

Common Council Regular Meeting

Tuesday, July 14, 2020, 6:00 p.m.

In response to COVID-19, this meeting was held virtually to ensure the safety of members and the public. Attendance was through a virtual meeting at <https://meet.google.com/pyk-ohwa-rix> and also available by phone at 1 (765) 999-1628. PIN: 254 197 708#.

MINUTES

1. **Call to order.** The meeting was called to order by Mayor Bill Hurlley at 6:00 p.m.
2. **Roll Call.** Members present: Mayor Bill Hurlley, Alderpersons Jim Brooks, Rick Cole, Dianne Duggan, Bill Lathrop, Gene Lewis, Joy Morrison, and Erika Stuart. Alderperson Ben Ladick was absent. Others present: City Administrator/Finance Director Ian Rigg, City Clerk/Treasurer Judy Walton, Community Development Director Jason Sergeant, City Attorney Mark Kopp, Roger Berg, Dan Butcher, and Nancy Greve. Peggy Blohm joined the meeting at 6:41 p.m.
3. **Approval of Agenda.** Brooks made a motion, seconded by Cole to approve the agenda. Motion approved 7-0.
4. **Approval of Minutes.** Brooks made a motion, seconded by Duggan to waive the reading of the minutes of June 9, 2020 and approve as presented. Motion approved 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.** Rigg read a report prepared by Library Director Megan Kloeckner as follows:
 - General Updates
 - We have adapted our summer programming for this year, and we have had a lot of positive feedback and success with our curbside craft kits, take and make projects, and story window.
 - We are continuing to offer curbside pickup and computer use by appointment.
 - The libraries in the Arrowhead system are now offering access to Creativebug. This provides access to thousands of award-winning art and craft video classes that are taught by experts and artists.
 - Grant Funding
 - Our CARES grant period ends August 31, so we will be working to finalize our purchase over the next month. We will finalize our grant report in September.
 - B. **Youth Center Advisory Board Report.** No report.
 - C. **Plan Commission Report.** Hurlley reported some of the members toured BlueScope, looking at their lighting.

- D. Finance and Labor Relations Committee Report.** Cole reported they received an update on capital financing for the next 8-10 years, discussed rate cases, and they were warned that it is budget time.
- 1) Cole made a motion, seconded by Duggan to accept the City bills as presented in the amount of \$1,058,113.77. Motion approved 7-0 on a roll call vote.
 - 2) Cole made a motion, seconded by Stuart to approve agreement with Wisconsin Elections Commission for Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security sub-grant program. Rigg stated this is a sub-grant to the CARES Grant, specific to elections. Motion approved 7-0 on a roll call vote.
- E. Public Safety Committee Report.** Duggan reported domestic violence cases are up and all other calls are about the same for EVPD and EMS. Chief Reese is asking about possibly having 2 sergeants, one patrol sergeant and one detective sergeant. One sergeant would be on 3rd shift. Rigg stated this wouldn't add an additional staff member.
- 1) Duggan made a motion, seconded by Stuart to approve the Care House interagency agreement. Duggan stated this is a standard annual agreement with the Case House as part of the YWCA of Rock County. These people are specifically trained to help with sexual assault victims. Brooks asked if there was any concern that the Evansville School District doesn't sign like other school districts do. Rigg stated he believed it was because the school districts listed had Resource Officers. Morrison asked Kopp for his opinion on that and he said Rigg's description of why the other districts signed was accurate because they do have officers in school. Motion approved 7-0 on a roll call vote.
- F. Municipal Services Report.** Brooks reported they looked at using some underground booster stations for a project on the west side; adopted some policies regarding the electric bills because of COVID-19 to help get bills collected in a timely manner so people can be current before the next moratorium in October. The Town of Union has passed the agreement for placing delinquent utility accounts onto the tax roll. They voted to evenly split the \$9,200 recharge money from WPPI between 10 non-profits in Evansville. WPPI Energy Services Representative Cory Neeley has resigned to start his own business.
- G. Economic Development Committee.** Brooks reported there was a lot of discussion on COVID-19. Sergeant added that they discussed the WPPI funds given to non-profits, and they discussed changes to the parking on Main Street to help with traffic width and visibility for pedestrians.
- H. Parks and Recreation Board Report.** Morrison reported they discussed COVID-19 and Rock County Phase II guidelines of the reopening; reviewed draft of the Park and Recreation Plan 2020-2025; the repairs for the pool was quoted to not exceed \$25,000 but they are not confident it will correct the problem; doors were fixed on the lower bathroom; the goose away will be installed in mid to late July to help reduce the goose population; summer help is intact; and they discussed the pool concept results (cost, location, referendum recommendations and fundraising).
- 1) **Discussion on pool referendum.**
Rigg started the discussion on the pool referendum. The Park and Recreation Board didn't have a final recommendation for Council for the referendum question but had a general direction. They wanted to ask 2 separate questions: 1. Have a joint project and have the pool at Westside Park, lose a soccer field, and save \$2

million dollars; or 2. Keep the soccer field, add \$2 million dollars to the project, and keep the pool at Lake Leota Park. The pool survey only brought 169 respondents and the questions were on the features and not the location. He pointed out some items from the survey.

Brooks confirmed that referendum questions have to be a yes/no question. He is concerned at how late in the year it is getting in order to get the public informed.

Lathrop stated he first heard of this topic when he participated in the survey and it seemed like there was a specific range of options. At a time of economic uncertainty and potential societal uncertainty he wants to be sure the right long term decision is made. He supports water recreation in the community but wants the Council to think broadly, perhaps several splash pads throughout the city and a smaller pool. He would support a more general referendum question versus specific.

Rigg stated we need to have a general concept of the features and costs.

Brooks asked if this would be a non-binding referendum and Rigg replied he would make it binding as it is a 20 year note.

Hurtley commented that we need to look out for the maintenance of the things we build. The pool doesn't make any money. He addressed a question from a resident who took the survey and they were confused about pool versus soccer fields. He said the real issue is whether we rebuild the pool where it is at and then do Westside Park at a cost of \$10 million or do we redo Westside Park including a pool at a cost of \$8 million. We need to get our residents informed that we are considering moving the pool to Westside Park as that plan would save \$2 million dollars. He thinks we need a pool, we've had this one for over 60 years.

Rigg said that information needs to go out, whether it's a mailing or putting boards up at city hall and other public locations, with pictures and some quick flashes of information of features only, not final design.

Hurtley asked how we get this information out.

Brooks said people were confused with the survey because they thought they were voting on designs and not features. If we say we lose a soccer field, that isn't accurate because we don't currently have that soccer field. He is concerned that there isn't a plan to get this information out to the public.

Morrison suggested perhaps changing the plan for now to include replacing the pool and only do a splash pad at Westside Park.

Hurtley stated we don't have ample baseball fields, we struggle with space, but need to figure this out.

Rigg suggested posing only one question – keeping the same number of soccer fields, adding 3 baseball fields, and adding a pool to Westside Park. In the future we could possibly add a splash pad at the current pool site.

Sergeant pointed to the draft park plan and that survey, with over 600 respondents, to the question of what they wanted to see in the future for recreation in Evansville and at the top of the list was expanded aquatic facilities, park festivals, walking/biking paths, splash pads, and on. He said we need to understand the tolerance for how much folks are willing to pay and what are the priorities? If

splash pads are a priority he believes that language needs to be in the referendum. He is concerned that there isn't sufficient time to relay this information to the public. Also, he is hesitant to show plans to the public before it goes before the Plan Commission and has review by the Historic Preservation Commission.

Morrison likes Sergeant's idea of facilities at both sides of town (pool on one side and splash pad on the other) but still likes a central location.

Lewis stated he doesn't participate in the soccer games or ball games, he walks to Lake Leota not Westside Park due to proximity to his home, but he would prefer the pool to remain centrally located where it is now. He thinks there should be separate questions on the referendum.

Duggan thinks clarity will be helpful. Letting people know that we are gaining things not losing anything, we are limited on space for where we can put the pool, and we can't keep the old one going.

Rigg stated he has put information about the pool out there and can re-use a lot of the information but he needs a dollar amount for the referendum. He is having trouble finding the time, or finding someone with time, to get the message out of why we have to do this, what is it going to cost, and what are people getting for that amount of money.

Stuart hopes we can get the message out because she thinks this will be a great asset to the city.

Brooks stated there needs to be language for referendum questions presented to the Council. We need to know what to share with the community, how we are going to share it, and how are we going to build support for this.

Lathrop asked if this conversation was enough for the Park Board to craft language and Morrison replied that it was helpful but they need direction.

Hurtley stated the language needs to come from the Park Board, presented to Council, and then hammer it out.

- 2) **Handout of Draft Park Plan.** Hurtley stated this will be talked about in August. Sergeant reminded Council that the schedule was for this to go to the Park Board for the last time next week, then a public hearing at Plan Commission in August and then presented to Council for approval in August. He stressed the importance for the Council to look through the plan and let him know very, very soon if there are questions or concerns. He directed them to the back of the plan where they will find a chart that includes all the recommendations during the development of the plan.
- I. **Historic Preservation Commission.** Morrison reported they approved applications for 111 W Liberty/307 S First - fence, 10 W Liberty – replace porch and door, and 137-139 E Main – new sign. They tabled an application for 32 W Main – replace windows. They reviewed the Park Plan 2020-2025. There were 2 staff issued certificates of appropriateness for roof replacement at 44 Garfield and 245 W Liberty.
- J. **Fire District Report.** Brooks reported the new breathing apparatus has arrived, some new turnout gear (part of the regular rotation) was put in this month, and they've taken possession of the chassis for the new tender so the 2 year saga of the new tender continues.

K. Police Commission Report. No report.

L. Energy Independence Team Report. No report.

M. Board of Appeals Report. Sergeant reported they approved a variance for a rezone, an item later on the agenda.

8. Unfinished Business.

A. Brooks presented the second reading and made a motion, seconded by Lewis to approve Ordinance 2020-09 Rezoning Territory from Special Use Business District (B-5) to Special Industrial District (I-3). Sergeant went through his staff report. The occupant is trying to work on a number of innovative business ideas and one of those involves the manufacturing or assembling of ammunition which triggers a heavy industrial verbiage in our code. Rezoning is the answer to that. He has no issues with the request and approval is recommended by the Plan Commission. The property is at 155 S Union Street. The ammunition portion of the business is heavily regulated by the Federal Government.

After a suggestion by Kopp, Brooks made a motion, seconded by Duggan to amend the motion to use the language from the staff report for the main motion as follows: Motion to approve Ordinance 2020-09, Rezoning Parcel 6-27-343 at 155 S Union Street from Special Use Business District (B-5) to Special Industrial District (I-3), finding that the public benefits of the proposed rezoning outweigh any and all potential adverse impacts, as identified in Section 130-174(3)a-c of City ordinances. Amendment approved 7-0.

Brooks asked about this interfering with the Gateway Plan and Sergeant answered it would not. He asked if it was outside of the wellhead protection zone and Sergeant answered it is within the zone but none of the uses trigger anything out of that wellhead protection.

Cole asked several questions specific to the business that applicant Dan Butcher answered.

Sergeant brought the discussion back to the motion for rezoning as the conditional use permit was already approved by the Plan Commission.

Main motion, as amended, approved 6-1 with Cole opposing.

9. Communications and Recommendations of the Administrator. Rigg reported we are finishing up the audit, came across something that needs work to get correct balances; began the budget process and sent the capital working form and operation sheets to the department heads with a schedule; don't know if information from the state will come in timely due to COVID-19; Friday the 24th is the deadline for RFP's for solid waste service; Julie Roberts is working on separating the water and electric funds; and last week we bought new treasury's.

A. Brooks made a motion, seconded by Duggan to approve a contract with Convergent Technologies for camera maintenance and support. Rigg stated this company was formerly Integrated Security Solutions. We had a 3 year support system when we purchased the cameras for the Police Department and that is expiring. This would keep the cameras under a basic contract. Motion approved 7-0 on a roll call vote.

10. Communications and Recommendations of the Mayor. Hurtley asked Council to not take any of the following motions personal as he rearranged appointments to include our new Alderpersons. He asked anyone with questions or concerns to contact him.

- A. Brooks made a motion, seconded by Duggan to approve the appointments of Gene Lewis to the Alderperson seat on the Historic Preservation Commission currently held by Joy Morrison and the vacant seat on the Municipal Services Committee. Motion approved 7-0 on a roll call vote.
- B. Brooks made a motion, seconded by Cole to approve the appointment of Bill Lathrop to the Alderperson seat on the Fire Board currently held by Rick Cole and the vacant seat on the Public Safety Committee. Motion approved 7-0 on a roll call vote.
- C. Brooks made a motion, seconded by Cole to approve the appointment of Nancy Nelson to the Tourism Commission. Motion approved 7-0 on a roll call vote.
- D. Brooks made a motion, seconded by Cole to approve the Appointment of Ken Updike to the Evansville Youth Center Committee and the Zoning Board of Appeals. Motion approved 7-0 on a roll call vote.

11. New Business. None.

12. Introduction of New Ordinances. None

13. Meeting Reminders

- A. The next regular meeting is scheduled for August 11, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

14. Closed Session. Brooks made a motion, seconded by Cole to convene in closed session pursuant to Sec. 19.85(1)(e) of the Wis. Stats. to deliberate, discuss, and possibly establish negotiating parameters for the possible purchase of public property or properties where discussion in open session might negatively impact competitive or bargaining positions. Upon completion, Common Council will not reconvene in open session. Motion approved 7-0 on a roll call vote at 7:38 p.m.

The City Clerk left the meeting at this time.

A new virtual meeting was started for closed session. No action was taken during closed session and the meeting ended at 8:03 p.m.

Judy Walton, City Clerk/Treasurer

The minutes are not official until approved by the Common Council at the next regular meeting.