

**City of Evansville Common Council**  
**Regular Meeting**  
City Hall, 31 S Madison St, Evansville WI 53536  
Tuesday, July 11, 2023, 6:00 p.m.

**MINUTES**

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

Members	Present/Absent	Others Present
Aldersperson, Abbey Barnes	P	Leah Hurtley, City Clerk
Aldersperson, Jim Brooks	P	Mark Kopp, City Attorney
Aldersperson, Ben Corridon	P	Colette Spranger, Community Developer Dir
Mayor, Dianne Duggan	P	Megan Kloeckner, Library Director
Aldersperson, Ben Ladick	P	Jason Sergeant, City Administrator
Aldersperson, Gene Lewis	P	Kelly Gildner, Evansville Review
Aldersperson, Joy Morrison	P	Roger Berg
Aldersperson, Corey Neeley	P	Joe Geoffman
Aldersperson, Erika Stuart	A	Arlene Larson
		Noel Oscar
		Bruce & Becky Larson
		Pat & Patti Lentz

3. **Motion to approve the agenda striking items 7 D-5 and 10C by Brooks, seconded by Neeley. Motion passed 7-0.**
4. **Motion to waive the reading of the minutes of the May 9, 2023 regular meeting and approve as presented by Brooks, seconded by Morrison. Motion passed 7-0.**

Morrison mentioned a spelling error in Carolyn (~~Kleish~~) Kleisch under “Others Present,” Brooks pointed out spelling error on (~~Kotcher~~) Courtier Foundation under 7B-1. Neeley mentioned that Slipstream should be one word, under 7L.

5. **Civility reminder** Duggan noted the City’s commitment to civility and decorum at Council Meetings.

6. **Citizen appearances other than agenda items listed.**

**Kelly Gildner:** Gildner wanted the city to be aware of the 5-Star contractors that came into the city and the townships, cut the phone and internet lines. There was about a week without phones and internet. During that time, Gildner had spent time on the phone with AT&T trying to find the problem. Sergeant wanted it to be made aware that TDS had to go through two different permitting processes, one for each inside and outside the city. Sergeant explained that the City can’t control the permitting for anything outside the city. Duggan expressed that the City would check into it.

**Bruce Larson:** Larson had purchased 7.75 acres and would like to sell 3 acres of it to his brother in law. Spranger added that the property has the Extraterritorial Jurisdictional Line that goes through the property. The current ordinance requires at least 35 acres, resulting in a denial if they were to submit an application. As the current ordinance stands, there would be little chance for the sale to work. Spranger will follow up with the Larsons’ again. Duggan will also reach out if she is able to help as well. Larson gave a map of the property to Hurtley.

7. **Reports of Committees**

- A. **Library Board Report:** Kloeckner read from her written report. The report read: General Updates: Rebeca will be presenting on our Polar VR fellowship at the Play Make Learn Conference next Friday. Promotes high-quality learning opportunities for educators, researchers, developers, designers, foundation leaders, policy makers, museum & library professionals, and school leaders who are dedicated to promoting making, gaming, and playful learning. Friends have their Used Book Sale in August: August 3-5. Program Updates: Offering a VR Makerspace program for teens every Thursday this month, Guest performers have been a big hit: 51 at Stuart Stotts, 56 at Figureheads, 81 at Magic Show today. Next week Snake Discovery will be here.
- B. **Parks and Recreation Board Report:** Neeley reported that there were a number of citizens that came to, what became a spirited meeting, with discussions over the negligent spraying of a chemical by a City employee. A recommendation that came up was having a certified pesticide applicator apply the chemicals moving forward. The reasons for this was due to discussion over safety of everyone, as well as making sure that the proper PPE would be used. Other citizen requests for the spraying included more advanced notice of the application, as well as more flagging or indicators that a recent application took place for those entering the parks. There were some Senior Projects that were approved. In addition, the update for the Aquatic Center included Lazy River walls being erected. Lastly, it was decided to find a way to get some signs up for Adopt-a-Park.
- C. **Plan Commission Report:**
- 1) **Motion to approve the Preliminary Plat Application for the Historic Standpipe Point subdivision, finding that is in the public interests and substantially complies with Section 110 of the Municipal Code, subject to the following conditions.**
    - (a) Applicant submits Final Plat application and Final Plat in compliance with Division 3 of Chapter 110 of the Municipal code.
    - (b) Final Plat revised to adjust Outlot 1 and Lot 6 lot lines as suggested by Staff.
    - (c) Outlot 1 to be labeled “Dedicated to Public for stormwater purposes.”
    - (d) Applicant submits Rezoning application for Lot 7.
    - (e) Developer’s Agreement completed and executed by both City and Developer along with final plat application.
    - (f) Applicant submits Irrevocable Letter of Credit for City Engineer approval.
    - (g) Developer pays required park and recreation land fees to City.
    - (h) Applicant records a plat restriction, by adding suitable language to the face of the plat as approved by City Engineer, regarding prohibition of alterations of finished grades by more than six inches on utility easements and Stormwater drainage easements.

Spranger shared that there were a number of comments at the public hearing as to what should go on the larger of the two lots. Spranger reported that the applicant would like to put duplexes on the lot, with a shared entrance on 4<sup>th</sup> Street. The look of the property would have houses facing 4<sup>th</sup> Street with the driveway behind the structure. Spranger shared that the zoning B-1 zoning District would be ideal to keep the neighborhood looking like a traditional residential neighborhood. This would also align with the Confidence of Plan for Future Land Use which has been slotted for mixed use which could indicate some potential for Business use. The plan for next month would have a final plat application that will include the developer’s agreement that the attorneys and engineers will look over. Corridon inquired about the comments from the Public Hearing about the multi-family housing. Spranger explained that the concerns were over having multi-storied structures, which the residents felt would be an inappropriate place for apartment buildings. Additional discussion occurred about the location and maintenance for the Standpipe that the City would be liable for maintaining the historic item.

***Motion by Brooks, seconded by Ladick. Motion passed 7-0.***
- D. Finance and Labor Relations Committee Report

- 1) **Motion to accept the May 2023 City bills as presented in the amount of \$2,040,127.29 by Brooks, seconded by Neeley. Motion passed by Roll Call 7-0.**

Corridon reported that he wasn't happy with the answers that he had gotten on the Utility refunds. Corridon feels that they occur too often, are occurring every month, and its money that is leaving the City. Brooks pointed out that many are overpayments on budgets, and due to the fact that the money doesn't belong to the City, it needs to be returned. Sergeant also reported that some are due to property closings with overpayments.

- 2) **Motion to accept the June 2023 City bills as presented in the amount of \$1,249,754.92 by Brooks, seconded by Morrison. Motion passed by Roll Call 7-0.**
- 3) **Motion to approve closing the LGIP park trust fund account, balance of \$15,703.99 and the WWTP account, balance of \$68,097.02, and transferring the funds to the pooled cash account by Brooks, seconded by Neeley. Motion passed by Roll Call 7-0.**
- 4) **Motion to approve proposal from Ehlers to provide a water rate study for public fire protection charge conversion by Brooks, seconded by Morrison. Motion passed by Roll Call 7-0.**
- ~~5) Motion to approve Naming Gift Agreement, Capital Campaign Struck from Agenda.~~
- 6) **Motion to approve the Weights & Measures Inspection Agreement by Brooks, seconded by Neeley. Motion passed by Roll Call 7-0.**

Morrison inquired about who this would pertain to besides gas stations. Hurtley shared that it is also for pump businesses, or a business that has a scale. Hurtley also shared that many of the businesses only need to be checked every two years. The cost on the contract won't necessarily be the cost that we get charged, but rather based on whom needs to be checked that year. Corridon asked if there would be any additional costs besides the amount on the contract, that they could charge us for. Hurtley reported that the cost that is billed, is based on the number of devices as well as the hourly rate. This is a pass-through contract, meaning that the entire bill is split to the businesses and devices that are inspected.

- E. **Public Safety Committee Report:** Lewis reported that there were 7 approvals and 1 denial for Operator Licenses. Evansville Bowl had requested an extension of premise for a Beer Olympic event that they wanted to hold. The biggest concern for the event was the amount of drivers for the event. Barnes had also submitted a Street Closure for the Garage Sale Days. There was also discussion in regards to how taxing it was on the Police for the July 4<sup>th</sup> event as it was four days long. The goal is to look for ways to avoid the police from working too much. Corridon added that part of the Beer Olympics was going to take place out of town, which caused them to come up with a plan for designated drivers.
- F. **Municipal Services Report** Ladick reported that the meeting was pretty short and the discussion surrounded the potential new program that would offer another way to help people pay their bills. When Neeley asked about the Compliance Maintenance Annual Report, Brooks shared that it is a report card for the Waste Water Treatment Plant.
- 1) **Motion to approve Resolution 2023-17 Documenting Review and Approval of the 2022 Compliance Maintenance Annual Report by Brooks, seconded by Morrison. Motion passed 7-0.**
  - 2) **Motion to approve the Wisconsin Help for Homeowners (WHH) Homeowner Assistance Fund (HAF) Agreement by Brooks, seconded by Morrison. Motion passed by Roll Call 7-0.**
- G. **Economic Development Committee:** Ladick reported that they have been working on the Business Summit and are locking down some Keynote Speakers, among other items.
- H. **Youth Center Advisory Board Report:** Corridon shared that the Youth Center held its first Ducky Derby since the pandemic. The goal is to find out how much was fundraised at the next meeting.

- I. **Historic Preservation Commission:** Lewis reported that the homeowner of 20 Mill Street, had a hardship claim. He was approved to change out the current windows with vinyl windows, after verifying the hardship claim. The home at 403 West Main submitted an application to demolish the carriage house that was denied. A letter was sent that reminded the owners that when they purchased the house six years ago, they had been aware that the Carriage House needed repair work. Furthermore, they had been given warning letters to repair it. Now, if the Carriage House comes down, it becomes demolition by neglect and without permit. The house at 15 Antes Drive put on a new roof, and replaced a non-historic ramp. Lastly, 112 W Church is being painted.
  - J. **Fire District Report:** Brooks shared that the main discussion was over a maturing CD. The end decision was to put \$20,000 in the bank account and the remaining 250,000 was rolled back into a CD. The Fire District has been a little light on cash since paying off the building earlier this year.
  - K. **Police Commission Report:** Did Not Meet
  - L. **Energy Independence Team Report:** Meeting in August
  - M. **Board of Appeals Report:** Did Not Meet
8. **Unfinished Business:** None
9. **Communications and Recommendations of the Administrator:** Sergeant wanted to thank Chief Reese and Julie Roberts for filling in as Acting Administrators during his vacation. Hurtley has started working on the Cemetery Ordinance to get it up to date. Our Summer Intern has been working in the Archive Room again to continue organizing and cleaning it up. It is unknown when it will happen, but the email will be switching from a Google based product to a Microsoft product, due to the cost increase from Google. The positive aspect that will occur with this change is the ability to add some cybersecurity implantation. In regards to the herbicide application that occurred, Sergeant met with the owner of Urban Landscaping and some of the staff to get a better understanding of what occurred and what can be done to move forward. The drought has not helped the situation. A staff member will be getting their certification in pesticide application. Sergeant will be working with staff on better policies as to when and how the applications occur. A positive outcome from this, was how the citizens spoke up when they saw something that wasn't right. Sergeant has asked for a plan of action from Urban Landscaping to move forward for this fall and next spring. Sergeant shared that at Plan Commission there was a large agriculture business user that brought some preliminary concept plans. Next month there should be some final plans coming through. Preliminary numbers from the State Budget show that the City will receive more than \$100,000 in shared revenue. The process has started to outline the budget, with a schedule going out to department heads real soon. The plan is to use the information to solve some wage and staffing issues. There was a first review of applicants for the Municipal Services Director. Sergeant also explained that some items need to be figured out with the vacant Youth Coordinator Position. Ladick suggested the possibility to use an all organic lawn care option.
10. **Communications and Recommendations of the Mayor:**
- Duggan thanked everyone for the hard work on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July event. There was also appreciation for everyone covering things while Sergeant was on vacation.
- A. *Motion to appoint Shawn Dunphy, 13237 W Travis Trace, Evansville, WI 53536 to the one year term to the Tourism Subcommittee of the Economic Development Committee as the Executive Director of the Evansville Chamber of Commerce by Brooks, seconded by Neeley. Motion passed by Roll Call 7-0.*
  - B. *Motion to appoint to the Police Commission; Mike VanderMeulen, 594 Vision Dr, for the unexpired five-year term (replacing Wally Shannon) ending in 2026 and Bill Lathrop, 468 W Main St, for the unexpired five-year term (replacing Scott Brummond) ending in 2025 by Brooks, seconded by Morrison. Motion passed by Roll Call 7-0.*
  - C. ~~Motion to appoint Bill Hurtley, 41 S Fifth St, for the unexpired three year term to the Zoning Board of Appeals, ending 2025.~~

11. **New Business:** Brooks thanked everyone on behalf of the Evansville Community Partnership for everyone who organized and helped keep the 4<sup>th</sup> of July events safe and fun for everyone. Corridon inquired to see if the Committee of the Whole was on the radar for the next month or so.
12. **Introduction of New Ordinances:** None
13. **Upcoming Meeting Reminder:**
  - A. Regular Common Council Meeting, Tuesday August 8, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.
14. **Adjourned 6:51pm**

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Elle Natrop*