



MADISON *Indiana*

Common Council Minutes

MEETING DATE: Tuesday, May 20, 2025, at 5:30 PM

MEETING PLACE: City Hall, 101 W. Main Street, Madison, IN 47250

The Common Council of the City of Madison, Indiana, met in regular session at 5:30 P.M. at City Hall, 101 W. Main Street, Madison, IN 47250.

Mayor Bob Courtney opened the meeting with the Lord's Prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present: Thevenow, Krebs, Schafer, Storm, and Wilber were present. Dattilo and Bartlett were absent (5-2).

Minutes: Wilber moved to approve the May 6, 2025, regular meeting minutes, seconded by Schafer. All in favor, motion carried (5-0).

Presentation of petitions, memorials, remonstrances, introduction of motion & guests: Proclamation recognizing Mental Health Month: In recognition of Mental Health Awareness Month (May 2025), Mayor Bob G. Courtney emphasized that mental health conditions are real and affect many individuals. He highlighted the importance of protective factors such as animal companionship, humor, spirituality, and strong social connections. The proclamation acknowledged the variety of mental health resources available in Madison and Jefferson County, including organizations like Centerstone, The Freedom Center, and the Recovery Café. It affirmed that with proper treatment, recovery is possible, and stressed the City's support for mental health programs and collaborations like EAP and JCAP. Finally, it called on the entire community—businesses, schools, healthcare providers, and citizens—to take shared responsibility in promoting mental wellness and prevention.

Proclamation regarding National Historic Preservation Month: Mayor Bob G. Courtney proclaimed May 2025 as National Historic Preservation Month in the City of Madison, honoring the importance of protecting historic places that shape local identity and culture. The proclamation traces the roots of historic preservation to the Antiquities Act of 1906 and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, which established the National Register of Historic Places. With the 2025 theme "Harnessing the Power of Place," the mayor recognized the ongoing efforts of Madison residents to restore and preserve historic buildings throughout the city's National Landmark Historic District. He emphasized how preservation fosters local pride, strengthens community character, promotes tourism, and enhances livability. The proclamation celebrates Madison's rich architectural legacy and encourages residents to take part in this national observance.

Resolutions or Bills: Ordinance 2025-9: Establishing Three-Way Stops; Vaughn/Jefferson and Vaughn/Broadway: *Implements safety recommendations for high pedestrian traffic locations on Vaughn Drive.* **Motion:** Storm moved to suspend the rules and move to second reading, seconded by Krebs. **Roll Call Vote:** Thevenow – Y, Krebs – Y, Schafer – Y, Storm – Y, Wilber – Y. All in favor, motion passes (5-0).

Chief of Police Shawn Scudder provided an overview of the traffic patterns along Vaughn Drive and highlighted the safety risks for pedestrians who park and walk to the pool and nearby parks. He expressed his support for implementing a three-way stop at the intersection as a necessary step to enhance public safety. Councilmembers Schafer and Wilber asked questions to verify the three-way stop's layout and any associated crosswalks.

Ordinance 2025-10: Establishing the Jefferson County Board of Tourism Control Fund: *Creates a Fund to receive repeated grants for JCBT.* **Motion:** Krebs moved to suspend the rules and move to second reading, seconded by Wilber. **Roll Call Vote:** Thevenow – Y, Krebs – Y, Schafer – Y, Storm – Y, Wilber – Y. All in favor, motion passes (5-0).

Reports, recommendations, and other business from standing/select committees of City Council: None.

Report of city officials: Director of Operations – Tanya Burnette and Superintendent of Grounds – Christian Hanson: Tanya provided the council with a comprehensive update on current Parks Department activities, including staffing, programming updates, football and cheerleading registration, aquatic programs, wellness classes, day camps, senior center, upcoming summer community events, the Hometown USA Parade, fireworks planning, Sunrise Golf Course operations, and ongoing parks facility updates. Christian provided an update on the status of park facilities following the recent flood disaster. He discussed restoration efforts at the campground, Hargan-Matthews Park, and Crystal Beach, including ongoing work and bacteria testing. Community members can view both updates on the City of Madison YouTube Channel.

Christian and Mayor Courtney recognized the recent passing of Gary VanWye, who dedicated over 30 years to coaching and managing city sports leagues. In honor of his lasting impact on the community, a field at Rucker Sports Complex is named after him.

Recess Regular Meeting

Call to Order Public Hearing Regarding Ordinance 2025-6: Reestablishing Cumulative Capital Development Rate: An ordinance was introduced to reestablish the City of Madison's Cumulative Capital Development Fund and increase the property tax rate from \$0.0334 to \$0.05 per \$100 of assessed value, the maximum allowed under Indiana Code 36-9-15.5. The proposed rate would take effect with taxes payable in 2026. The ordinance outlines that funds may be used for purposes defined in state law and, in emergencies, may be used to protect public health, welfare, or safety upon a mayoral declaration. A certified copy of the ordinance is to be submitted to the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance for review.

Adjourn Public Hearing

Reconvene Regular Council Meeting

Bills on second reading: Ordinance 2025-6 Reestablishing Cumulative Capital Development Rate: *Updates the city's 1985 ordinance regarding the CCDF rate as permitted by state statute.* **Roll Call Vote:** Thevenow – Y, Krebs – Y, Schafer – Y, Storm – Y, Wilber – Y. All in favor, ordinance passes (5-0).

Public Comment re Ordinance 2025-6: Deanna Shelley, 120 Wall Street, inquired whether the recent tax reform and resulting reduction in funds would lead to the cancellation or delay of any planned projects.

Ordinance 2025-9: Establishing Three-Way Stops; Vaughn/Jefferson and Vaughn/Broadway: *Implements safety recommendations for high pedestrian traffic locations on Vaughn Drive.* **Roll Call Vote:** Thevenow – Y, Krebs – Y, Schafer – Y, Storm – Y, Wilber – Y. All in favor, ordinance passes (5-0).

Ordinance 2025-10: Establishing the Jefferson County Board of Tourism Control Fund: *Creates a Fund to receive repeated grants for JCBT.* **Roll Call Vote:** Thevenow – Y, Krebs – Y, Schafer – Y, Storm – Y, Wilber – Y. All in favor, ordinance passes (5-0).

Miscellaneous: None.

Public comment (per sign-up sheet): Deanna Shelly made comments regarding restricting Airbnb residences to allow for more housing options for the community. She also suggested a different option for the proposed housing project on Vaughn Drive.

Mayor's comments: The City is beginning preparations for the 2026 budget. As part of this process, Representative Zimmerman and State Senator Maxwell will be invited to Madison to meet with the community and discuss the outcomes of this year's legislative session. The City is also planning a public information session with residents to gather input and answer questions regarding recently proposed projects, including the housing development on Vaughn Drive. Additionally, Memorial Day weekend will feature several community events, including an open house at the Western Fire Department in celebration of its 175th anniversary.


The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, June 3, 2025, @ 5:30 pm.

Adjourn: Krebs moved to adjourn, seconded by Schafer. All in favor (5-0).

Attested:



Mayor



President Pro Tempore



Shirley Rynearson, Clerk-Treasurer

