

City of Evansville Common Council
Organizational Meeting
City Hall, 31 S Madison St, Evansville WI 53536
Tuesday, April 21, 2026, 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Administer Oath of Office to Mayor Abbey Barnes, District #1 Alderperson Bill Lathrop, District #2 Alderperson Erika Stuart, District #3 Alderperson Norman Barker and District #4 Alderperson Lita Droster.

1. **Call to Order:** Barnes called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

2. **Roll Call of New Council:**

Mayor, Abbey Barnes	P	Jason Sergeant, City Administrator
Alderperson, Bill Lathrop	A	Leah Hurtley, City Clerk
Alderperson, Bill Hurtley	P	Mark Kopp, City Attorney
Alderperson, Erika Stuart	P	Bill Hurtley
Alderperson, Kelly Shannon	P	
Alderperson, Chuck Boyce	P	
Alderperson, Norman Barker	P	
Alderperson, Ben Corridon	P	
Alderperson, Lita Droster	P	

3. **Motion to Approve the Agenda by Corridon, seconded by Droster. Motion passed 6-0.**

4. **Motion to Appoint Bill Hurtley to the vacant seat of Abbey Barnes' unexpired term to Aldermanic District #1, ending April 19, 2027 by Corridon, seconded by Stuart. Motion passed by Roll Call 6-0.**

Hurtley shared that they have been involved with the City since 1982 and has been involved with some of the decisions that have brought the City to where it is currently.

Oath of Office was administered by the City Clerk Hurtley and Alderperson Hurtley took a seat with the other Council members.

5. **Nomination and Election of Council President:** Stuart nominated Bill Lathrop, seconded by Hurtley, no other nominations were made.

Motion to elect Bill Lathrop for Council President by Stuart, seconded by Boyce. Motion passed 7-0.

6. **Citizen Appearances** (Public comments on items on the agenda not requiring a public hearing and on matters which can be affected by Council action.) None.

7. **Discussion and Motion to Appoint the Evansville Examiner as the City of Evansville's Official Newspaper for a Term of One Year by Corridon, seconded by Stuart. Motion passed 7-0.**

Barnes stated the only option is the city to choose the Evansville Examiner due to being a local and certified paper. Barnes shared the concerns about experiences with the Evansville Examiner with turnaround time and wrong information being published. The representative of Evansville Examiner addressed the concerns and stated new representatives have been assigned to the city.

8. **Motion to Approve the Committee Aldermanic Appointments of:**

A. **Ald. Bill Lathrop as Chair and Ald. Ben Corridon and Ald. Erika Stuart as committee members to the Finance and Labor Relations Committee**

- B. Ald. Bill Lathrop and Ald. Chuck Boyce to the Plan Commission
 - C. Ald. Ben Corridon as Chair and Ald. Lita Droster and Ald. Bill Hurtle as committee member to the Municipal Services Committee
 - D. Ald. Erika Stuart and Ald. Lita Droster to the Evansville Fire District Board, and Ald. Chuck Boyce as alternate
 - E. Ald. Kelly Shannon and Norman Barker to the Economic Development Committee
 - F. Ald. Norman Barker to the Park and Recreation Board
 - G. Ald. Erika Stuart as Chair and Ald. Chuck Boyce and Ald. Bill Hurtle as committee members to the Public Safety Committee
 - H. Ald. Lita Droster and Ald. Bill Lathrop to the Redevelopment Authority
 - I. Ald. Kelly Shannon to the Historic Preservation Commission
- Motion by Corridon, seconded by Droster. Motion passed by Roll Call 7-0.*

9. **Motion to approve the Committee Citizen Appointments of:**

- A. B. Brian Smith, 40 Braeburn Way, and Gwen Clendenning, 331 Almeron St, for a three-year term to the Eager Free Public Library Board of Trustees expiring 2029
 - B. Mary Anne Alt, 216 W Main St, for a five-year term to the Board of Review, expiring 2031.
 - C. Jon Alling, 31 Sherman Ct, Evansville, WI 53536, for a three-year term to the Economic Development Committee, expiring 2029
 - D. Ashley Massman, 116 Garfield Ave, to fill the unexpired term, expiring 2027 and Victoria Norton, 45 N First St, and Steve Christens, 15 N Second St, for a two-year term to Historic Preservation Commission, expiring 2028
 - E. Ben Ladick, 216 W Main St, for a five-year term to the Housing Authority Committee, expiring 2031
 - F. Lyman Fuson, 334 W Main St and Sue Merritt, 507 E Main St, for a three-year term to the Park and Recreation Board, expiring 2029
 - G. Ry Thompson, 104 Garfield Ave, to fill the unexpired term ending in 2027 and John Gishnock, 210 Cemetery St, for a three-year term to the Plan Commission, expiring 2029
 - H. Rachel Davis, 13 N Wyler Dr, for a five-year term to the Police Commission, expiring 2031
 - I. Ry Thompson, 104 Garfield Ave, for a five-year term to the Redevelopment Authority, expiring 2031
 - J. Ken Updike, 623 E Countryside Dr, and Sarah Krause, 23 ½ S 4th St, for a three-year term to the Zoning Board of Appeals, expiring 2029
- Motion by Corridon, seconded by Droster. Motion passed by Roll Call 7-0.*

10. **Communications and Recommendations of the Mayor:** Moving forward Barnes would like to encourage discussion. Barnes also shared that there will be office hours to be determined at a later date.

11. **Upcoming Meeting Reminder:**

- A. League of Wisconsin Municipalities – League Locally, Wednesday April 22, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.
- B. Regular Common Council Meeting, Tuesday May 12, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.
- C. 2026 Meetings: June 9, July 14, August 11, September 8, October 13, November 10, December 8, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

12. **Adjournment:** Barnes adjourned the meeting at 6:23 p.m.