

**City of Evansville Common Council
Organizational Meeting
City Hall, 31 S Madison St, Evansville WI 53536
Tuesday, April 16th, 2024, 6:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

The Oral Oath of Office to Mayor Dianne Duggan, District #1 Alderperson Cory Neeley, District #2 Alderperson Erika Stuart, District #3 Alderperson Joe Geoffrion and District #4 Alderperson Lita Droster was administered before the Roll Call at 6:00pm by City Clerk Leah Hurtley.

1. **Call to order.** Duggan called the meeting to order at 6:00pm
2. **Roll call of new Council:**

Members	Present/Absent	Others Present
Alderperson, Jim Brooks	P	Leah Hurtley, City Clerk
Alderperson, Cory Neeley	P	Mark Kopp (via Zoom)
Alderperson, Ben Corridon	P	Bill Lathrop
Mayor, Dianne Duggan	P	Quinn Brooks
Alderperson, Joe Geoffrion	P	
Alderperson, Abbey Barnes	P	
Alderperson, Gene Lewis	P	
Alderperson, Lita Droster	P	
Alderperson, Erika Stuart	P	

3. **Approval of Agenda.** *Brooks made the Motion to Approve the Agenda, striking item 7E the words “as chair”, seconded by Corridon. Motion passed 8-0.*

4. **Nomination and Election of Council President.** *Barnes nominated Neeley as Council President. Corridon nominated Brooks as Council President.*

The secret ballot vote results: Neeley-5 votes, Brooks-4 votes

The Oath of Office for Council President Neeley was administered by Clerk Hurtley.

5. **Discussion and Motion to appoint Janesville Gazette as the City of Evansville’s Official Newspaper for a term of one year.**

Barnes shared discussion from the City Administrator’s Report from the previous meeting suggested the option to appoint the Janesville Gazette as the official paper and the Evansville Examiner would be supplemental. Brooks further explained that during Finance and Labor there had been discussion that having a daily paper with the Gazette has helped with turnaround time with postings. Also, having a local paper is a great idea as well.

6. **Discussion and Motion to use Evansville Examiner as the City of Evansville’s supplemental paper for a term of one year.**

Motion to Amend to include both papers and Appoint the Janesville Gazette as the City of Evansville’s Official Newspaper and the Evansville Examiner as a supplemental paper for the term of one year by Neeley, seconded by Brooks. Motion passed 8-0.

Motion to appoint the Janesville Gazette as the official paper and the Evansville Examiner as the supplement for publications. Motion passed 7-1, with Corridon opposed.

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

- A. Ald. Jim Brooks as Chair and Ald. Cory Neeley and Ald. Barnes as committee members to the Finance and Labor Relations Committee.
- B. Ald. Abbey Barnes and Ald. Gene Lewis to the Plan Commission.
- C. Ald. Jim Brooks as Chair and Ald. Ben Corridon and Ald. Lita Droster as committee member to the Municipal Services Committee.
- D. Ald. Jim Brooks and Ald. Erika Stuart to the Evansville Fire District Board, and Ald. Lita Droster as alternate.
- E. Ald. Jim Brooks as ~~Chair~~ and Joe Geoffrion to the Economic Development Committee.
- F. Ald. Cory Neeley as Chair to the Park and Recreation Board.
- G. Ald. Erika Stuart as Chair and Ald. Gene Lewis and Ald. Joe Geoffrion as committee members to the Public Safety Committee.
- H. Ald. Lita Droster and Ald. Abbey Barnes to the Redevelopment Authority.
- I. Ald. Gene Lewis to the Historic Preservation Commission.
- J. Ald. Ben Corridon as Chair and Ald. Lita Droster to the Evansville Youth Center Board.

Neeley made the motion, seconded by Corridon.

Discussion occurred.

Motion to Amend 7H to reflect Ald Lita Droster and Ald Abbey Barnes to Redevelopment by Neeley, seconded by Corridon. Motion passed 8-0.

Neeley spoke to his interest of Municipal Service Committee, with a tenure of 3 years' service on Council, and 10 years of utility experience. Neeley shared that while criticism has been offered in the past, that it had been warranted. Neeley suggested the next few years for the utility will be tumultuous with the addition of CHS.

Duggan provided insight as to the initial reasoning for not putting Neeley on Municipal Services was due to the concern on being single focused and agrees that his experience is an asset. Neeley would like to have the political aspect taken out of the utilities and have employees join WPPI as Voting Members. Duggan wanted to make note that a discussion with Neeley had included that there was a desire to include rural representation. Neeley suggested an addition to an electric commission to reflect each of the rate classes, which reaches beyond the city.

Motion to Amend to remove 7C from the list of Committee Aldermanic Appointments by Neeley, seconded by Stuart. Motion passed by Roll Call 6-2, with Brooks and Corridon opposed.

Motion to Approve the Committee Aldermanic Appointments 7A through 7J, without 7C Municipal Services Motion passed by Roll Call 8-0.

Neeley presented a motion to appoint Ald. Jim Brooks as Chair with Ald. Ben Corridon and Ald. Cory Neeley to Municipal Services. Additional discussion occurred with input from Attorney Kopp.

Motion to Amend the Committee Aldermanic Appointments for 7C for Municipal Services to include Ald. Jim Brooks as Chair and Ald. Ben Corridon and Ald. Lita Droster and Ald. Cory Neeley by Neeley, seconded by Barnes. Motion passed by Roll Call 7-1, with Brooks opposed.

Motion to Approve the Committee Aldermanic Appointment for Municipal Services with Ald. Jim Brooks as Chair and Ald. Ben Corridon and Ald. Lita Droster and Ald. Cory Neeley. Motion passed by Roll Call 7-1, with Brooks opposed.

8. Motion to Approve the Committee Citizen Appointments of:

- A. Ben Ladick, 126 Garfield Ave, and Eloise Eager, 43 N Second St, for a three-year term to the Eager Free Public Library Board of Trustees expiring 2027 and Lindsay Reese, 7420 N Tolles Rd, Evansville, WI 53536, as the School Representative appointment, expiring 2025.
- B. Dennis Hughes, 715 Badger Dr, for a five-year term to the Board of Review, expiring 2029.
- C. Sue Berg, 321 Garfield Ave and Patrick “Pat” Carr, 224 W Church St, for a three-year term to the Economic Development Committee, expiring 2027.
- D. Norman Barker, 112 Grove St, Steve Christens, 15 N Second St, for a two-year term to the Historic Preservation Commission, expiring 2026.
- E. William Alt, 216 W Main St, for a five-year term to the Housing Authority Committee, expiring 2029.
- F. Gene Prudhon, 245 Clifton St and Chad Sigl, 618 W Main St, for a three-year term to the Park and Recreation Board, expiring 2027.
- G. Eric Klar, 552 S Sixth St, for a three-year term to the Plan Commission, expiring 2027.
- H. Steve Hagen, 420 W Main St, for a five-year term to the Police Commission, expiring 2029.
- I. William Alt, 216 W Main St, for a five-year term to the Redevelopment Authority, expiring 2029.
- J. Ben Ladick, for a three-year term to the Youth Center Advisory Board, expiring 2027.
- K. Janice Turner, 223 W Church St, Ry Thompson, 104 Garfield Ave, Gene Miller, 437 Badger Dr, for a three-year term to the Zoning Board of Appeals, expiring 2027.
Neeley made the motion, seconded by Corridon. Motion passed by Roll Call 8-0.

9. Communications and Recommendations of the Mayor

10. Meeting Reminder:

- A. Regular Meeting: Tuesday, May 14, 2024, 6:00 p.m. at City Hall
- B. Regular Meeting: **MONDAY**, June 10, 2024, 6:00 p.m. at City Hall

11. Adjournment: Duggan adjourned the meeting at 6:32 p.m.

After the meeting adjourned, Stuart wanted to bring up a recent real estate property purchase and was concerned the new owner will be doubling rent within the next 6 weeks.

Leah Hurtley, City Clerk