

IRVINGTON CITY COUNCIL
109 W CAROLINE ST. IRVINGTON, KY 40146
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
May 5, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor, Charles Douglas Lucas called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 pm ET. Prayer was led by Pastor Tim Lucas from the Irvington Baptist Church, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. Council Members present included: Robert Young III, Rhea Ballman, Jonathan Mattingly, Joey Medley, Jonathan Smith and Billy Synder. Others present included: City Clerk, Sherrie Lawson, City Attorney, Luke Babb, Ints Kampars with WXBC and Morgan Fillmore with The Herald News.

PRESENTATION: BLUEGRASS ENGINEERING

Paul Reynolds explained to the council that the Lon Dowell Water Main Extension Project was completed except for the final clean-up. He added that he needed the final payment request form in the amount of \$8,051.79 signed but suggested that the City not pay G & W Construction until the clean-up was completed and inspected. He further added that there was a remaining balance of \$33,238 from the original allotted amount of \$447,000 for the Water Main Extension which the Cleaner Water Program approved to be used on the relining of manholes. He stated that the contract between Bluegrass Engineering and the City of Irvington needed to be amended to include the overseeing of the manhole relining project in the amount of \$2,500.00. The Amendment, the Manhole Rehabilitation Contract and the Water Main Extension payment request all needed council approval. After some discussion, Councilwoman, Rhea Ballman moved to approve all three items. Councilman, Billy Snyder seconded. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

PRESENTATION: FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Chief, Jeremy Hougland and Assistant Chief, Jason Ballman addressed the Council and the Citizens in attendance about making a presentation to some heroic people who had courageously assisted with the apartment fire on April 9th before emergency responders arrived at the scene. Chief Hougland explained that there were no casualties from the fire because of the quick reaction of these three people. He added that Jason Brown, Mayor, Charles Douglas Lucas and Officer, James Goodman all were on the scene and assisting the residents in evacuating the premises when first responders arrived. Due to their heroic response, no one was injured. Chief Hougland and Assistant Chief Ballman presented an award of Heroism to each one for their brave assistance to the residents and thanked them on behalf of the City. Chief Hougland stated that it could have gone the other way had it not been for Jason Brown, Mayor Lucas and Officer Goodman's quick response.

MINUTES: April 7, 2025

Councilwoman, Rhea Ballman made a motion to approve the April 7, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes as submitted by City Clerk, Sherrie Lawson. Councilman, Joey Medley seconded. All members present voting aye, motion carried unanimously.

CITY CLERK/TREASURER REPORTS

City Clerk/Treasurer, Sherrie Lawson presented the Treasurer's April Financial Report for the Council's review and the Clerk's report (see attachment for details).

City Clerk/Treasurer, Sherrie Lawson reported a total Meade Co RECC Collections for April of \$38,253.46. There were 15 City Stickers sold during April, and the total for the year (Oct-April) was 240. There were 7 Business Licenses sold during the month of April and 53 Business Licenses sold for the year (Oct-April).

Overtime Report: April Total Hours: 54

Office Staff 0 hours, Operation/Maintenance 8 hours, Waste/Water 0 hours and Police Department 46 hours. Total Overtime for the Year 288.20 hours.

Lawson stated that the 2024 delinquent property tax bill letters will be mailed next week. She added that a copy of the FY2026 Budget was included in their packet. Mayor Charles Douglas Lucas added that a special called meeting needed to be scheduled to discuss the budget. After some discussion, Mayor Lucas stated that a special called meeting will be scheduled for May 19th at 6:00 pm ET at City Hall.

BUSINESS LICENSE APPROVAL

Councilman, Robert Young III moved to approve the business license for T&B Bargain Business. Councilwoman, Rhea Ballman seconded. All members present voting aye. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT

Public Works Director, Chris Lucas stated that they had already started working on the street signs that were missing and will replace any that are not correct. Councilman, Jonathan Mattingly wanted to discuss the quotes that were submitted at the March meeting. He believed that the ditch work, road tile/s and septic tank replacement could possibly be done by the operation and maintenance crew. He further added that he called around about the price of materials listed and thought the bids were high. Lucas stated that they could try to do the repairs.

CEDAR HILL CEMETERY

Mayor, Charles Douglas Lucas reported that no plots had been purchased this month.

POLICE CHIEF REPORT

Police Chief, Jason Ballman stated that the roof on the Police Department building had been replaced. However, he believed that the building was in need of gutters in order to keep the water from coming in during a heavy down pour. Chief Ballman asked if the storm damage to the old jail had been reported to the insurance company and City Clerk Lawson said yes. Park Manager Ditto asked about the concession stand at the Eva Carman Park, and Clerk Lawson stated that she had not received any information about the park's damage. Mayor Lucas added that he thought he had sent those pictures to the office. However, after some discussion the Council agreed to run advertisement for bids to repair the old jail and concession stand.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Chief, Jeremey Hougland stated that the Fire Department had responded to 49 total calls this month. Chief Hougland added that the Fire Department had two new members and one new junior member. Hougland reminded everyone about the Spring Festival at the Irvington Elementary School May 10th starting at 9:00 am ET. All proceeds go to the Crusade for Children.

VETERAN'S MEMORIAL

Park Manager, Joe Drake stated that the flag poles had been taken down to be sand blasted and painted. He also added that the lights at the park needed to be repaired because they did not shut-off automatically during the day.

VANCE SIMMONS PARK

Park Manager, Joe Drake stated that the drive going to the backstop had washed out and needed repair. The drainage problems needed to be fixed before the Wednesday night games. He added that one load of rock might possibly fill the ditches.

EVA CARMAN PARK

Park Manager, William Ditto requested that the fence line at the park be cleaned out, it was over grown and in need of some maintenance. Ditto further added that the designated area for the playground equipment was being prepped for the installation. Park Manager Ditto stated that the Easter Egg Hunt was a huge success with about 125 children in attendance. He added that several events have been schedule at the park this year: Dr Eva Green Carman Day, May 31st at 4:00 pm ET, Juneteenth in June, Fireworks in July watch for more details of each event and he encouraged everyone to come out and support each event.

VISITORS REQUEST AND COMMENTS

Alice Smith addressed the council about the condition of the Cross at the Cedar Hill Cemetery. She explained that her family (Trent) had originally placed the Cross there over 60 years ago, and it was an historical land mark for the City of Irvington. She requested that the Council have the Cross repaired. The Mayor added that the condition of the Cross had been brought to his attention. The Council agreed to advertise for bids on repairs to the Cross at the Cedar Hill Cemetery.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Proclamation: Honoring Ms. Eva Carman. Mayor Charles Douglas Lucas read the proclamation in its entirety to the Council and everyone present for the meeting. This proclamation recognized and honored Ms. Eva G Carman for her many years of service to the City of Irvington and declared May 27, 2025 as Ms. Eva Carman Day each and every year hereafter. Mayor Lucas reminded everyone of the Dr. Eva Carman Day Event schedule for May 31st at 4:00 pm ET at the park.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. KLC Health Insurance Rates FY2026: After some discussion, Councilman, Robert Young III moved to renew and keep the current policy. Councilwoman, Rhea Ballman seconded. All members present voted aye; motion carried.
- B. FY2026 Municipal Road Aid Resolution: Mayor Charles Douglas Lucas read the Municipal Road Aid Resolution to everyone present. The resolution stated that the City of Irvington will receive \$28,777.88 this year for maintenance. After some discussion, Mayor Lucas took a roll call vote: Councilmembers, Robert Young III, Billy Snyder, Jonathan Smith, Joey Medley, Jonathan Mattingly and Rhea Ballman voted Aye; motion carried unanimously.
- C. City Maintenance: Overgrown drainage at 504 Valley Street
Councilwoman, Rhea Ballman explained that the bamboo growing in the city's drainage area at the corner Valley Street was out of control. She further stated that she had received a letter from the current residents who were not able to attend due to work scheduling further explaining the health concerns due to the overgrown bamboo. The bamboo attracted birds making nest and messing in the yard and also drawing snakes. After some explanation of the problems, Public Works Director Lucas stated that Operation and Maintenance would cut the bamboo and spray.

- D. Property Purchase: Mayor Lucas explained to the Council about the purchase of the Old Frymire Equipment property located at 201 South First Street for the construction of a new building for both the Fire and Police Departments. The building could also serve as a community safety complex during inclement weather. After much discussion, Councilman Robert Young III made a motion to purchase the Old Frymire Equipment property for \$68,800.00. Councilwoman, Rhea Ballman seconded. All members present voted aye; motion carried unanimously.
- E. Fire Department Billing Ordinance: No action was taken.
- F. Fire/Police Department Surplus Radios: Fire Chief Hougland explained that once the fire department receives the new radios the old radios will no longer be used and needed to be surplus while they could still be of service. He further stated that John Betner had agreed to sell the old radios for a small fee (10% of the selling price). Police Chief Ballman added that he had some old radios that also needed to be surplus as well. Councilman, Jonathan Mattingly made a motion to surplus all old radios from both departments and allow Betner Communication, LLC to sell them on the City's behalf; Councilwoman, Rhea Ballman seconded. All members present voting aye, motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business to come before the Council, Councilwoman Rhea Ballman moved to adjourn this meeting and Councilman, Robert Young III seconded. Motion carried by unanimous consent and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:08 pm ET.

CHARLES DOUGLAS LUCAS, MAYOR

ATTEST _____
SHERRIE LAWSON, CITY CLERK/TREASURER