

Common Council Regular Meeting

Tuesday, August 11, 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 Hurtley at 6:02 p.m.
2. **Roll Call.** Members present: Mayor Bill Hurtley, Alderpersons Jim Brooks, Dianne Duggan, Bill Lathrop, Ben Ladick, Gene Lewis, Joy Morrison, and Erika Stuart. Alderperson Rick Cole was absent. Others present: City Administrator/Finance Director Ian Rigg, City Clerk/Treasurer Judy Walton, Community Development Director Jason Sergeant, Municipal Services Director Chad Renly, City Attorney Mark Kopp, Evansville Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Executive Director Christina Slaback, and several members of the public.
3. **Approval of Agenda.** Brooks made a motion, seconded by Lathrop 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 July 14, 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 are continuing to offer curbside pickup and computer use by appointment.
 - We hope to open to the public at a reduced capacity soon. We are still waiting on the last of our protective equipment to arrive.
 - We are hiring for two positions – library clerk and library aide.
 - B. **Youth Center Advisory Board Report.** Brooks reported they met and talked about in-person versus virtual opening. Social distancing would be difficult due to the size of the center. They talked about all the supplies/crafts, food, and cleaning. The center will not open until school opens for 5 days, face-to-face. This could change.
 - C. **Plan Commission Report.** Stuart reported they had a discussion with Mr. Johnson regarding issues that may come up with the development on the west side. They also had a good discussion on the park plan.

Sergeant added the Council approval for the preliminary land division for Settler's Grove will sit on ice until some items can get worked out.

There were 2 site plan approvals, one for McDonalds and one for Landmark on County M.

D. Finance and Labor Relations Committee Report

- 1) Duggan made a motion, seconded by Lathrop to accept the City bills as presented in the amount of \$906,708.57. Motion approved 7-0 on a roll call vote.
- 2) Duggan made a motion, seconded by Morrison to recommend to Common Council an agreement with Key Benefit Concepts for the Subsequent OPEB Valuation for the City of Evansville. Motion approved 7-0 on a roll call vote.
- 3) Rigg reported on the 2019 Audit – Fund Balance Summary stating everything is great. We are within a lot of our policy standards, TID 5 is still suffering but slowly improving, and the General Fund unassigned balance is at 39% of total expenditures or \$135,000 - \$150,000 above the minimum. There is a large balance in the Capital Fund due to uncompleted projects that are being paid for in 2020 which will result in an approximate balance at year-end 2020 of \$65,000. EMS could have possibly purchased an ambulance in 2019 but their cash balance would have been near zero so we did borrow some. Tourism could be looking at a reduction due to COVID and lower room tax.

Morrison asked if the 39% figure in the General Fund was a healthy margin. Brooks explained the 35 - 40% limit is a self-imposed limit by Council. Going over 40% would mean we are over taxing and going under 35% could mean we may not have enough cash for emergencies.

E. Public Safety Committee Report. Duggan reported Officer Jessica Rittenhouse was promoted to Detective Sergeant and Officer Ian Reilly to Patrol Sergeant. Calls for both EVPD and EMS are starting to return to pre-COVID levels, and they had a general discussion about the budget. Brooks asked if there was any discussion about crowd control policies and Duggan said she will look into that. Lathrop recognized the Public Safety Department for having reliable sirens that sounded before the storm hit yesterday as that wasn't always the case. Duggan reported that Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Samantha Jozefowicz is moving out of state.

- 1) Duggan made a motion, seconded by Stuart to approve new agent for Romano's Pizza Inc. Motion approved 7-0.
- 2) Duggan made a motion, seconded by Stuart to approve the Rock County Special Investigations Unit Multi-Jurisdictional Agency Agreement. Duggan explained this is renewing an annual agreement we have been a part of for some time. Motion approved 7-0 on a roll call vote.

F. Municipal Services Report. Brooks reported the leaf vac should be ready to go this year, the new transformer is in, they discussed the groundwater on the west side and where the stormwater goes and if it interrupts the bike path, and they discussed sewer credits. Stuart commented she was glad to hear the bike path is a positive. Rigg stated that Renly and Brian Berquist met with the property owners.

- 1) Renly began the discussion on pedestrian safety and parking changes to Main street. He reported there was a safety study conducted between 1st Street and Maple Street due to concerns from residents and business owners. Painting has been done to help with visibility in the crosswalks and to help keep drivers from using the extra pavement area as a turn lane. Current parking is at a 45-degree angle and we've looked at 30-degree and also parallel. Mid-block crosswalk bump outs which would raise pedestrians up 6 inches to be more visible to traffic. The parallel parking is being recommended at the northwest and

southeast quadrants of Main and Madison Streets. This would really improve the Maple and Main Streets intersection.

Brooks reported the plan was taken to the Municipal Services Committee, Economic Development Committee, and Renly took it to the business community. Renly stated he felt the plan was received well by the business community. Morrison agreed it was well received and stated Renly did a good job presenting the plan. The total loss of parking spaces would be 13.

Hurtley recommended changing the stall configuration as soon as we can. Informing the public through the city's website and Facebook was suggested as well as publishing it in the newspaper.

Christina Slaback stated that, overall, the business community is in favor as long as stipulations are met with the signage. Additionally, the timeline needs to be shared with the business community.

Brooks made a motion, seconded by Lathrop to immediately begin moving forward with the plan to change parallel parking on the northwest and southeast quadrants and adopt the striping and pedestrian bump outs improvements for Main Street.

Sergeant shared a couple business owner concerns that were sent to him; eliminating parking in front of their store, parallel parking being more dangerous, and concern that speed would increase.

Motion approved 7-0 on a roll call vote.

- 2) Brooks made a motion, seconded by Duggan to approve Resolution 2020-18, Review and Approval of the 2019 Compliance Maintenance Annual Report. Brooks stated it was a good report this year. We need to reduce the chloride and we hope to have an incentive program to help residents purchase more efficient water softeners to reduce the amount of chloride released to the groundwater. Motion approved 7-0 on a roll call vote.

- 3) Rigg began the discussion of the solid waste and recycling contract by directing Council to his prepared report and comparative matrix for Advanced Disposal, Badgerland Disposal, and Pellitteri. Rigg stated we were looking at environmental impact and other services that might be more environmentally friendly. A representative from each company was present. The discussion included the frequency of solid waste and recycling collection, bulk waste pickup, cost, e-waste, florescent light disposal, battery recycling, and tires.

Brooks made a motion, seconded by Duggan to authorize the City Administrator to proceed with contract development and to notify the award of solid waste and recycling contract with Badgerland utilizing bi-weekly recycling. Motion approved 7-0 on a roll call vote.

Brooks and Hurtley thanked the representatives for their work on the contracts and for attending the meetings.

- G. Economic Development Committee.** Brooks reported they talked about COVID response and took a first look at the 2021 budget.

H. Parks and Recreation Board Report. Morrison reported they discussed security at the park and motion sensors have been installed by Water & Light which seems to be working well. They talked about lake testing/monitoring. Renly added the citizen volunteer program is where the volunteers test the water's phosphorus levels and clarity and volunteers are needed. These wasn't any need for additional clean up after the 4th of July, lower bathroom has been painted, and they discussed the goose deterrent. Renly said they used Away With Geese which flashes lights every 2 seconds to interrupt their sleep patterns and we saw a drastic reduction as about 60-80 geese are gone. Sand bees are laying eggs in the sand at Brzezinski, Countryside, and Westside Park. Renly reported a granule insecticide was used and has resolved the issue.

They discussed a splash pad with an estimated cost of \$450,000 and discussed the grant associated with the dam at Lake Leota and the grant has been approved. Renly reported there were 33 applications submitted and we were placed towards the top of the list. He explained some details of the project.

Additionally, they reviewed the 2020-2025 Park Plan, pool report, referendum recommendations, and fundraising.

- 1) Rigg began the discussion on the pool referendum question(s) for the 2020 November Election. He explained that there was some discussion with the Town of Union helping with the cost and he was informed that they needed to petition their residents for the question. On Friday he learned that this will not be done so the full cost will need to be paid by the City of Evansville, less any donations. He presented a breakdown of the costs.

Brooks questioned why we would ask 2 separate questions and Rigg explained he was led to believe it had to be this way but this information has recently changed so we do have options.

Lathrop expressed his discomfort in presenting the cost of this to the taxpayers as net of some other event of which we have no control, which we are lucky enough to have, but it is essentially unrelated to the pool itself and he doesn't feel it is being fully transparent to the taxpayer and he is not comfortable with proceeding in that way. Morrison asked if he meant the additional items at Westside Park and Lathrop said no it is the wording of the estimated cost to the taxpayer being \$98.00 when the actual cost to the taxpayer is closer to \$300.00. The reduction of the school district debt is helpful and if we can find a way to sell that he would support that but he is not comfortable presenting that as a net cost.

Kopp explained that this was discussed in detail with Bond Counsel and it was agreed it is a policy decision but potential pitfalls is the risk of confusing the question with the voters (is it too dense) and another concern is that these are just estimates and is that certain enough information to provide.

Rigg stated they discussed this at Park Board and the idea was to let people know how much would actually be taken out of their wallet. Due to the school debt schedule, their tax rate will go down in 2 years and this will hit in 3 years.

Brooks added that during his time we've watched what the school was doing so we weren't borrowing for a large project at the same time as the school. It makes

sense in the planning to see what will fall off the school budget. He thinks that if the message that we are putting out is impact, he feels this is fair and transparent as it accurately addresses the impact.

Rigg presented language for the questions.

Brooks made a motion, seconded by Ladick to approve pool referendum question for 2020 November Election using the language in Option 2* for both options (same language, different numbers) with choices for the referendum being Option 1, Option 2, or None of the above.

*(*Option 2. Shall the City bond for the constructing of an aquatic center, 2 soccer fields, 3 ball diamonds, playground equipment and trails at West Side Park in an amount not to exceed \$8,600,000. Estimated 2023 taxes (payable 2024) on every \$200,000 of assessed value is \$98 more than the most recent 2019 city and school portion of the tax bill (payable 2020).)*

Discussion continued about adding a splash pad as that was an item in the top 5 wants in the Park Plan survey. Additionally, language may need to be added letting people know that the facility at Lake Leota park will be demolished.

Brooks withdrew his motion. Ladick withdrew his motion.

Brooks made a motion, seconded by Ladick to approve pool referendum questions for 2020 November Election as follows:

Option 1 (1 location) Shall the City bond for constructing an aquatic center, 2 soccer fields, 3 ball diamonds, playground equipment & trails at West Side Park and a splash pad at Lake Leota Park in an amount not to exceed \$X,XXX,XXX. Estimated 2023 taxes (due 2024) on every \$200,000 of assessed value will be \$XXX more than the most recent 2019 city and school portion of the tax bill (payable 2020).

Option 2 (2 locations) Shall the City bond for constructing an aquatic center at Lake Leota Park as well as 3 soccer fields, 3 ball diamonds, playground equipment, a splash pad & trails at West Side Park in an amount not to exceed \$XX,XXX,XXX. Estimated 2023 taxes (payable 2024) on every \$200,000 of assessed value will be \$XXX more than the most recent 2019 city and school portion of the tax bill (payable 2020).

(Note: the amounts will be inserted after recalculating to include a splash pad)

In either case, the existing pool will be demolished.

Option 3 – none of the above

Motion approved 7-0.

Kopp questioned the demolition language.

Brooks made a motion, seconded by Ladick to amend the motion to add the current pool will be demolished in the language of Option 1 and 2.

Amendment approved 7-0. Main motion, as amended, approved 7-0.

8:25 p.m. The City Clerk was excused from the meeting to check in with the Election Officials conducting the Partisan Primary.

- I. Historic Preservation Commission.** Lewis reported they approved an application for repairs to a carriage house.
 - J. Fire District Report.** Brooks reported they added 3 firefighters and 1 left. They discussed collections efforts. The EMS and Fire Department Officers have started talking about possibilities for combining operations and saving some money.
 - K. Police Commission Report.** Hurtley reported they promoted the Sergeants and hired a new patrol officer.
 - L. Energy Independence Team Report.** Brooks reported they talked about budget priorities for getting to carbon neutrality, Bird City and Tree City applications, and the advanced metering initiative, that was started well over 2 years ago, has only 2 electric meters to go. There are about 300 water meters left to switch over but we aren't going into people's homes at this time.
 - M. Board of Appeals Report.** No report.
- 8. Unfinished Business.** None.
 - 9. Communications and Recommendations of the Administrator.** Rigg reported he is working on the budget, wrapping up the audit, and working on matters that will be discussed in closed session.
 - 10. Communications and Recommendations of the Mayor.** Hurtley thanked Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Samantha Jozefowicz for her service, gave appreciation for her time spent here, and wished her well.
 - 11. New Business.** None.
 - 12. Introduction of New Ordinances.** None
 - 13. Meeting Reminders**
 - ~~A. Potential special meeting August 2020 _____ p.m.~~ Not needed.
 - B. Regular meeting September 8, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.
 - C. Budget Presentation September 22, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.
 - 14. Closed Session.** Brooks made a motion, seconded by Duggan to convene in closed session pursuant to Sec. 19.85(1)(c) of the Wis. Stats. to consider possible employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of a public employee over which the governing body has jurisdiction. Upon completion, Common Council will not reconvene in open session. Motion approved 7-0 on a roll call vote at 8:35 p.m.

A new virtual meeting was started for closed session. No action was taken during closed session and the meeting ended at 9:00 p.m.

Judy Walton, City Clerk/Treasurer

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