



# MADISON *Indiana*

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## Common Council Minutes

**MEETING DATE:** Tuesday, August 5, 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, Dattilo, Schafer, Storm, Wilber, and Bartlett were present (7-0).

**Minutes:** Bartlett moved to approve the July 22, 2025, regular meeting minutes, seconded by Krebs. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

**Presentation of petitions, memorials, remonstrances, introduction of motion & guests: Matt Greller, Accelerate Indiana Municipalities (AIM), and Mayor Courtney: Legislative Changes and Planning and Overview of Food and Beverage:** Mayor Courtney provided a brief introduction emphasizing the importance of continued education on legislative changes and planning efforts. Matt Greller followed with an in-depth overview, offering a statewide perspective on the funding challenges facing cities and towns across Indiana. His remarks also addressed two key items on the agenda: the food and beverage tax and the wheel tax. Both Mayor Courtney's and Matt Greller's presentations and comments are available for viewing on the City of Madison's YouTube channel.

### Recess Regular Council Meeting

**Call to Order Public Hearing re. Madison Food and Beverage Tax: Ordinance 2025-13: Adopting One Percent (1%) Madison Food and Beverage Tax: Sponsor Bartlett:** Mayor Courtney presented background information on the food and beverage tax and a description of the plans and why this is critical for the City of Madison before the regular meeting was recessed.

**Public Comment re. Madison Food and Beverage Tax:** Karen Skillman, 1505 Michigan Road, asked whether the food and beverage tax would be clearly labeled as a separate line item on purchase receipts. The Mayor responded that it is his understanding that the tax will appear as a distinct line item; however, the City will be working with local businesses and their point-of-sale systems to ensure proper implementation. Karen also inquired whether grocery stores would be required to charge the tax. The Mayor clarified that the tax applies only to prepared and served food and beverages, not general grocery items. Bob Hartsaw, 806 W. Second Street, asked for clarification on how the funds would be distributed and what they're allowed to be used for.

### Adjourn Public Hearing

### Reconvene Regular Meeting

**Resolutions or Bills: Ordinance 2025-13: Adopting One Percent (1%) Madison Food and Beverage Tax: Sponsor Bartlett:** *(Establishes a one percent (1%) Madison Food and Beverage Tax to support parks, economic development, and tourism).* Councilmember Thevenow commented that he would have preferred to see the proposed taxes along with a concurrent proposal of budget cuts for the rest of the year. Councilmember Krebs noted that one aspect she appreciates about the proposed tax is that it wouldn't solely impact local residents—it would also apply to tourists who visit Madison, making it a user-based fee. Councilmember Dattilo added that with budget meetings scheduled for next week, the council and the City will have the opportunity to discuss both potential expenditure reductions and revenue-generating strategies. If adopted, this would go into effect in January 2026. Ordinance moves on to second reading.

**Public Comment re. Ordinance 2025-13:** Colleen Burdette, 705 E Second Street, requested clarification on what the funds dispersed from the proposed tax could be used for.

**Resolution 2025-12C: Transferring Funds: Sponsor Krebs:** *(Transferring funds between categories).* Director of Finance and Budget Mindy McGee explained to the council that the city is requesting to move from Sunrise Labor into their Repairs and Parts line, Lit Police Training transfer, and CCD Maintenance and Repair transfer. **Motion:** Krebs moved to approve Resolution 2025-12C, seconded by Bartlett. **Roll Call Vote:** Thevenow – Y, Krebs – Y, Dattilo – Y, Schafer – Y, Storm – Y, Bartlett – Y, Wilber – Y. All in favor, resolution passes (7-0).

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

**Report of city officials: Main Street Overview: Tony Steinhardt and Chris Hale:** This project started nearly 11 years ago with the transfer of Main Street as negotiated to get the bridge approach built. The city has gone through several planning sessions and iterations within community discussions. In 2021, the city went through the Main Street Master Plan process, which involved collaborating with 75 people from local businesses and residents on the Steering Committee. In 2021, traffic calming and regulations were passed by the council, which helped extend the life of the roadway along with some remediation. Tony Steinhardt used a map presentation to explain the work that will be going on throughout Main Street. This presentation can be viewed on the City of Madison's YouTube channel. An important part of the Main Street project is the organization of intersections and parking on the north and south side streets. The parking study and Main Street Master Plan had recommended incorporating golf cart parking and striping the parking on streets. South of Main Street, the angled parking will be on the east side of the road, and the parallel parking will be on the west side of the road. On the north side, the parallel parking will be on the east side, and the angled parking will be on the west side of the road. This work will begin this week from Broadway to Mill Street. Chris's presentation regarding parking and intersections can be viewed in full on the City of Madison's YouTube channel.

**Bills on second reading: Ordinance 2025-11: Municipal Motor Vehicle Excise Tax Sponsor Jim Bartlett** *(Establishes a vehicle surtax and wheel tax to fund road capital improvement plan).* **Roll Call Vote:** Thevenow – Y, Krebs – Y, Dattilo – Y, Schafer – Y, Storm – Y, Bartlett – Y, Wilber – Y. All in favor, ordinance passes (7-0).

**Public Comment re. Ordinance 2025-11:** Andy Crabtree, owner of Clifty Garden Center, expressed his opposition to the ordinance and requested that no additional taxes be placed on Madison

residents. Carol Anne Rogers, 934 West Main Street, inquired about other counties' adoption of the tax, the timing of Madison's consideration, the basis for the amounts, and whether it applies to multiple vehicles owned by the same person.

**Ordinance 2025-12: Rezoning of 3515+ Michigan Hill Sponsors J. Storm, P. Thevenow** (*Rezones a parcel from Residential Mobile Home (RMH) to High Density Residential (R32)*). **Roll Call Vote:** Thevenow – Y, Krebs – recused self due to personal bias, Dattilo – Y, Schafer – Y, Storm – Y, Bartlett – Y, Wilber – Y. All in favor, resolution passes (6-0).

**Miscellaneous:** None.

**Public comment (per sign-up sheet):** Sandy Palmer, 105 East Third Street, asked if the approved \$4.9 million bond could be used for other projects if a proposed project was voted down; it was confirmed that the funds would be allocated to a different proposed project consistent with the redevelopment plan. Bob Hartsaw recommended clarifying the use of funds in the Food and Beverage tax.

**Mayor's comments:** The city asks for your patience while construction is finishing up on Clifty Drive and starting on Main Street.

The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, August 19, 2025, @ 5:30 pm.

**Adjourn:** Krebs moved to adjourn, seconded by Dattilo. All in favor (7-0).

Attested:

  
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**Mayor**

  
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**President Pro Tempore**

  
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**Shirley Rynearson, Clerk-Treasurer**

