City of Evansville Common Council
Regular Meeting
City Hall, 31 S Madison St, Evansville WI 53536
Tuesday, September 8, 2026, 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

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

Members	Present/Absent
Mayor, Abbey Barnes	P
Alderperson, Bill Lathrop	P
Alderperson, Bill Hurtley	P
Alderperson, Erika Stuart	A
Alderperson, Kelly Knoble	P
Alderperson, Chuck Boyce	A
Alderperson, Norman Barker	P
Alderperson, Ben Corridon	P
Alderperson, Lita Droster	P

Others Present
Leah Hurtley, City Clerk
Jason Sergeant, City Administrator
Colette Spranger, Comm. Dev. Director
Bronna Lehmann, Library Director
Mark Kopp, City Attorney (remotely)
Nick Bubolz, Town & Country Engineer
Citizens: Steve Hagen, Jon Alling
Sean & Dawn Petersen, John Brandon
Maria Moreno-Lopez, Randi Soldner
Kim Krueger, Becky Strupp, John Thielenhouse

3. ***Motion to Approve the Agenda* by Lathrop, seconded by Hurtley.** *Motion passed 6-0.*
4. ***Motion to Waive the Reading of Minutes of the August 7, 2026 Special Meeting and the August 11, 2026 Regular Meeting and Approve as Presented* by Lathrop, seconded by Droster.** *Motion passed 6-0*
5. **Civility Reminder:** Barnes issued a reminder that all City business is held with civility and decorum
6. **Special Presentations**
   Citizen Appearances (Public comments on items on the agenda not requiring a public hearing and on matters which can be affected by Council action)
   John Thielenhouse: Thielenhouse was looking for updates on property concerns for a neighbor's property that have been brought to Council's attention twice before
   Jon Alling: Alling has concerns about the speeding occurring on Garfield Avenue but doesn't support a stop sign as a solution to the issue
   Becky Strupp: Strupp shared concerns about speeding on Garfield Avenue and supports the stop sign and also asks that continued efforts are made to control speed in the area

7. **Public Hearing:** Special Assessments for the 2026 City Sidewalk Assessment for select addresses on Lincoln St, Gunther Dr, Windsor Ln, Debbie Dr, Deanna Dr, North Water St, East Countryside Dr, Joshua Dr, East Main St, West Main St.
   1) **Staff Report:** Bubolz shared information about the project for the sidewalk improvements
   2) **Initial Discussion by Council:** There was discussion about the timeline alignment and escalation for the project
   3) **Public Hearing:** opened at 6:18 p.m.
      i) **Shawn Peterson:** Peterson questioned the assessment timeline. There was a letter received on Monday about the work being completed that Friday, with no talk about cost. A month later the assessment packet was received in the mail.
      ii) **Randi Soldner:** Soldner reported voicing concerns to the city for four years regarding upheaving trees the sidewalk and having to be responsible for the cost to fix the sidewalk. Soldner shared concerns about the communication for the project work and tree maintenance.
      Public Hearing closed at 6:27 p.m.

4) **Final Discussion by Council:** There was additional discussion about the concerns that Soldner had brought up.
5) ***Motion to Adopt Resolution 2026-26, A Preliminary Resolution Declaring Intent to Levy Special Assessments Under Municipal Police Power Pursuant to §66.0703, Stats. by Lathrop, seconded by Droster.*** *Motion failed by Roll Call: ayes-Barker, Lathrop, Hurtley; and opposed by Knoble, Corridon, and Droster and Mayor Barnes breaking the tie.*
Motion to Amend Resolution 2026-26, on Special Assessments to remove the address of 134 Joshua Drive for further review to be revisited at October meeting by Lathrop, seconded by Corridon.
After further discussion, Lathrop withdrew his motion.

8. **Reports of Committees**
   A. **Library Board Report:** Lehmann read from written report: General Updates: We are transitioning to new library catalog software this fall. Library patrons can click on a link in SHARE to test drive the updated SHARE catalog now. Staff enjoyed the time we spent out in the community during Evansville Night Out. Lots of people stopped by to pick up fall program fliers and to make buttons. Machines on Main was a fun Saturday with almost 300 excited little kids and their grownups climbing up on big farm machinery provided by the DeLong Company and 23Farms. Program Updates: Joe Fahey will be at the Library on Thursday, Sept. 10, at 6pm to take you on a tour of the Lost City of Machu Pichu in the long-gone Incan Empire. The Diversity Action Team of Rock County is presenting a family focused, hands-on event on Ableism on Saturday, Sept. 12, at 11am. It will emphasize seeing people with disabilities as individuals first-not defined by their disabilities. We encourage people to come learn ways to interact positively with those who have different abilities. Evansville Chamber and the Library are offering a Small Business Marketing program on Tuesday, Sept. 15, at 6pm to introduce the free business mentoring, workshops, and resources available from the Service Corps Of Retired Executives (SCORE) followed by a short training on marketing your business. We will be offering a weekly Saturday Family Storytime series that begins on September 19 and runs through October 24.
   B. **Parks and Recreation Board Report:** Barker reported the meeting was moved up to accommodate the Circus coming to town to use Leonard Leota Park.
   C. **Plan Commission Report:** Lathrop reported discussion regarding a potential draft Ordinance for Data Centers
   D. **Finance and Labor Relations Committee Report:** Lathrop reported questions regarding misclassifications for City Payments
      1) ***Motion to Accept the August 2026 City Payments in the amount of $2,507,840.74 by Lathrop, seconded by Corridon.*** *Motion passed by Roll Call 6-0.*
      2) ***Motion to Approve the Proposal of Other Post-Employment Benefits "OPEB" Valuation from Foster & Foster for the 4-year plan by Lathrop, seconded by Corridon.*** *Motion passed by Roll Call 6-0.*
      3) **Discussion and Possible Motion on Compensation to Evansville's AWARE Agency**
      Lathrop reported discussion at the Committee Meeting. For this year, the remaining amount in the budget can be given to AWARE without vote due to it being in the current approved budget. Lathrop advocated an increase for 2027 to $10,000. Alderperson Hurtley would like to see a list of entities the city makes financial contributions to.
   E. **Public Safety Committee Report:** There was discussion of concerns brought up at Pete's Inn

1) **Second Reading and *Motion to Approve Ordinance 2026-06 Amending Chapter 122 Traffic and Vehicles* by Hurtley, seconded by Corridon.** *Motion passed 6-0.* Discussion involving alternative ways to control speed on Garfield Ave.
2) Motion to Approve the Joint Powers Agreement between Rock County and City of Evansville – ***Tabled to October Meeting***

F. **Municipal Services Report:** Corridon reported discussion regarding Longfield Street project updates and how the Value of Local Utilities (VLU) Funds are to be distributed.

G. **Economic Development Committee Report:** Knoble shared there will be a 2026 Fall Job Fair at Creekside on October 21st from 4-6 p.m. Additional discussion about ARPA funds, 2027 budget, and window Ordinance for downtown.

~~H. Youth Center Advisory Board Report~~

I. **Historic Preservation Commission Report:** Knoble reported there was approved work for 132 W Main Street, 42 & 101 W Church Street, 112 & 144 W Liberty Street. There was also discussion about pursuing a survey with potential funding assistance.

1) **Letter of Support of Bandstand/Warming House on Lake Leota:** Sergeant reported the Grove Society had expressed concern on the Warming House. The Grove Society has asked the City to match their fundraising efforts.

J. **Fire District Report:** Droster reported only 8 calls for service. The Fire District is still actively recruiting as the current roster is at 35 persons, with hopes of reaching 40. Droster also shared the Fire District is wondering why the EMS had dropped the Fire District as Mutual Aid.

~~K. Police Commission Report~~

~~L. Energy Independence Team Report~~

~~M. Board of Appeals Report~~

9. **Unfinished Business:** None
10. **Communications and Recommendations of the Administrator:** Sergeant shared an update on the Hailstorm repairs, Longfield Street progress, and appreciation for Barnes filling in Sergeant's absence.
11. **Communications and Recommendations of the Mayor:** Barnes reported payment had been received by the company that had spills on Main Street and gave information on upcoming local events.

    A. ***Motion to approve the Committee Citizen Appointments of Alexander Moderhock, 535 S Sixth Street to the unexpired three-year term to the Economic Development Committee expiring 2027 by Corridon, seconded by Droster.*** *Motion passed by Roll Call 6-0*

12. **New Business**

    A. **Alderperson Closing Comments**
    1) **Droster:** Discussed a concern from a constituent regarding licensing and fees for Service Animals
    2) **Corridon:** Looking for an update for the Youth Center

13. **Introduction of New Ordinances**
    A. **First Reading of Ordinance 2026-05, Rezoning Lots within the Westfield Meadows Second Addition Subdivision:** read by Barnes
    B. **First Reading of Ordinance 2026-07, Rezoning Parcel 6-27-173 from Residential District One (R-1) to Local Business District (B-1):** read by Barnes
14. **Upcoming Meeting Reminder**:
    A. Regular Common Council Meeting, Tuesday October 13, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.
    B. 2026 Meetings: October 13, November 10, December 8, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.
15. **Adjourn**: Barnes adjourned the meeting at 7:59 p.m.