

## **City of Evansville Energy Independence Team**

Regular Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025 7:30 a.m.

City Hall, 31 S. Madison Street

Evansville, WI 53536

### **MINUTES**

- 1. Call to Order.** Brooks called the meeting to order at 7:30am
- 2. Introductions and Welcome.** Jim Brooks, Darren Jacobsen, Butch Beedle, Jason Sergeant, Colette Spranger, School Superintendent Nate Perry,, Scott Anderson, Chief Patrick Reese, Oliver Rowe, Bronna Lehmann, Patrick Diedrich, Adam Prochaska
- 3. Approve the Agenda by Consensus.** Committee approved agenda.
- 4. Approve the minutes of the August 7, 2024 meeting by consensus.** Committee approved agenda.
- 5. Evansville Municipal Energy Plan Discussion and Next Steps**
  - A. Update on Upper 90 Grant**

Evansville has received a Rural Energy Startup Grant. The purpose is to identify energy savings and energy efficiency projects/needs of municipally owned buildings. Upper 90 is working on an energy audit of those municipal buildings. One of the deliverables is a list of projects that Council can choose to work on. Brooks notes that prioritizing projects into easy and important steps helps with implementation.
- 6. Quarterly Energy Updates (20 min)**
  - A. Business, Community, and School Initiatives.**
    - Energy Star portfolio manager is tracking gas and electric suage. They are able to benchmark their success against other schools across WPPI communities.
    - Jacobsen is reaching out to businesses to gauge their energy needs.
  - B. EHS Green Team Updates.** Group is organizing and averaging costs of gas and electric usage. Presented their work to middle school in order to increase participation when those students reach high school. Received \$1600 from utility to work on lighting projects. Have figure out the middle school roof can't take more panels. Grant writing for Phase II of the solar project has begun; received \$5000 from the community fund. Hooking up solar at the high school has been trickier than anticipated. Renew Our Schools could contribute towards an e-gauge. The team is learning about the school's geothermal system. Initial findings are the geothermal system is inefficient and that energy costs per square foot are higher than necessary.
  - C. Tree City and Bird City.** Kriebs submitted the Tree City application. Bird City is next. Brief discussion of partnering or exploring participation with the Green-Rock Audubon society.
  - D. ECSD Nature Center.** Latest theme is the Wonderful World of Water.
  - E. Ice Age Trail.** Waiting for status on Trail Community application. Discussion points on ways to leverage Evansville's assets to the Ice Age Trail, such as a historic tour, working on establishing a trail to Magnolia Bluff, providing more Trail Angels on the western side of Rock County. Green-Rock Audubon Society would like to do a joint

hike for birding. Evansville could also do candlelight hikes, participate in the Mammoth challenge. These ideas will be taken back to Tourism.

**F. Community Garden.** Dormant. Group is unsure of their needs.

**G. WPPI.** Talk of a 3-5 megawatt community solar system owned through WPPI was shared. Annual trip to Washington DC to talk about relationship building and support for public utilities is at the end of the month.

**H. Park Improvements.** Finalizing the punch list for pool improvements. Pool made money last year; will now focus on efficiency. Hard to compare against the old pool, as the old pool did not have a working heater and was a different size.

**I. Other.**

**7. Next meeting date:** May 7, 2025

**8. Adjourn.**