

City of Evansville Common Council
Regular Meeting
City Hall, 31 S Madison St, Evansville WI 53536
Tuesday, November 14, 2023, 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

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

2. **Roll call:**

Members	Present/Absent	Others Present
Aldersperson, Abbey Barnes	P	Leah Hurtley, City Clerk
Aldersperson, Jim Brooks	P	Mark Kopp, City Attorney
Aldersperson, Ben Corridon	P	Jason Sergeant, City Administrator
Mayor, Dianne Duggan	P	Julie Roberts, City Treasurer
Aldersperson, Ben Ladick	P	John Leuzinger, Public Works
Aldersperson, Gene Lewis	P	Ryan Nass, Public Works
Aldersperson, Joy Morrison	P	Heidi Schulz, Rock Valley Publishing
Aldersperson, Corey Neeley	P	
Aldersperson, Erika Stuart	P	

3. **Motion to Approve the Agenda, with changing the date in agenda number 4 to April 23, 2024, by Brooks, seconded by Morrison. Motion passed 8-0.**

4. **Motion to Appoint the Janesville Gazette as the City of Evansville’s Official Newspaper for the unexpired term of one year, ending on April 16, 2023 April 23, 2024, by Brooks, seconded by Corridon. Motion passed 8-0.**

Prior to the vote, Duggan invited Heidi Schultz from the Evansville Examiner, to say a few words of introduction. Schultz shared that the first edition was hitting the press the next day. Schultz shared that the paper would be distributed by mail, e-subscription, and newsstands.

Motion to amend to Appoint the Janesville Gazette as the City of Evansville’s Official Newspaper for the unexpired term of one year on the interim basis, ending no later than April 23, 2024, by Brooks, seconded by Corridon. Motion passed 8-0.

5. **Motion to waive the reading of the minutes of the October 10, 2023 regular meeting and approve as presented, by Brooks, seconded by Morrison. Motion passed 8-0.**

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

7. **Citizen Appearances:** None

8. **Reports of Committees**

A. **Library Board Report:** No report was received.

B. **Parks and Recreation Board Report:** Neeley reported that it was shared that the Stoughton Trailers foundation had donated the \$100,000 for the Larson Acres Park Project. The original goal for the new Aquatic Center had been reached, and a new stretch goal has been created.

C. **Plan Commission Report:**

- 1) **Second Reading and possible Motion to Approve Ordinance 2023-11, Annexing and Rezoning Territory from the Town of Union to the City of Evansville Parcel 6-20-302.2, by Brooks, seconded by Stuart. Motion passed 8-0.**
Spranger reported that the property owner has wanted access to the City Utility services.
- 2) **Discussion on Parcel 6-20-232**
Spranger shared this will be another annexation, this time for the Maas Farm on County Road C. There is interest from a developer to provide multi-family units on an approximate 45 acres of land.

D. **Finance and Labor Relations Committee Report**

- 1) **Motion to Accept the October 2023 City bills as presented in the amount of \$3,185,816.77, by Brooks, seconded by Morrison. Motion passed by Roll Call 8-0.**
- 2) **Quarterly Treasurer's Report:** Roberts reported that there wasn't anything that was out of the ordinary in the bills. Interest revenues were coming in nicely. All items seem to be right on track. There was additional discussion on how some items may be over budget, but then there are other items that are coming under budget.
- 3) **Motion to accept Resolution 2023-38, ~~Adopting~~ Accepting 2024 Operating and Capital Budget and Setting Tax Levies, by Brooks, seconded by Ladick. Motion passed by Roll Call 8-0.**
- 4) **Motion to Approve the Memorandum of Understanding Agreement with TDS, by Brooks, seconded by Morrison. Motion passed by Roll Call 8-0.**
Sergeant shared that this would hold TDS to move underground when the City moves the electrical underground in that area by the creek on Water Street.
- 5) **Motion to approve the Joint Powers Agreement between Rock County and the City of Evansville, by Brooks, seconded by Morrison. Motion passed by Roll Call 8-0.**
Brooks explained that this is an annual renewal of the 911 service.
- 6) **Discussion and possible Motion to Approve the updated Personnel Policies and Employee Handbook, by Brooks, seconded by Neeley. Motion passed by Roll Call 8-0.**

Motion to Amend section 3-15, the final sentence to add "Mayor and/or Council President, and with formal input from Common Council, shall conduct the review of the City Administrator, consistent with the existing employment contract." by Brooks, seconded by Stuart. Motion passed 8-0.

Motion to Amend section 5-5, paragraph 2, to include bereavement and sick pay, and not including vacation, or other non-worked hours; to strike changes to 5-7 to leave at two hours pay; and 5-11 to include the words "full-time Municipal Services Department Supervisors and field employees"; and 7-2 to strike the first sentence and start with "A full-time" by Brooks, seconded by Neeley. Motion passed 8-0.

There was discussion around the inclusion of the Common Council to the performance appraisal of the City Administrator. There was additional discussion on the reduction of the mission statement that included employee input from all departments.

E. Public Safety Committee Report

- 1) **Motion to Approve Resolution 2023-35 Amending the City of Evansville's Fee Schedule – Chapter 42 – Emergency Services, by Stuart, seconded by Corridon. Motion passed by Roll Call 8-0.**

There was a discussion as to the definition of BLS (Basic Life Support) and ALS (Advanced Life Support). The staff has been undergoing training with the intention that next year, they would be able to offer a higher level of service, and bill accordingly. The proposed fee schedule, would negate the cost difference of non/resident, and instead offer a cost difference between the two service levels. There was additional discussion on the cost of the fee's and what the appeals process would be for someone that wouldn't or couldn't afford a service.

Motion to Amend the wording to state “Now, therefore, be it here resolved by the City of Evansville's Ambulance District Fee Schedule is amended”, by Brooks, seconded by Corridon. Motion passed 8-0.

Stuart shared that there were some Operator Licenses that were approved. The full police report has not been getting attained as the Rock County system has been down.

F. Municipal Services Report

- 1) **Motion to approve Resolution 2023-37, Petition for the Establishment of a New At-Grade Crossing, by Brooks, seconded by Morrison. Motion passed 8-0.**

Brooks explained that this would allow the installation of a sidewalk across the railroad tracks. Sergeant went on to explain that there has been an unimproved crossing at the east side of Madison Street. When the Office of Railroad Commissioners had been approached to pave the crossing, they had come back to state that the crossing had been put in illegally and needed to be removed. In the interim, the city has put up barricades to block off the area. Also, there has been discussions with Mark Poca's office, and there is an Appropriations Bill that has money in it to address the crossing. This resolution will allow more pressure to be applied to help move the process along quicker.

- 2) **Motion to Approve United Liquid Waste Recycling, Inc Contract, by Brooks, seconded by Neeley. Motion passed by Roll Call 8-0.**

- 3) **Motion to Approve Condition Assessment for Youth Center, by Brooks, seconded by Morrison. Motion passed by Roll Call 8-0.**

Ladick expressed concern on spending \$4,800 for an assessment. Corridon would like to have the building assessed to justify why they need a new building. There was discussion on getting a basic commercial inspection instead. Sergeant explained that to do an inspection, he would recommend going through the proper channels. The inspection results may cause some uncomfortable conversations and it would be best to have everything documented accordingly.

- 4) **Motion to Approve Stairway Assessment for City Hall, by Brooks, seconded by Neeley. Motion passed by Roll call 8-0.**

The prior building inspector had brought up that the stairway at City Hall was not up to code. There have been concerns brought up about small children. The current need is to understand what could be done and work with someone that could navigate the State Historical Building exceptions. Eventually, it may need to go through the Historical Preservation, pending what the discoveries would be.

Brooks also shared that in addition there was discussion at the Municipal Services meeting on the fees for the Street Closures. It has been put on hold until it could be discussed with Tourism Commission and Economic Development.

- G. **Economic Development Committee:** The Business Summit occurred on October 13th with 75 people in attendance. It was a half day of networking and sharing of information. It was a successful event.
- H. **Youth Center Advisory Board Report:** Corridon shared that the meeting was lightly attended, and there wasn't much to report.
- I. **Historic Preservation Commission:** Did not meet.
- J. **Fire District Report:** Brooks shared that the calls are down a small amount compared to 2022. There was discussion on the full-time Operator position description, with the hope to hire the first full-time employee after the first of the year.
- K. **Police Commission Report:** Did not meet.
- L. **Energy Independence Team Report:** Brooks shared that there was a presentation from Slipstream on the efficiency project that was undertaken. They will be presenting to Council in the near future.
- M. **Board of Appeals Report:** The Board met to have an organizational meeting to appoint a public member and a Chair. This will be to decide if to do a Tax Incremental District number 10, that will encompass CHS if they decide to come to the region.

9. **Unfinished Business**

- 10. **Communications and Recommendations of the Administrator:** Sergeant shared that the interview process for a Building Inspector had begun. The High School Green Team had a tour of the Wind Turbine to see how it works. There has been a lot of hard work happening at City Hall with the conclusion of the Budget process, and getting everything ready for taxes.

11. **Communications and Recommendations of the Mayor**

- A. **Mayoral Proclamation 2023-06 In Recognition of Evansville Veterans' Participation in the Badger Honor Flight Program.**
Brooks announced the Proclamation.
- B. **Mayoral Proclamation 2023-07 In Recognition of The Evansville Review.**
Brooks announced the Proclamation.
- C. **Motion to approve the citizen appointment of Jonathan Hollingsworth, 671 Windsor Lane, to fill the unexpired three-year term of Amanda Firgens to the Eager Free Public Library Board of Trustees ending 2025, by Brooks, seconded by Neeley. Motion passed by Roll Call 8-0.**
- D. **Motion to approve the citizen appointment of Dierdre Beltran, 417 Higgins Dr, to Sue Wilbur's unexpired five-year term to the Housing Authority ending 2028, by Brooks, seconded by Morrison. Motion passed by Roll Call 8-0.**

There was additional discussion of the appointment process and how information could be gathered for Council, as to the qualifications and experience of the appointments.

12. **New Business:** None
13. **Introduction of New Ordinances**
 - A. **First Reading of Ordinance 2023-12, Amending Chapter 106 - Streets Sidewalks and Other Public Places.**
Read by Brooks.
 - B. **First Reading of Ordinance 2023-13, Amending Chapter 122 - Traffic and Vehicles.**
Read by Brooks.
 - C. **First Reading of Ordinance 2023-14, Annexing and Rezoning Territory from the Town of Union to the City of Evansville Parcel 6-20-232.**
Read by Brooks.
14. **Upcoming Meeting Reminder:**
 - A. Special Meeting Budget Hearing, ~~Tuesday~~ Thursday, November 28 30, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.
 - B. Special Committee of the Whole Meeting, Saturday, December 2, 2023, at 8:00 a.m.
 - C. Regular Common Council Meeting, Tuesday, December 12, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.
 - D. City Holiday Gathering Creekside, Friday, December 15, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.
15. **Closed Session:** *Motion that the Common Council shall convene in closed session pursuant to section 19.85 (1) (e) of the Wisconsin statutes to deliberate or negotiate the purchase of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session and where discussion in open session would negatively impact the city's competitive or bargaining position. Upon completion, the Common Council will reconvene in open session, by Brooks, seconded by Neeley. Motion passed by Roll Call 8-0 at 7:19 p.m.*
16. Reconvene into Open Session: *Motion to reconvene into Open Session pursuant to Wis. Stats. §19.85(2) for possible discussion and/or action concerning any matter discussed in closed session.*
17. *Adjourn, by Duggan at 7:54 p.m.*