

City of Evansville Common Council
Regular Meeting
City Hall, 31 S Madison St, Evansville WI 53536
Tuesday February 13, 2024, 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

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

Members	Present/Absent	Others Present
Aldersperson, Abbey Barnes	P	Jason Sergeant, City Administrator
Aldersperson, Jim Brooks	P	Leah Hurtley, City Clerk
Aldersperson, Ben Corridon	P	Scott Kriebs, Municipal Services Director
Mayor, Dianne Duggan	P	Mark Kopp, City Attorney
Aldersperson, Ben Ladick	P	Sarah Tachon, Spreading Goodness Ambassador
Aldersperson, Gene Lewis	P	Jim Graham, CHS
Aldersperson, Joy Morrison	P	
Aldersperson, Cory Neeley	P	
Aldersperson, Erika Stuart	P	

3. **Motion to approve the agenda, moving item 10A to follow item 6, by Brooks, seconded by Neeley. Motion passed 8-0.**
4. **Motion to waive the reading of the minutes of the January 9, 2024 regular meeting and approve as presented by Brooks, seconded by Neeley. Motion passed 8-0.**
5. **Civility reminder:** Duggan noted the City’s commitment to civility and decorum at Council Meetings.
6. **Citizen appearances:** None
7. **Reports of Committees:**
 - A. **Library Board Report:** Lehmann read from the written report which stated : Lehmann read from the written report which stated : Bronna Lehmann started as the new Library Director on January 22 and appreciates the warm welcome from the community and the assistance from City Hall staff. We were thankful last Friday to have a fully operational building with WiFi and internet access to help those who were without due to the tornado. We also provided a warm destination for families with several children’s activities. In 2023, people borrowed over 48,000 books, DVDs, and other items from the Library. Almost 24,000 were children’s items. Additionally, area residents made use of 13,864 downloads of ebooks, audiobooks, and videos during the year. We offered 272 in-person programs in 2023 with a total attendance of 3901. We also offered 126 self-directed activities with a total participation of 2673. The Library participated in the community-wide Martin Luther King Day celebration with a program featuring an excerpt from MLK’s “I have a dream” speech read by student Max Mangold followed by a reading from our essay contest winner. Thirty-five people attended. Join us on February 21 at 6pm for the Evansville Community Read discussion of “The Hate U Give” by Angie Thomas. Copies are available at the library.
 - B. **Parks and Recreation Board Report:** Did Not Meet
 - C. **Plan Commission Report:** Sergeant and Duggan reported that the meeting covered updates on CHS.
 - D. **Finance and Labor Relations Committee Report**
 - 1) **Motion to accept the January 2024 City bills as presented in the amount of \$2,043,843.39 by Brooks, seconded by Neeley. Motion passed by Roll Call 8-0.**

- 2) **Motion to Approve Resolution #2024-03, Declaring Official Intent to Reimburse Expenditures from Proceeds of Borrowing for 2024 Capital Improvement Projects by Brooks, seconded by Neeley. Motion passed by Roll Call 8-0.**
- 3) **Motion to Approve the Agreement with Johnson Block CPAs for 2023 Audit Services by Brooks, seconded by Morrison. Motion passed by Roll Call 8-0.**
- 4) **Motion to Approve the Agreement with Ehlers & Associates to update the City's Financial Management Plan by Brooks, seconded by Neeley. Motion passed by Roll Call 8-0.**
- 5) **Motion to Approve the Settlement Agreement with Kevin Viken in the amount of \$206.49 by Brooks, seconded by Morrison. Motion passed by Roll Call 8-0.**
- 6) **Motion to Approve the Agreement with Employee Assistant Group in the amount of \$3,925.00 by Brooks, seconded by Neeley. Motion passed by Roll Call 8-0.**
- 7) **Motion to Approve Electric Substation Agreement with CHS by Brooks, seconded by Morrison. Motion passed by Roll Call 8-0.**

8) **Updates and Discussion regarding CHS Project Proposal and Developer Agreement.**

Sergeant reported that the packet contains an update on the project. Graham added that CHS is still excited about the project and has been looking into the engineering aspects to get everything aligned.

9) **Motion to Approve the Mutual Release and Settlement Agreement between Settler's Grove and the City of Evansville by Brooks, seconded by Morrison. Motion passed by Roll Call 8-0.**

Sergeant explained that the Developer will construct a trail from the current end, to the Park trail by August. If it's not completed, they will reimburse the City the cost to put in the trail. The cost of the trail will be applied towards future Parks and Recreation Development fee requirements.

- E. **Public Safety Committee Report:** Stuart shared there will be a bike event stopping at Lenard Leota Park on September 15th. Duggan informed the Council that Sergeant was looking at and evaluating the outcome of the tornado situation.
- F. **Municipal Services Report:** Brooks reported that there are bid requests out to start on the street's project for the summer. Stuart issued a "Thank You," with Duggan echoing, to Scott Kriebs for his municipal staff and all the hard work that they had done for plowing as well as the assistance for the tornado. Kriebs wanted to reiterate how the Lineworkers and the Public Works Department are a great group, as everyone had shown up to help without anyone calling them.
- G. **Economic Development Committee:** Brooks shared that much of the meeting was spent goal setting for the year, with a focus on work-force training.
- H. **Youth Center Advisory Board Report:** Corridon reported that the EYC has been averaging 20 children a day, with Wednesdays being the busiest. There was additional discussion on Facebook access for the EYC/Aquatic Center Director, and the potential new location.
- I. **Historic Preservation Commission:** Did Not Meet.
- J. **Fire District Report:** Brooks reported that they have started the process for interviews for the new full-time position. Numbers for 2023: 4-Significant Fires, average of 10 Firefighters responding to calls, roughly 2/3's of calls occurred between 6am-6pm (151 daytime, 80 nighttime), 32 motor vehicle fires, 6 building fires, and 3 other vehicle fires. Total EMS assists were down about 30%, with a total of 88 in 2023 (40 for Evansville EMS, 48 Mutual Aid assists)
- K. **Police Commission Report:** Did Not Meet

L. **Energy Independence Team Report:** Brooks shared that the Energy Plan from Slipstream was looked at for recommendations. There are 3 projects that are being looked at for a grant that is available.

M. **Board of Appeals Report:** Did Not Meet

8. **Unfinished Business:** None

9. **Communications and Recommendations of the Administrator.**

A. *Motion to Approve the Third Amendment to the Development Agreement for Development of 31-Room Hotel by Brooks, seconded by Morrison. Motion passed by Roll Call 8-0.*

This agreement predates the current owner, with a TIF loan to build the hotel. The economy performance has not been ideal, resulting in the owner paying to cover the shortfall of the TIF agreement. This Agreement will move owner from A to B and clean up a missing signed copy of an amendment from a few years ago.

Other updates from Sergeant included informing Council that the Utility Bills that have gone out under the new NorthStar system, with some hiccups with PSN. Sergeant shared that there will be meetings in the future to evaluate what happened with the tornado. It was ATC's powerlines that were largely affected. A US Cellular tower had also gone out, which lost all City communication. Once crews from EMS, PD, Fire, and Public Works arrived, they were able to communicate by radio. There have been some ideas to prevent the same thing happening in the future. Sergeant shared how quick the response was, not just from staff, but also from other agencies. The Command Center that was set up within 45 minutes of the tornado. Inside the Command Center, any calls for emergency services inside Evansville were radioed out from the respective Chiefs' to their crews. The Water Operator position has a few days left of the posting, with a couple applications already. The TIF Relief Bill at legislature, was approved by the Senate and should be on the docket for the Assembly this week. Sergeant explained that there was a need to update and modernize the building code as part of the agreement. Sergeant gave an update on the Energy Grant process with Edgerton, as Edgerton is going after another Grant. There was additional discussion about the potential Recreational Coordinator position.

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

A. *Mayoral Proclamation #2024-01, Declaring Friday, March 8th, 2024, as Spread Goodness Day,* read by Brooks.

Duggan shared appreciation for all of the hard work and long hours that were done to help with the tornado clean up. There have been several entities, including Gov. Evers and Senator Pocan, reaching out to check on the status of Evansville. Duggan also shared that the June Common Council meeting will be June 10th instead of the 11th.

11. **New Business**

A. *Motion that the Council suspend its current rule and/or past practice of voting on proposed ordinances only after a first and second reading so that proposed ordinance 2024-01, which is identified as agenda item 12A can be voted on after the first reading by Brooks, seconded by Neeley. Motion passed by Roll Call 8-0.*

Sergeant confirmed that the Ordinance did not go to any Committee and came directly to Common Council for approval. This has become a rush item, as no building permits will be able to be issued without this update.

12. **Introduction of New Ordinances.**

- A. **Motion to Approve Ordinance 2024-01 Amending Chapter 18, Buildings and Building Regulations by Brooks, seconded by Morrison. Motion passed 8-0.**

Sergeant did share that some items have been noticed that may result in some additional changes to this Ordinance in the next few months. Also, this will help align the commercial and residential process as GEC will be doing both. This will help streamline the process for CHS.

13. **Upcoming Meeting Reminder:**

- A. Special Common Council Meeting, Thursday, February 22, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.
B. Regular Common Council Meeting, Tuesday March 12, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

14. **Closed Session: Motion that Common Council convenes in closed session pursuant to section 19.85 (1) (e) of the Wisconsin statutes where discussion in open session would negatively impact the city's competitive or bargaining position and pursuant to Sec. 19.85(1)(c) of the Wis. Stats. to consider performance evaluation data of a public employee over which the governing body has jurisdiction. Upon completion, Common Council will not reconvene in open session by Brooks, seconded by Neeley. Motion passed by Roll Call 8-0.**