

**City of Evansville Public Safety Committee**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Wednesday, April 7, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.**  
Meeting held virtually due to COVID-19 Guidelines  
**MINUTES**

1. **Call to Order at 6:00pm**, by Dianne Duggan, Public Safety Chair.
2. **Roll Call.**

<b>Members</b>	<b>Present/Absent</b>	<b>Others Present</b>
<b>Aldersperson Dianne Duggan, Chair</b>	<b>P</b>	Bill Hurtley, Mayor
<b>Aldersperson Bill Lathrop</b>	<b>P</b>	Jamie Kessenich, EMS Chief
<b>Aldersperson Erika Stuart</b>	<b>P</b>	Chris Jones, Lieutenant
		Darnisha Haley, City Clerk
		Leah Hurtley, Deputy Clerk

3. **Motion to approve the agenda, by Duggan, seconded by Lathrop. Approved unanimously.**
4. **Motion to approve the March 3, 2021 Public Safety regular meeting minutes and approve them as printed, by Lathrop, seconded by Duggan.**
5. Citizen appearances other than agenda items listed. None
6. Old Business.
  - A. **Discussion and possible motion to recommend to Common Council updated Ordinance 2021-03 Amending Chapter 6 Alcohol Beverage. Motion made by Lathrop, seconded by Duggan. Motion Carried.** Darnisha brought the Amended Alcohol Beverage ordinance back due to Bill’s request to have classifications added to the ordinance. Option 1 and Option 2 offered within the packet and presented to the committee. Bill requested to proceed with option 1.
  - B. **Motion to recommend to Common Council Ordinance 2021-04 for updates to Animal Ordinance. Motion made by Stuart, seconded by Lathrop. Motion Carried.** Lathrop requested a grammatical correction to 14-8 2 or more persons, grammatical correction.
  - C. Discussion on EMS and Police Wants & Needs Assessment. Lathrop requested this be on the agenda and supports the need. His opinion would be to continue the topic and have EMS and the Police Department do more of the initial needs assessment ourselves as a cost savings option. Duggan supports the idea to do more homework on our end and then present it to council for direction. Chief Reese and Jamie has the accreditation best practices already and is something that they could put down on paper. Jamie wanted to reiterate again that what she is asking for is not glorified stuff and they do not even have a building that can fit the ambulance in without hitting the walls. In addition, that the current EMS building does not have a building that is legal to sleep in. Duggan reported that Council maybe did not fully support the need but she was purposely waiting to pursue the topic until elections were over and also for the hiring of the new City Administrator. Reese and Kessenich are to sit down and discuss the beginning steps. Lathrop suggested that his incumbent also tour to see what conditions they are working with.
7. New Business.
  - A. Discussion on Place of Last Drink Cooperative Agreement between Janesville Mobilizing 4 Change and Evansville Police Department. Chief Reese presented the topic. Sharing this is an agreement that

“EVPD” has been doing for a number of years. If approved, Jill will be working on gathering data of OWI and drugged driving, from the county and state patrol. EVPD will then provide this information to Janesville Mobilizing 4 Change. In exchange for providing this data, they offer a stipend of \$1,000.00. Reese explained the information is used to help identify the establishments that may be overserving. He went on to say that in Evansville we already know those because we have so few but it is nice to see. Duggan asked if the effort is worth the stipend. Reese said it is not hard to do and the information is helpful and worthwhile. Duggan will bring to council as informational as there is no motion to take and the Chief is the one to sign.

- B. Motion to approve the application for a Street Use License for Creekside Place Cruise Night for the period beginning May through September 2021: Motion made by Stuart, seconded by Lathrop. Motion Carried.**

Thursday, May 6, 2021  
Thursday, June 3, 2021  
Thursday, July 1, 2021  
Thursday, August 5, 2021  
Thursday, September 2, 2021

- C. Motion to approve the Temporary Class “B” Retailer’s License Application for Evansville Home Talent Baseball Club Inc. (Evansville Jays) for the period beginning April through September 2021 at Lake Leota Park, Upper Diamond: Motion made by Lathrop, seconded by Stuart. Motion carried.**

Sunday, June 6, 2021  
Thursday, June 17, 2021  
Sunday, June 20, 2021  
Thursday, July 15, 2021  
Sunday, July 25, 2021  
Thursday, July 29, 2021  
Thursday, August 5, 2021

- D. Motion to approve the Original Operators License application(s) for: (approved by Police Chief Reese unless otherwise noted). Duggan requested applicants #1-3 to be separate from 4&5**

**#1-3 Motion was made by Stuart, seconded by Lathrop, motion carried.**

**#4-5 Motion made by Stuart, seconded by Duggan, but recanted immediately as Chairperson Duggan meant to second for denial. Duggan voted in opposition, seconded by Lathrop. Motion denied.** Stuart asked for clarification from Chief Reese if his “not recommend” stance was due to the nature of the offenses or failure to disclose the information within the application. Chief Reese shared that Ms. Vanthournout had left off information from her underage drinking that she had just received and found guilty of on 9/14/2020. He felt that it was recent enough that she would remember that. Mr. Oner has some outstanding charges in Green County from 10/2020 for Manufacturing/Delivering THC, and second degree Reckless Endangering Safety. He has had one charge dismissed, one conviction, and one felony charge is still pending. With a long driving record.

- 1) Sarah K. Gay
- 2) Marci L. McCaffrey
- 3) Forrest P. Johnson
- 4) Jonathan I. Oner (not recommended)
- 5) Hannah Vanthournout (not recommended)

- E.** Fire District calls and City of Evansville residents. Lathrop requested to add this topic as public record from his experience after serving his term on the Evansville Fire Board. The City of Evansville provides about 60% to the financial support and about 60% of number of calls, excluding mutual aid from other departments. The Board of Trustees of the district includes a member from each of the 6 townships involved and the City has 2 seats. He wanted the committee to be aware of the funding and the activity versus the control discrepancies. Lathrop feels this could be a problem when it comes to the district's policies regarding response fees in particular carbon monoxide responses to charge \$150 vs the standard fee of \$500.00. They expect the \$500 for the natural gas odors and leaks. Lathrop understands that there could be a greater risk when it comes to natural gas; however, we are creating a negative incentive for someone not calling in a gas leak when in fact should. This falls unfairly on city residents because in the last 3 years there have been 33 calls for natural gas odors and leaks, of which 30 were in the city. This particular fee non-reimbursable through insurance and the resident will be responsible for the fee. Lathrop shared his concern with the Fire District Committee but also wanted to emphasize this matter at Public Safety and the city as they may want to discuss and address in the future. Chief Kessnich reported she shares the same concern, stating people do have a fear to call in the event if it is a false alarm and they will be stuck with the large fee.
- 8. Evansville Emergency Medical Services Report.** Chief Kessnich shared her written monthly report. Which included ambulance maintenance issues within the last 24 hours. She had a scheduled repair service after one of the ambulances had hit the side of the St. Mary's garage and yesterday while on a service call, a service light came on the second ambulance and it sent it into "shut down mode" causing it to be towed. Thankfully, the repairs ended up being minor, but it left Evansville and the surrounding area without an ambulance. Kessnich reached out to the Chief from the City of Janesville and they allowed her temporary use of one of their ambulances. Kessnich expressed her gratification to the City of Janesville. Lathrop thanked Jamie for her resourceful quick actions and proposed a formal thank you from the City of Evansville to the City of Janesville. Kessnich said she would appreciate that effort and expressed the importance of keeping these strong relationships. ***Chairperson Duggan would like Jamie to draft a letter of appreciation that Dianne will present to Mayor Hurtley to have him sign.***
- 9. Evansville Police Department Report.** Chief Reese gave the written monthly report covering the training for officers, community outreach, updates in the department, staffing matters, and accreditation. Duggan asked if the resignation of Officer Wendt had anything to do with the City or anything we could have to prevent him from leaving. Chief Reese confirmed it had nothing to do with the department. Chief Reese just asked for the committees understanding of possible overtime pay while they navigate through the replacement transition. Duggan understood.
- Duggan recapped actionable items prior to the next meeting. Chairperson Duggan would also like to officially thank Bill Lathrop for his time spent sitting on the Public Safety Committee and all of his hard work especially navigating through the Covid-19 pandemic and often times asking hard questions that needed to be asked. Duggan expressed her gratitude for him being here and stepping up to take the open spot. Stuart also expressed her appreciation as well.
- 10.** Meeting Reminder: Next regular meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 5, 2021 6:00 p.m.
- 11. Motion to adjourn at 6:52 p.m, made by Stuart, seconded by Duggan. Motion carried.**

*Respectfully submitted, Leah Hurtley, Deputy Clerk City of Evansville*