

NOTICE

A meeting of the City of Evansville Economic Development Committee will be held on the date and at the time and location stated below. Meetings are typically held the 3rd Monday of each month. Notice is given that members of the City Council might be in attendance. Requests for persons with disabilities who need assistance to participate in this meeting should be made by calling City Hall: (608)-882-2266 with as much advance notice as possible.

City of Evansville **Economic Development Committee**
Regular Meeting
3rd Floor City Hall, 31 S Madison St, Evansville, WI 53536
Monday, June 16th, 2025, 6:00 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Chair Election
4. Motion to approve the agenda.
5. Motion to waive the reading of the minutes from the May 21st, 2025 meetings and approve as printed.
6. Civility Reminder
7. Citizen Appearances
8. New Business
9. Old Business
10. Monthly Reports
 - A. Community Development Update
 - B. Chamber of Commerce Report
 - C. Tourism Commission Report
11. Discussion
12. Next Meeting Dates:
 - A. Regular Meeting: July 21st, 2025
13. Adjourn

-Joe Geoffrion, Chair



Community Development Updates

June 2025 Colette Spranger, Community Development Director

Recent and ongoing community development activities:

- Permitting for hail damage has been steady
 - Doing our best to help residents with insurance issues and contractors, especially in the historic district
 - Have reached out to DSPS for clarification on what is required regarding bringing a building up to code (which insurance has pushed back on, particularly regarding water-proof barriers)
- Historic Preservation voted 3-3 on a resolution regarding the use of vinyl siding in the historic district. The Commission will revisit the resolution in July.
- Plan Commission discussed a handful of zoning revisions
 - A fee reductions/reimbursements for certain housing projects will be introduced, which would allow some building owners to qualify for WHEDA housing loans
 - Creates the "Studio or Instructional Service" use, which separates fitness, educational, and other group activities from the "Indoor Commercial Entertainment" use (restaurants, bars, etc) and allows them by right in most business districts, conditional in others
 - Good timing: we have 2 businesses out of compliance and another that wants to open in the Appliance Works space
- Park and Open Space Plan Update
 - Weather was great for a Walk Audit on the 24th. Initial consensus: Evansville's sidewalks range from excellent to non-existent and a whole lot of in-between.
 - Consultant will be conducting focus groups at the end of month
 - Community survey forthcoming

Building Permit Summary				
	May 2025	May 2024	2025 through May	2024 through May
Total	546	26	657	94
In House	538	6	609	33
GEC	8	20	48	61
Total Fees	\$28,616	\$27,099	30,450	\$82,057

Building Permits issued since 4/18:

755

\$20.4 million in project costs

Program Reporting:

For the following questions, please provide information on activity that occurred in your downtown since July 1, 2024 and which will be completed on or before June 30, 2025. In instances where you do not have precise figures (i.e. dollar values or completion dates), please provide estimated information to the best of your abilities and indicate this in your response.

Businesses & Jobs:

How many businesses closed or left your downtown/commercial district? __4__

- Palace Meets
- Yoga For You
- Double P Western Store
- Play Palace

Please estimate the number of jobs lost as a result of these closures or relocations: _<10__

How many existing businesses expanded within the district (addition of space and/or major product offerings/staffing)? __2__

- Hop Garden
- Dr. Allison Becker

How many new businesses opened or moved into your downtown/district? _5__

- AWARE
- Amada Salon
- Cursing Hippies
- Galleria Eclectica
- Bareskin Waxing

Please estimate how many new jobs were added through new openings or expansions: _~10__

Investment:

What was the total private investment in the district during the past year? Include the dollars invested by private individuals/companies on items such as building rehabilitation, renovations or improvements, new development, and the sale price of any properties purchased. (Building inspectors and realtors/assessors are a great source for this information). \$ _110,000 __

- 137 E Main (Allen Creek CoffeeHouse) - \$10,000 for deck improvements
- 16 E Main (Hop Garden) - \$50,000 for business expansion
- 7 E Main (Dr. Allison Becker) - \$50,000 for business expansion

What was the total public investment in the district during the past year? Include the dollar amount of public improvements, including funds spent on installation or upgrades to streetscape, infrastructure, public facilities, or public spaces, as well as funds used to incentivize private activity (i.e. public match for façade improvement, developer incentives, etc). Do not include the cost of routine maintenance activities. (Your municipality may be able to help provide this information). \$ _72,400__

- \$16,000 for new banners
- \$1,400 for flowers
- \$30,000 for brick street repairs
- \$5,000 for the murals
- \$8,000 in building improvement grants
- \$12,000 for a tourism website

Please estimate the number of volunteer hours that were dedicated to supporting district activities in the past year. Include board or committee meetings, event volunteers and any other volunteer activities (watering, ambassadors, etc). One volunteer hour = one volunteer working for one hour. ____~300____

Activities:

What new/expanded activities did you implement in your downtown/district during this period? Please indicate any studies, planning, new or expanded business training or recruitment programs, retail or promotion events, district marketing/branding or training/assistance programs offered to businesses or property owners in your district which were launched or enhanced during the past year.

- Farmers Market moved back downtown
- Ice Age Trail Community Status achieved
- Tourism website as a main place to track events and opportunities