The Ellsworth City Council met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall on August 14th, 2023 with Mayor Yager presiding and the following council present: King, Sogard, Funk and Norem. Absent: Gelder.

July Receipts July Disbursements

General Fund 23593.23 57758.54

Road Use Fund 5709.15 1706.48

Employee Benefit Fund 208.42 3670.91

Emergency Fund 76.48 7112.00

Local Option Sales Tax Fund 4919.80

Tax Increment Finance Area 1

Tax Increment Finance Area 2

Tax Increment Finance 1 Amend

Bingo Fund 5397.26 2970.96

Debt Service Fund 109.56 16822.00

Capital Improv Reserve

Capital Project-Ind. Park Rd.

Capital Project-EL Util Impr

Capital Project-Well Project

Capital Project-Strm Water 18755.50

Water Fund 32372.37 17179.24

Water Sinking Fund

Sewer Fund 9012.17 20374.15

Electric Fund 78659.55 63669.59

Electric Sinking Fund

Storm Water Fund 4543.19 16226.30

Storm Water Sinking Fund

$164601.18 $226245.67

**AGENDA APPROVAL**: Motion by King, seconded by Funk to approve the agenda. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

**CONSENT AGENDA**: Motion by Norem, seconded by King to approve the following items listed on the consent agenda:

1. Motion to approve July 10th, 2023 council minutes.
2. Motion to approve July payment of claims.

Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried and claims hereby made a portion of these minutes.

**PUBLIC FORUM:** Property owner Forest Paulson was present to discuss with the council concerns regarding the constant water buildup he has on his property. He currently has 2 different sump pumps that are continually working and is concerned that there may be a larger issue at hand. Supervisor Vanlangen was aware of the concerns and has spoken to the property owner and has been working with him to try and problem solve what may be causing the constant flow. There was mention of how deep the basement was dug and also that the pumps may be pumping water out and due to the grading, the water may be coming right back towards the foundation. The council will receive an update at next month’s council meeting.

**RALLY SUNDAY:** There was a request by the Lutheran Church to be able to temporarily close down Dewitt Street between Des Moines and Dubuque for Rally Sunday on Sunday September 10th, 2023. This is an annual event hosted by

the church. Motion by Sogard, seconded by King. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

**FLAG FOOTBALL REQUEST:** Chelsea Grundmeier with the South Hamilton Flag Football League was in attendance to request permission for the league to use the Ellsworth ball diamond for practices and football games again this season and to ask for a donation to assist in operating expenses occurred for the year. She stated that the league has approximately 70 kids out this year and that practices were already underway, with the games beginning in September. Motion by Norem, seconded by Sogard to approve use of the field and a donation of $500.00 to the league. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried. Chelsea will communicate with the City Clerk on practice and game schedules and be in contact with the ECA regarding concession stands.

**AMERICAN SANITATION:** Brad Schmidt with American Sanitation was available to answer any questions or concerns the council had from last months meeting regarding the new recycling service their company is now offering. After discussing Pros and Cons of having one service or two services for recycling, it was determined that the City would initiate a bid process to begin in September for any interested parties wishing to submit a bid for services.

**VANWERT INC:** Steve Brush with VanWert Inc. was present to discuss several questions the council had regarding the water and electric meter changeout project that has been going on since February of this year. He updated the council regarding how many meters were left to change out, what the expected time arrival was on the final equipment needed for the City to completely take over reading the meters and when the training for the software would take place. Several concerns were raised regarding the amount of time City employees had spent figuring out the software and billing issues and installing the meters themselves and questions about sales tax on some of the invoices were also inquired about. The project looks to come in under budget by approximately $6,000.00. There was a motion by King, seconded by Sogard to pay invoices totaling $71,665.67. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

**VENDOR PERMITS:** Due to the recent popularity of the Wednesday Farmers Market here in Ellsworth, there has been some interest in food trucks being included. Discussion regarding licensing and insurance responsibilities took place and it was agreed that the Clerk would keep records on hand at City Hall.

**ELECTRIC BOND DEBT:** The City Clerk informed the council that the Electric Bond Revenue Debt for the 2016 Street Light Project was down to a balance of $70,000.00 and that the electric sinking fund currently has an excess of $45,795.31 in it. She suggested taking the remaining $24,204.69 out of the electric fund and paying off the loan to save the next 3 years’ worth of interest charges. Motion by King, seconded by Funk to transfer funds to payoff the Electric Revenue Bond debt in full. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

**ROAD SIGNS AND ENFORCEMENT FOR VIOLATIONS:** Supervisor Vanlangen spoke with the council regarding placing an order for additional truck route signs, no trucks signs and no parking signs. There was also discussion regarding continued parking of semis on Industrial Park Road and the garbage they are throwing out into the street and the ditches and properties there. After speaking with law enforcement, it was agreed that parking infraction fees would be increased to prevent both the littering and congestion caused by the overnight parking in the area. Motion by Funk, seconded by Sogard to impose a $500 municipal infraction for any parking violation on Industrial Park Road, except in the case of emergency as determined by the City. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

**BOARD RESIGNATION:** The resignation was rescinded.

**WATER TREATMENT PLANT ITEMS:** Supervisor Vanlangen spoke with the council regarding the need for a new Spectrophotometer for the water plant. He presented several examples and prices, however after reviewing the information the council has requested more information before voting. Vanlangen will have that information available at the next meeting.

**COMMENTS:** There was conversation regarding the future of the City’s lagoons and of stricter requirement being set by the DNR. Alan Hanson discussed with the council the need for an engineer to be involved in a plan of action and the deadline of that plan.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mayor Yager adjourned the meeting at 8:38 pm.

/s/ Dolorus Yager, Mayor

/s/ Amy L. Zeman, City Clerk