

City of Evansville Common Council
Regular Meeting
City Hall, 31 S Madison St, Evansville WI 53536
Tuesday, November 8, 2022, 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

1. **Call to order:** *by Mayor Duggan at 6:00 p.m.*
2. **Roll call:**

| Members | Present/Absent | Others Present |
|----------------------------|----------------|--|
| Aldersperson, Jim Brooks | P | City Administrator, Jason Sergeant |
| Aldersperson, Cory Neeley | P | City Treasurer, Julie Roberts |
| Aldersperson, Ben Corridon | P | Attorney, Mark Kopp |
| Mayor, Dianne Duggan | P | Evansville Today, Bill Lathrop |
| Aldersperson, Ben Ladick | P | Municipal Services Director, Chad Renly |
| Aldersperson, Susan Becker | A | Town & Country Engineers, Brian Berquist |
| Aldersperson, Gene Lewis | P | |
| Aldersperson, Joy Morrison | P | |
| Aldersperson, Erika Stuart | P | |

3. **Motion to approve the agenda**, Brooks made a motion, seconded by Neeley to move Item 7G in front of 7A. *Motion carried 7-0*
4. **Motion to waive the reading of the minutes of the October 11th, 2022 Regular Meeting and approve as presented**, by Brooks, seconded by Morrison. Corridon discussed the accuracy of 7E and an error in Item 3, *if-should be it. Motion, carried 7-0.*
5. **Civility reminder.** Recognition of the commitment to civility and decorum at Council meetings.
6. **Citizen appearances other than agenda items listed.** None
7. **Reports of Committees**

A. **Library Board Report.** Megan provided the following typed report.

General Updates: Walworth County became the third and final county to approve the merger of Arrowhead Library System and Lakeshores Library System. The new entity, Prairie Lakes Library System, will take effect on January 1, 2023 and will serve the counties of Racine, Rock, and Walworth.

Megan and Rebecca attended the Wisconsin Library Association Annual Conference in Lake Geneva last week.

The Friends of the Library are bringing their pie sale back this year. This year you can preorder pies (order forms available at the library). Pies will be available for pickup on Wednesday, November 23.

Programming Updates: The Haunted Library program was a big hit. We had 111 people come through! On Friday we are offering a program for kids in grades 3-6 called Ag in the Bag. Participants will learn about soybeans and how to make lip balm.

B. **Parks and Recreation Board Report-** Lewis reported discussion occurred regarding the cofferdam at Lake Leota, winterization of the parks, leaf pickup, and the positive feedback from the temporary soccer fields.

- 1) **Capital Campaign updates and naming opportunities discussion.** Growing Our Parks: Recreation for Generations, Chairperson, Pastor Matthew Pooch was in attendance. Chairperson Pooch gave a brief recap of the committee's efforts and shared that the team has already secured \$130,000 in gifts for the campaign, two of which are for naming rights. Pastor Matt asked the council for consideration of renaming Westside Park, if the opportunity arose, as a naming rights

option. The council agreed if the opportunity arose, they would be open to considering renaming the park so long as council has final say.

C. Plan Commission Report

- 1) Motion to approve a certified survey map (CSM) creating 3 residential lots from tax parcels 6-27-485 and 6-27-484, finding that the application is in the public interest and meets the objectives contained within Sections 110-230 and 110-102(g) of city ordinances, with the conditions the final CSM is recorded with Rock County Register of Deeds and City Engineer approves utility connections and site grading, by Neeley, seconded by Corridon. Motion carried 7-0.
- 2) Motion to approve the creation of a 3.15 acre (2.9 acres excluding right-of-way) residential lot from parcel 6-16-245, a 78.07 lot zoned A-1 Exclusive Agriculture, located at 7101 North Tolles Road, Town of Porter, finding that the application is in the public interest and meets the objectives contained within Sections 110-230 and 110-102(g) of city ordinances, with the condition the final CSM is recorded with Rock County Register of Deeds, and that the application fulfills any other obligations set forth by the Town of Porter and Rock County, by Neeley, seconded by Corridon. Motion carried 7-0.
- 3) Motion to approve the creation of a 3.0 acre residential lot from parcel 6-20-130, a 112 acre lot zoned A-1 Exclusive Agriculture, located at 9202 N. Evansville-Brooklyn Road, Town of Union, finding that the application is in the public interest and meets the objectives contained within Sections 110-230 and 110-102(g) of city ordinances, with the condition the final CSM is recorded with Rock County Register of Deeds, and that the application fulfills any other obligations set forth by the Town of Union and Rock County, by Neeley, seconded by Corridon. Motion carried 7-0.
- 4) Discussion and Second Reading of Ordinance # 2022-13, An Ordinance Rezoning Territory from Local Business District (B-1) to Community Business District (B-3) (On Parcel 6-27-559.5170). A Motion made by Brooks, seconded by Neeley. Motion carried 7-0.

D. Finance and Labor Relations Committee Report

- 1) Motion to accept the October 2022 City bills as presented in the amount of \$2,024,828.74, by Corridon, seconded by Morrison. Motion carried 7-0 by roll call vote.

2) Public Hearing: 2023 Operational Budget

- i) **Staff Summary-** Reported by City Administrator Jason Sergeant. Sergeant explained the total mill increase compared to last year is less than \$0.50 and further explained the primary reason is wages mainly due to the Wage Study. The Cost of Labor Increase (COLA) will be 3.75%. Other factors include the street projects and some projects associated with the Westside Park projects. Sergeant thanked Department Heads for their efforts working on the budget, with the effort to relieve the wage pressure, tough decisions were made and any more cuts could negatively affect the quality of service the city provides.

Neeley asked if there are any places where unregulated expenses within the community could be increased to reduce the pressure of rising costs and to possibly generate revenue, specifically mentioning cemetery fees.

Sergeant explained one fee increase provision occurred to the Local Vehicle Registration fee and that will help tremendously on some of the street improvement projects.

Julie Roberts interjected, clarifying that cemetery is its own fund therefore it would not affect the general ledger.

Neeley questioned if allocations have occurred to make sure things are being done, as they should be.

Sergeant replied some allocations have been done and there are recommendations on how to measure others by next budget cycle.

Brooks mentioned another fee increase consideration in discussion is for the yard waste site on Water Street.

ii) Public Hearing-opened at 6:42 p.m.

Bill Lathrop, Evansville Today, 468 W Main Street

Lathrop's first question was in regards to the Finance cell listed under "Government and Administration" has a budgeted amount of \$107,924 which is about 17,000 higher than what had been previously presented. Sergeant explained that this number is based upon the 7 or 8 positions wage scale that will increase as COLA was not taken into consideration, one of which contract is on the agenda, and also has a number of increases before the next budget cycle. The other factor is the two positions that are vacant assuming the higher end of the pay range currently being offered. Brooks contributed; allocations reduced in utilities also came back to general government. Sergeant confirmed.

Lathrop's second question directed to Mr. Brooks. During the September 22nd session, Brooks inquired about the Senior Transportation Services in Health and Human Services budget specific to services Creekside Place was providing the \$23,000.00 the City provides. Sergeant answered, he reviewed the contract, however it appears to be outdated. Sergeant intends to sit down with Creekside and have a discussion.

Lathrop's last question was on Medicare write-offs under EMS. Stating it is one of the larger expenses for the city and under that department. Lathrop asked how the city planned to manage the costs. Sergeant explained that calls have gone up and therefore one could assume that the expenses for write-offs would go up. He acknowledged that the city needs to learn more about it and plans to work with Carolyn to understand and look for solutions.

Public Hearing-closed at 6:48 p.m.

iii) Final discussion by Council-

Corridon

Corridon's asked for clarification on the increase in DPW Salary under Public Works Recycling Fleet. Sergeant confirmed Corridon's presumption that it is due to the wage study results in addition to the 3.75% COLA increase.

Corridon, questioned the \$5,000 budgeted in 2022 under Park Maintenance, Pool, Park Store—Baseball "Lake Leota Fish Stocking" committee discussion occurred.

Stuart

Stuart acknowledged her support and highlighted the thoughtful consideration of the council to implement the wage increases for city employees.

Neeley

Questioned where the 3.75% COLA increase number came from. Sergeant confirmed it was what the police union negotiated and therefore proposed to council for all fulltime employees to be consistent.

Brooks

Council President Jim Brooks expressed his appreciation to Roberts, Sergeant and all of the department heads for all their hard work of putting the budget together.

- iv) *Motion to adopt Resolution 2022-27, 2023 Operation and Capital Budget, by Brooks, seconded by Corridon. Motion carried 7-0 by roll call vote.*
- 3) *Motion to approve employment contract with Leah Hurtley, by Brooks, seconded by Morrison. Motion carried 7-0 by roll call vote.*
- 4) *Motion to approve employment contract with Carolyn Kleisch, by Brooks, seconded by Morrison. Motion carried 7-0 by roll call vote.*
- E. **Public Safety Committee Report**—Stuart shared discussion occurred in regards to dogs being off the leash and confusion surrounding the language of the current ordinance. Stuart reported the PD and EMS have been stretched thin between number of calls, magnitude of calls, and community events including assignment to Creekside on Election Day and Halloween.
- 1) *Motion to approve the Original Alcohol Beverage License applications for a Class B Beer/Class Liquor License for Trapper’s Bar and Grill LLC, Travis Schuh, Agent, 3942 S. State Rd 213, Orfordville, WI 53576, d/b/a Trapper’s Bar and Grill, 50 Union Street, Evansville WI 53536, by Stuart, seconded by Corridon. Morrison pointed out an error in the address on the Auxiliary Questionnaire for Vanessa Slye, 14 South-Madison should be North. Neeley highlighted the driver’s license status on Auxiliary Questionnaire for Travis Schuh. Motion carried 7-0.*
- F. **Municipal Services Report**
- 1) *Motion to approve the recommended bid from: Lunda Construction for the placement of the cofferdam at Lake Leota’s southern spillway in the amount of: \$123,984.50, by Brooks, seconded by Morrison. Neeley questioned the price difference (~ \$100,000.00) between Lunda Construction and the second lowest bidder. Chad Renly stated that the price difference is reflective due to Lunda Construction being a larger company and the other smaller company would constitute the need to rent the equipment. Motion carried 7-0 on a roll call vote.*
- 2) **Electric Utility Benchmark Report.** Brooks highlighted the PowerPoint created by WPPI labeled, *Evansville Water & Light Selected Financial and Operating Ratios.* Brooks explained it is an in-depth study of how Evansville Water & Light compares to similar utilities across the state of Wisconsin. Brooks explains the pending rate case should help mitigate some of the deficiencies and does not want to go another 10 years without looking at rates.
- 3) **2023 APPA Legislative Rally February 27 to March 1, 2023 – Washington D.C.**
- G. **Economic Development Committee**—Brooks reports extended conversations occurred in attempts to support the Chamber of Commerce while they are still in transition.
- H. **Youth Center Advisory Board Report**—Corridon still working on the exterior door is working with DPW on timeline. 35-40 children are in the building. As the weather gets colder it may put pressure on crowding. Corridon reports there is planning occurring for spring fundraising including renting the fieldhouse in late March early April. Sergeant contributed he is working with Angie on the door.
- I. **Historic Preservation Commission**—Lewis a presentation took place for 224 W Church St and complimented the efforts taking place. HPC approved an application for Tourism at 1 E Main for a Circus mural. Lewis reports a heated discussion occurred on an action item at 103-105 S Madison St, regarding vinyl windows, as the owner/builder replaced the windows without a building permit or historic approval. Staff approved a few reroof permits. Lewis reported that Collette and Leah met to discuss a preventative measure that can be taken during the real estate transition that would disclose the historic relevance on the closing documents.

- J. **Fire District Report**—Brooks reported preliminary numbers for the Fire District show ~40 more calls than last year at this time. Three weeks ago there was a big weekend on calls including 6 major calls within 2 days; 3 mutual aid-Edgerton, Footville and Oregon for a house explosion.
 - K. **Police Commission Report.** Did not meet.
 - L. **Energy Independence Team Report**—Brooks reported a good meeting last Wednesday morning. Reports from Scott, Head of the Energy Team at the High School, “Green Team.” They discussed grants that they applied for. February meeting will be held at the High School.
 - M. **Board of Appeals Report.** Did not meet.
8. **Unfinished Business**
- A. **Second reading of Ordinance # 2022-14, An Ordinance Replacing Section 126-191 of the Municipal Code for the City of Evansville.** Brian, Town and Country explained that this is back to Council due to a clerical error. The change allows citizens to have a longer grace period. The purpose is to create compliance not punishment. There are grant funding available for this year he hopes people will take advantage. The ordinance is a requirement with the DNR to be eligible for the grants. *Motion was made by Brooks, seconded by Neeley. Motion carried 7-0.*
9. **Communications and Recommendations of the Administrator**—Sergeant reports energy audits will be occurring at the library as well as city hall. Sergeant shared park improvements progress and shared that due to the concrete shortage the deep end of the pool may not happen before the end of this year. There has been reassurance that this will not affect any deadlines. Sergeant shared \$130,000.00 thus far has been raised in donations for the capital campaign. The Capital Campaign Charitable Fund Agreement “the Community Foundation” (approved last month) was signed by their board. There is now a link on the city’s website where donations can be made online for the 5% fee. Now that the budget has been approved, the focus will be to work with Ehler’s on the borrowing plan in preparations for the 5 year borrowing plan.
10. **Communications and Recommendations of the Mayor**—The Mayor thanked all for everything they do. Wished all a Happy Thanksgiving and expressed appreciation to those who voted. Mayor Duggan tentatively scheduled the Committee of the Whole meeting for Saturday, January 14 2023.
11. **New Business**—Sergeant asked Brian Berquist on Stormwater and status of the bricks on Main Street. Brian said the business owners and the contractors have been great to work with given the current projects. Some bricks were lifted twice; they appear to be stable and will continue to monitor them during the warranty period. Corridon asked how long the warranty period was for the answer is 12 months. Discussion occurred on other construction updates around town.
12. **Introduction of New Ordinances.**
13. **Upcoming Meeting Reminder:** Regular Common Council Meeting, Tuesday December 13, 2022, at 6:00 pm.
14. **Motion to Adjourn, by Brooks, seconded by Ladick at 7:38 p.m.**

Leah Hurtley, City Clerk