



MADISON *Indiana*

Common Council Minutes

MEETING DATE: Tuesday, August 19, 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, and Bartlett were present. Wilber was absent (6-1).

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

Presentation of petitions, memorials, remonstrances, introduction of motion & guests: None.

Resolutions or Bills: Ordinance 2025-14: Additional Appropriation Aviation and Nuisance

Abatement: Sponsor Wilber: *Increases the 2025 appropriations for nuisance abatement and aviation business from existing funds.*

Recess Regular Council Meeting

Open Public Hearing re. Additional Appropriation Aviation and Nuisance Abatement

Adjourn Public Hearing

Resume Regular Council Meeting

Ordinance 2025-14: Additional Appropriation Aviation and Nuisance Abatement: Sponsor Wilber: *Increases the 2025 appropriations for nuisance abatement and aviation business from existing funds.* Councilmember Thevenow asked what fund 25501-503 was, since that's where the abatement money is being requested from. Clerk-Treasurer Ryneanson explained that it's the same fund, but the city is just moving money within it. The money comes from revenue collected from abatements in previous years. **Motion:** Krebs moved to suspend the rules, and move to a second reading, seconded by Dattilo. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

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

Report of city officials: Code Enforcement Update: Duey O'Neal: Code Enforcement Officer Duey O'Neal gave the Council the same presentation he had shared with the Board of Public Works & Safety a few weeks ago. A copy will be emailed to Council members, and it's also available to watch on the City of Madison YouTube channel.

Grant Acceptance from Bethany Legacy Foundation: Tony Steinhart: The City of Madison has received a \$500,000 grant from the Bethany Legacy Foundation to support improvements at Welch Park, also known by many as JC Park under the bridge, which was renamed in honor of former Mayor Damon Welch after his passing. With this funding secured, the city is finalizing plans over the next few weeks and expects to put the project out for bid this fall, with the goal of completing the work by next Labor Day. Tony reminded Council that the Parks Department went through a Parks Master Plan process in 2021–2022, which was approved by the Parks Board in June 2022, and since then the city has been working with the Parks Board and staff to refine programming as it relates to Welch Park. The current plan includes new pickleball courts, a park space designed for older children with opportunities for soccer and volleyball, and features for all ages—from toddlers to adults—with Welch Park set to become the first City of Madison park to earn a Play On certification. To date, the city has raised about 60% of the total project budget through private donations and grants. **Motion:** Bartlett moved to accept the grant from the Bethany Legacy Foundation, seconded by Schafer. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

Riverfront Liquor License Applications – Club 113 and Nikimura: Emily McKinney: About a month ago, Emily came before the Council to request edits to the requirements for cultural experience venues. The Council approved removing the seating capacity requirement and added two additional licenses. This allows the City to grant up to five licenses in total, out of twelve available. Currently, three are active—Vintage Lanes, Red Bicycle Hall, and the Ohio Theatre. The first application for one of the two new licenses has been submitted by Holiday Inn Entertainment, doing business as Club 113. The application has been reviewed by the Economic and Redevelopment Department and the Mayor’s Office. Todd Boone and Michael Fortunado were present to provide the Council with background on the plan. The second application is from Nikimura, the Japanese restaurant located across the street from City Hall. Currently, three restaurants hold a restaurant license—Red on Main, Riveroak Chophouse, and Rivertown Grille. If Nikimura’s application is approved tonight, three restaurant licenses would remain available under this program. The application has been reviewed by the Economic and Redevelopment Department and the Mayor’s Office. Reno, the Manager of Nikimura was present to provide the Council with background on the plan. **Motion:** Thevenow moved to approve the presented Riverfront Liquor License applications, seconded by Schafer. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

Bills on second reading: Ordinance 2025-14: Additional Appropriation Aviation and Nuisance Abatement: Sponsor Wilber: *Increases the 2025 appropriations for nuisance abatement and aviation business from existing funds.* **Roll Call Vote:** Thevenow – Y, Krebs – Y, Dattilo – Y, Schafer – Y, Storm – Y, Bartlett – Y. All in favor, ordinance passes (6-0).

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).* **Roll Call Vote:** Thevenow – N, Krebs – Y, Dattilo – Y, Schafer – Y, Storm – Y, Bartlett – Y. Majority rules, ordinance passes (5-1).

Public Comment re. Ordinance 2025-13: Andrew Forrester, the Director of Tourism at Visit Madison, spoke on behalf of the Board of Directors of Visit Madison. As they see it, the proposed 1% food and beverage tax is a smart and sustainable solution to protect Madison’s quality of life for both residents and visitors. Trevor Crafton, President of and representing the Jefferson County

Board of Tourism, has seen in recent years the increase in visitor experiences in Madison. The Jefferson County Board of Tourism is in support of the proposed food and beverage tax.

Public comment (per sign-up sheet): Deanna Shelley, 120 Wall Street, spoke about the recent awards presented to Crystal Beach Aquatic Park. Rane Wilson, 2131 Wilson Avenue, asked if the city would continue to pick up trash for households with excess amounts. Councilmember Krebs explained that residents may purchase extra trash or furniture pickup stickers at City Hall, and the Street Department will collect the additional items. She also asked what the total cost of the proposed development on the riverfront would be. There has not been a cost presented, but it is a multi-million-dollar investment. Ed Stigall, 2512 Green Hills Drive, thanked the Council for their hard work. He requested that, as plans for the proposed riverfront development are reviewed, councilmembers meet directly with their districts, so residents have the opportunity to share feedback in person, rather than only through written or online comments.

Mayor's comments: Crystal Beach Aquatic Park was recently recognized as a Dream Designs recipient. The reconstruction of Main Street will begin tomorrow, with a groundbreaking ceremony scheduled at the Broadway Fountain. The Clifty Drive project is also nearing completion, and at yesterday's Board of Public Works and Safety meeting, Utilities Superintendent Brian Jackson presented the closeout of the \$13 million water project that began nearly five years ago. Councilmember Bartlett added that for those who have not had the chance to see the Street Department, Water Department, and other city crews in action, it is clear they are dedicated and hardworking employees, and he is proud of their efforts. He also wanted to publicly thank all of the community members who stepped up and volunteered their time for Ribberfest.

The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, September 2, 2025, @ 5:30 pm.

Adjourn: Thevenow moved to adjourn, seconded by Krebs. All in favor (6-0).

Attested:



Mayor



President Pro Tempore



Shirley Rynearson, Clerk-Treasurer

