D. **Motion to Approve Resolution 2026-16 – Pride Flag 2026 by Barnes, seconded by Corridon.**
There was discussion about concerns in regards to having the Pride flag on the flagpole.
Motion to Amend Resolution 2026-16 – Pride Flag 2026 by striking the paragraph about the Pride Flag being in front of City Hall, and add a paragraph that the City of Evansville will provide a stipend of \$300 to B.A.S.E to purchase and distribution of 50 yard signs throughout the community by Lathrop, seconded by Barnes. Motion to Amend fails 4-3, with Lathrop, Boyce, and Shannon yes and Stuart, Barnes, Corridon, and Geoffrion opposed.
Motion to Approve Resolution 2016-16 – Pride Flag 2026 passed, with Shannon, Boyce, Geoffrion opposed.
Duggan wanted to share appreciation to Clerk Hurtley for how smoothly the election process is and thank all of the Council members for their dedication.
12. **New Business:**
- A. **Motion to Approve Parks & Recreation Management Software-As-A-Service Agreement with RecDesk LLC by Barnes, seconded by Corridon. Motion passed by Roll Call 7-0.**
 - B. **Motion to Approve KSW EMS Garage Remodeling Bid not to exceed \$97,727.04 by Barnes, seconded by Lathrop. Motion passed by Roll Call 7-0.**
13. **Introduction of New Ordinances:** None
14. **Upcoming Meeting Reminder:**
- A. Reorganizational Common Council Meeting, Tuesday April 21, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

- B. League of Wisconsin Municipalities – League Locally, Wednesday April 22, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.
 - C. Regular Common Council Meeting, Tuesday May 12, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.
 - D. 2026 Meetings: 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 8:15 p.m.