

NOTICE

A meeting of the City of Evansville Economic Development Committee will be held on the date and at the time stated below. Notice is further given that enough members of the City Council may be present to constitute a “meeting” under Wisconsin statutes and this constitutes notice of any such meeting. 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. Please silence cell phones and electronic devices during the meeting.

City of Evansville Economic Development Committee
Regular Meeting
Monday, February 16th, 2026
City Hall, 3rd Floor, 31 S Madison St, Evansville, WI
6:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Motion to approve the agenda.
4. Motion to waive the reading of the December 15, 2025 minutes and approve as printed.
5. Civility reminder
6. Citizen Appearances, other than listed agenda items
7. New Business
 - A. Library and Programming Partnership
 - B. Review and Motion to Recommend Common Council Approval of Application for
Downtown Upper Level Housing Unit Rehabilitation
8. Old Business
9. Monthly Reports
 - A. Community Development Report
 - B. Chamber of Commerce Report
 - C. Tourism Commission Report
10. Discussion
11. Next Meeting Date: March 16th, 2026, 6:00 p.m.
12. Motion to Adjourn.

- *Joe Geoffrion, Chairperson*

City of Evansville **Economic Development Committee**
 Regular Meeting
 3rd Floor City Hall, 31 S Madison Street, Evansville, WI 53536
 Monday, December 15th, 2025, 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

1. Call to Order. 6:00 pm by Geoffrion.

2. Roll Call:

	Present/Absent	Others Present
Joe Geoffrion, Chair	P	Erik Ferrar (ECSD)
Kelly Shannon	P	James Otterstein, Rock County Development
Jon Alling	P	Colette Spranger, Com. Dev. Director
Paul Liesse	P	
Brandon Rutz	P	
Pat Carr	P	
Sue Berg	P	

3. Motion to Approve Agenda as printed. Motion by Geoffrion, seconded by Carr. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Motion to waive the reading of the minutes from August 18th, 2025 and November 17th, 2025 meetings and approve as printed. Motion by Berg, seconded by Shannon. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Civility Reminder

6. Citizen appearances, other than listed agenda items
None.

7. New Business

8. Old Business.

A. Review 2026 Goals

The group recounted their goals for year of continuing to perform business visits, continue website improvements, develop a welcome packet for new businesses, improve code enforcement (particularly in the downtown), to work with the library on improving materials in the library’s business/work space, and to host a spring and fall job fair.

B. Review Business Visit Materials

Sue Berg shared her sample script for leaving messages with business owners for those who cannot regularly make business visits in person. Discussion was had among members regarding how to manage the information that was gathered, ensuring that

privacy is maintained while starting to maintain an ongoing record of recorded issues within the community.

9. Monthly Reports

- A. Community Development Update.** Oral overview of ongoing happenings in the business community, including interest in new multifamily developments and other businesses.
- B. Chamber Update.** Shawn Dunphy not present. Olde Fashioned Christmas was a success.
- C. Tourism Update.** Given by Berg with ongoing discussion on how to promote the new tourism website.

10. Discussion

11. Next Meeting Dates:

- A.** Regular Meeting: January 19th, 2026 at 6:00 PM.

12. Adjourn.



City of Evansville

Upper Story Residential Unit Improvement Grant

Background

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the U.S. Senate-amended H.R. 1319 (P.L. 117-2) known as the American Rescue Plan Act (hereinafter “ARPA”) and on May 10, 2021, the U.S. Treasury issued the Interim Final Rule (“IFR”) to implement ARPA in Title 31, Part 35 of the Code of Federal Regulations (“CFR”) describing eligible and ineligible uses of funds (as well as other program provisions). Under ARPA Section 603 (c)(1)(A) and (3) and the Interim Final Rule 31 CFR 35.6(b)(7) Subrecipients may use Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (“SLFRF”) Funds to award grants to organizations that are responding to the negative impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency.

The City is in receipt of funding under the SLFRF program and wants to support a local project that helps commercial building owners rehabilitate vacant upper story residential units within the downtown. The City will be distributing four grants of \$12,500 each. A grantee may receive one grant per unit being rehabilitated. The goal is to reach units that have not been improved over decades, or have been used for uses other than residential.

Applicant Eligibility

Property owners who wish to use these funds will need to have no outstanding tax liens or judgments against the property and be in compliance with Chapters 18, 45, 62 and 130 of the Evansville Municipal Code.

Project Eligibility

- Be located in any of the following areas:
 - Any area zoned B-2 Central Business District
 - Commercial buildings with the Historic District
 - Be located on Main or Madison Street
- Residential units must be located on the second floor or above.
- Applicants are encouraged to pair this grant with a Building Improvement Grant, if possible.

Eligible Projects



City of Evansville

Upper Story Residential Unit Improvement Grant

- Electric upgrades
- HVAC upgrades
- Plumbing upgrades
- Window/door replacement
- Interior renovations
- Engineering/architectural renderings

Ineligible Projects

- Siding replacement and/or painting
- Appliances and other non-permanent equipment
- Roofwork/gutter repair
- Landscaping
- working capital (e.g. staff wages, rent costs), property acquisition, or refinancing of existing debt.

Deadlines

Applications will be reviewed by a committee of City staff and a member of each the Economic Development Committee and Historic Preservation Committee. Applications will be reviewed on an ongoing basis.

Applications and/or further information can be obtained by contacting Community Development Director Colette Spranger at (608) 882-2263, c.spranger@evansvillewi.gov, by stopping in at City Hall during business hours.

Distribution

Funds will be distributed once an applicant receives a building permit. A building permit must be pulled by November 1, 2026 in order for funds to be distributed.



City of Evansville

Upper Story Residential Unit Improvement Grant

APPLICATION

1. APPLICANT INFORMATION

Owner Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

2. PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Address _____

Current property Use _____

Proposed Rehabilitation



City of Evansville

Upper Story Residential Unit Improvement Grant

3. PROJECT COST ESTIMATES

COSTS	This Grant	Owner Equity	Other Financing (specify source)	TOTAL
Eligible Expenses				
Ineligible Expenses				
Other				
TOTAL				

4. REQUIRED APPLICATION ATTACHMENTS

To receive full consideration, the following items must be included with the application.

- Site plan drawn to scale.
- Elevations of any facade proposed to be altered, drawn to scale of at least 1/8" = 1'; each elevation drawing should include notations of proposed materials, color, finishes and details.
- Clear and identifiable photographs of areas to be improved.
- Preliminary (written) cost estimates.
- Rehabilitation/Construction time schedule, noting start and completion date.

City of Evansville
Evansville Tourism Commission
February 2026 Summary Submitted by Sue Berg

The Evansville Tourism Commission met February 12, 2026. The Commission meets every other month: February, April, June, August, October and December.

Updates

Upon completion of the Rex Theater Mural, the Tourism Commission will plan a reception for the artist. A salon owner may be interested in developing the next mural.

The new Rock County tourism magazine is available in print at several locations including City Hall, and available online at <https://www.rockcounty.org/Portals/0/documents/2026-rcg-digital-version.pdf>

Shawn Dunphy reported that an Ice Age Trail Hike will occur April 25 with 55 participants, and organizers are offering opportunities for Evansville businesses to have a presence.

The attractive new lamppost banners are in place and the group discussed creating some promotional materials about the banners and the historical leaders featured on them. Shawn will approach a contractor for help.

Kris Thome from The Grove Society gave an enthusiastic update including an increase in museum visitors in 2025, a Bucky Badger Watch Party February 22 (PBS program with a feature about Evansville native Babe Spencer), developing an outdoor exhibit of water pumps, creating events to commemorate the nation's 250th anniversary, organizing the annual History in the Park event for August 23, and organizing and moving the date for the historic home tour to September 19. The Society is actively working on collaborative and cross-promotional relationships.

With the dissolution of Evansville Community Partnership, the Fourth of July Festival might continue under management of separate groups and individuals. The parade might be managed by a group; music might be organized by one or two individuals; the car show is self managed.

Activities with Tourism Potential

1. Evansville Underground Music – check calendar
<https://evansvilleundergroundmusic.org/calendar/>
2. Concerts on Allen Creek
3. <https://www.facebook.com/allencreekcoffeehouse>
4. Hop Garden music
5. <https://www.facebook.com/HopGardenEvansville>
6. Evansville Jays Hometown Baseball League <https://www.facebook.com/EvansvilleJays>
7. Chocolate Extravaganza Feb. 21
8. Bucky Badger Watch Party Feb. 22
9. FFA Farm Toy Show March 1
10. Vintage Shop Hop March 6-7
11. Hop Garden Winter Games March 7
12. Creekside Casino Night March 14
13. EHS High School Musical April 17-19
14. Creekside Indoor Garage Sale April 17-19
15. Ice Age Trail Hike April 25
16. Creekside Cruise Night May 7
17. Art Crawl May 8

Next meeting dates are April 9 and June 11, 2026.