

City of Evansville
Finance and Labor Relations Committee
Regular Meeting
City Hall, 31 S Madison St., Evansville, WI 53536
Wednesday, July 8, 2026, 3:00 p.m.

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order:** Lathrop called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.
2. **Roll Call:**

Members	Present/Absent	Others Present
Chair, Bill Lathrop	P	Jason Sergeant, City Administrator
Ben Corridon	P	Scott Kriebs, Municipal Services Director
Erika Stuart	A	Ryon Riggan, City Treasurer
		Chris Jones, Police Chief
		Abbey Barnes, Mayor
		Mallory Kleven, WPPI

3. **Motion to Approve the Agenda** by Corridon, seconded by Lathrop. Motion passed 2-0.
4. **Motion to Waive the reading of the Minutes of the June 3, 2026 Regular Meeting and Approve them as printed** by Corridon, seconded by Lathrop. Motion passed 2-0.
5. **Civility Reminder:** Lathrop issued a reminder that all City Business is handled with Civility and Friendliness.
6. **Citizen Appearances:**
7. **Motion to Accept the June 2026 City Payments in the amount of \$1,333,040.02** by Corridon, seconded by Lathrop. Motion passed by Roll Call 2-0.

Items of discussion included: gas lines for back up generators, yellow paint purchase, and slide repairs from hailstorm.

8. **New Business**

WPPI Presentation on Electric Rate Case: Discussion covered key reasons for the rate increase: employment positions, projects, a vehicle purchase, repairing and replacing street lighting, and maintenance items ie. tree trimming, etc. Prior to the 2023 rate case, it had been over 10 years from the prior one. The rate case submitted was 5.79% and the PSC granted 6.78%. In the 3 years since the rate case, inflation has gone up at least 9%.

The staffing plan includes the following (4) four additions:

- **Restore one Lineperson position** that has remained vacant for approximately five years.
- **Add one new Lineperson position** in 2016, there were 10 linepersons, 5 years ago it was down to 7, and before the recent hire, it was down to 5-with 2 of them being apprentices. Kriebs reported the decline in staff has caused a decline in preventative action items and the focus is on doing only the tasks that have to be done as they come up.
- **Create a dedicated Locator position** to ensure timely and accurate underground utility locating and reduce service delays.
- **Add an Accounting Assistant position** to strengthen administrative support, improve financial processing efficiency, and maintain compliance with reporting requirements.

A. Discussion of USDA Rural Economic Development Loan & Grant (REDLG): Kriebs and

Sergeant explained that this would be a pass-through loan. Right now, the ask of the PSC is to remove the borrowing requirement. The whole point of this would be to provide a loan for the project at a lower interest rate.

B. Motion to Recommend the Proposal of Caselle Fixed Assets and Timesheet Software by Corridon, seconded by Lathrop. Motion passed 2-0.

Riggan outlined the benefits of both programs. The Timesheet Software would be implemented right away as this is just an add-on to the Payroll System that we already use. The Fixed Assets, billing and implementation, will be delayed until November.

C. Motion to Recommend the Proposal of EBC Flexible Spending Accounts by Corridon, seconded by Lathrop. Motion passed 2-0.

Sergeant outlined the benefits of the new platform for employees.

D. Discussion on First Draft of 2027-2036 CIP: There was discussion about Street's projects, a new well, and that things may need to move for a Municipal Services Campus. Corridon asked to keep the Warming House in the discussions.

E. Discussion and Motion to Recommend 2027-2028 Pay Philosophy and Wage Adjustments by Corridon, seconded by Lathrop. Motion passed 2-0.

Sergeant shared that the Pay Philosophy is months ahead of where it was last year. The City of Evansville is behind the cost-of-living (COLA) increase compared to inflation in the last 10 years, but a little ahead in the past 5 years. For 2027, the cost of inflation is estimated to be over 5%. Last year the COLA was set to match the Police Union Contract at 3.75%. Sergeant would like to match the Police Contract at 3.5% for the next 2 years. In addition, there are 4 wage adjustments the Mayor asked the Administrator to take place at the same time and update without bringing the Position Descriptions to FLR. Adjustments include City Administrator-down 1 grade, Police Chief-down 1 grade, Park's Custodian-up 1 grade, EMS Chief-up 3 grades. There was additional discussion about performance-based wage increases.

Motion to Amend Compensation Plan, paragraph one, Employees with Performance Ratings of Meeting Expectations would be eligible for half step increase and Employees with Performance Ratings of Exceeds Expectations would be eligible for full step increases by Lathrop, seconded by Corridon. Motion passed 2-0.

F. Motion to Recommend Resolution 2026-25 Budget Amendment for Police Department by Corridon, seconded by Lathrop. Motion passed 2-0.

Chief Jones shared that the copier at the Police Department is from 2006 with a life expectancy of 5-7 years.

G. Motion to Recommend Purchase of Police Department Copier by Corridon, seconded by Lathrop. Motion passed 2-0.

H. Motion to Recommend Youth Center Proposal for Historic Application and Demolition Process by Corridon, seconded by Lathrop. Motion passed 2-0.

Sergeant explained there were 2 quotes received and Destree was the most cost effective. Destree will conduct the application process with the State and develop 3 concepts for Historic Preservation approval.

9. Old Business: None

10. City Administrator/Finance Director Report

A. Audit, CIP and Budget Status: Sergeant shared the budget process begun with the CIP and the levy information from the State will come in late August. The budget process will move quicker once the numbers come in. Sergeant would also like to budget funds for a strategic plan.

11. Next Meeting Dates:

A. 2026 Meetings, held the Wednesday before Council at 3:00 p.m.: August 5, September 2, October 7, November 4, December 2

12. Closed Session: *Motion that the Finance & Labor Committee shall convene in closed session pursuant to section 19.85 (1) (e) of the Wisconsin statutes to deliberate or negotiate potential terms for a non-profit partnership agreement. Competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session as discussions in open session would negatively impact the city's competitive or bargains position. Upon completion, the committee will not reconvene in open session by Corridon, seconded by Barnes. Motion passed by Roll Call at 5:12 p.m.*