

**City of Evansville Public Safety Committee**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Wednesday, February 3, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.**  
Meeting held virtually due to COVID-19 Guidelines  
**MINUTES**

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

<u>Members</u>	<u>Present/Absent</u>	<u>Others Present</u>
Aldersperson Dianne Duggan, Chair	P	Patrick Reese, Police Chief
Aldersperson Bill Lathrop	P	Jamie Kessenich, EMS Chief
Aldersperson Erika Stuart	P	Chris Jones, Lieutenant
		Jeremy Schmidt, Officer
		Trevor Tway, Officer
		Darnisha Haley, City Clerk
		Leah Hurtley, Deputy Clerk

3. **Motion to approve the agenda**, by Duggan, seconded by Stuart. Approved unanimously.
4. **Motion to waive the reading of the minutes from the January 6, 2021 regularly scheduled Public Safety Meeting minutes and approve them as printed** by Lathrop, seconded by Stuart. Lathrop and Duggan requested grammatical revisions to the paragraph 8(2) and 9. Approved unanimously.
5. **Citizen appearances other than agenda items listed.** None
6. **Old Business.**

**A. Discussion on a 4-way stop at the intersection of E Main and Water St.** Chief Reese reported topic discussion at a department head meeting. Municipal Services Director Chad Renly looked into the 4-way stop with Lieutenant Jones and Chief Reese. Staff determined that the state would not allow the stop without a considerable amount of money invested into redoing the intersection. Chief Reese's recommendation would be to table the discussion unless directed otherwise. Lathrop questioned accident quantity in relation to other areas in town. Chief disclaimed there has been no formal study and Evansville does not have a large number of accidents in general, however there does seem to be more accidents at that intersection, guessing maybe five accidents in last 7 years. Lieutenant Jones concurred with maybe a few more. Jones also added his main concern is more less the truck routes with the long wait times trying to take a right towards Janesville. Jones reported the state's concern with potential backups and importance with the timing of the stoplight on Hwy 14 and County M. Duggan proposed to consider a special study should there be another incident, until then, this topic is tabled.

7. **New Business.**

**A. Motion to approve the Original Operators License application(s) for: (approved by Police Chief Reese unless otherwise noted).**

- 1) Motion was made to approve the Original Operators License application for Sawyer M Sendelbach, by Stuart, seconded by Duggan, Motion carried.

- 2) Motion was made to approve the Original Operators License application for Kari A Fehrenbacher, by Stuart, seconded by Duggan, Motion carried.
- 3) Motion was made to discuss the approval of the Original Operators License application for Amber L Dienberg (not recommended), made by Duggan, seconded by Lathrop. Amber Dienberg attended. Duggan asked why she left off several felonies and misdemeanors off her application. Dienberg claimed that she did not intentionally leave them off rather she misread the question as the question stated “have you been convicted” which she says she has not as they have all been dismissed and she has had a license issued to her by the city since her convictions. Duggan asked for details of the items not disclosed. Dienberg stated Endangerment and Battery charges in 2007. The only conviction she received was a non-criminal ordinance violation for a disorderly conduct in 2008. Duggan said she was ok with approving the license with her explanation. Stuart had additional questions on the previously issued license she received from the city. Dienberg stated eight or 9 years ago, she received a license to serve at Good Speed Gas & Go. Lathrop asked Chief Reese for comments on his nonrecommendation. Chief explained information left off the application on the conviction of the rock county ordinance disorderly conduct, likely due to a plea bargain from the following charges: delinquency of a child, battery, disorderly conduct, and intentional cause to bodily harm to a child (felony). No further questions by the committee. *Duggan voted for the approval of the Original Operators License, Lathrop and Stuart opposed, motion denied.* After the vote of opposition, applicant then asked if there was anything that could be done to change the committee’s minds. Duggan proposed a 90-day provisional. Lathrop and Stuart were ok with a provisional Duggan instructed Dienberg to resubmit another application for an Original License with the \$25.00 fees for another background check and she must disclose all information that she should have originally reported, Dienberg will need to return to the May Public Safety Meeting.

**B. Discussion for updates to Animal Ordinance.** Lieutenant Jones pointed out two separate conflicting ordinances and both ordinances were created to accomplish the same goal however, one has more strict guidelines with the 2+ persons. 14 - 8 says “Disturbing the peace prohibited. No person may keep a Pet which disturbs the peace by loud or unusual noises at any time of the day or night.” 14-33(3) says, “Harboring certain dogs or cats prohibited. 3. Habitually makes noise to the annoyance of any two or more other persons.” 14-8 seems to cover any animal and 14-33 is more specific to dogs and cats. Leah read Attorney Mark Kopp’s response. Duggan supported Lathrop’s feedback, that the ordinance as it stands is unnecessarily complex. Chairperson Duggan expressed, Sec 14.33 is specific to the dogs and cats area but even a sentence within 14.8 referring to Sec 14.33, and wants Sec 14.8 clarified while separate to have consistent standards. Lathrop proposed Sec 14.8 to cover details everywhere in the ordinance with respect to noise and disturbing the peace. The language on disturbing the peace in Sec 14.8 and then refer elsewhere to Sec 14.8 silencing other areas where it references to noise. Lieutenant Jones will work on updating the language with his recommendations for next meeting.

**C. Discussion on K9 Officers and fundraising by Officer Schmidt and Officer Tway. (Officer Tway left the meeting to respond to a service call.)** Chief Reese summarized staff’s interest to get a K9 Officer and wanted to gauge interest of the committee. Schmidt reported higher volumes of drug related calls pertaining to drugs and the obstacles they face without having probable cause, which a K9 officer would allow. In reply, the Lathrop summarized that with the change to laws, the K9 would allow for additional legal options currently not available. Lathrop asked about the overall costs as well as annually thereafter. Officer Schmidt estimated the startup costs could be around \$60,000, depends on donations and type of K9 and the level of training of the officers and perhaps \$500.00/year thereafter.

Duggan questioned insurance. Officer Schmidt will investigate this further. Lathrop asked about service life. Schmidt estimated perhaps 8-9 years. Chief Reese acknowledged the biggest expense to the city would be the training time and wages as training and certification would need to be done monthly. Chief Reese will research insurance, wages, training, union and its members in addition to how it may affect the City's insurance. Chief Reese will create a presentation for council input at either a regular Common Council meeting, or the Special Common Council meeting in May.

- D. Discussion on resolution/ordinance guidelines for issuance of Alcohol Beverage Licensees in the City of Evansville.** Chief Reese explained his goal, along with City Clerk Darnisha Haley was to provide guidance on whether or not to approve nonrecommendations and have a streamlined process in place. Question on whether it should be Resolution vs Ordinance. Darnisha's suggestion was to issue recommended applicants right away as well as a fee increase of \$10.00 to cover the cost of the background check. The committee agreed unanimously to move forward with implementation of proposed recommendations. Darnisha and Chief Reese will work together and present it back to the committee for approval to send to Council.
- E. Discussion on Boy Scout event at Lake Leota.** Chief Kessnich informed the committee that she was approached with a volunteer request for a private event to demonstrate lifesaving skills. After much discussion and in light of COVID-19 guidelines, the committee agreed unanimously to not support city endorsement of said event.

- 8. Evansville Emergency Medical Services Report.** Chief Kessnich gave a verbal report as her computer was down. 48 calls for service. 3 weeks post second dose of Covid shots. Discussed the desire for a larger garage and the inability to maintain proper vehicle maintenance in the winter due to the less than a foot clearance. Chief Kessnich proposed a possible solution could be to remove the center of the garage. Committee granted Jamie permission to seek quotes on the potential removal of the center garage door.
- 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. Bill Lathrop asked what he could do for Police Department and EMS in terms of space and working conditions. Chief asked for consideration of a joint building in the long term. Stuart shared the concern over other high priority items within the city. Duggan asked the Chief Reese to perform a needs assessment, especially with references with fire code violations. Chief Reese will work on this over the next few months.
- 10. Meeting Reminder: Next regular meeting scheduled for Wednesday, March 3, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.**
- 11. Motion to adjourn at 7:47 p.m.**, made by Duggan, seconded by Lathrop.

Respectfully submitted, Leah Hurtley, Deputy Clerk City of Evansville