

The Ellsworth City Council met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall on APRIL 14, 2025 with Mayor Yager presiding, and the following council present: Funk, Sogard, Phipps, and Olson. Members of the public present: Officer Kaleb Morton (EJS), Linda Clark (ECA), Allen Watts (Bingo), Don Meyers of WHKS Engineering, John Joiner of WHKS Engineering, and Chris Nelson of Murphey Tractor. Staff present: Lee Knickerbocker.

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

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

- a. Motion to approve March 25 Minutes and April 2 Special Hearing Minutes.
- b. Motion to approve March/April payment of Claims.
- c. Motion to approve annual insurance premiums to Shomo-Madsen-Krause for \$90,039.00.
- d. Motion to approve transfer of Bingo funds to 3-month CD with AvailaBank for \$50,000.
- e. Motion to approve transfer of Library funds to 3-month CD with AvailaBank for \$39,000.
- f. Motion to approve transfer of Water Utility funds to 6-month CD with AvailaBank for \$150,000.
- g. Motion to approve transfer of Electric Utility funds to 6-month CD with AvailaBank for \$250,000.

Councilwoman Sogard made a motion to propose an amendment to the March 25 Minutes to add clarification that for the price paid to EJS annually, the Hamilton County Sheriff Department could not dedicate a full-time deputy to the City of Ellsworth. Seconded by Olson Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

Mayor Yager moved Consent Agenda (d.) to the regular Agenda.

Roll call votes 3-1 with Sogard voting nay. Motion carried and claims hereby made a portion of these minutes.

**PUBLIC FORUM:** Allen Watts addressed the council and gave updates on steady attendance at weekly Bingo. He thanked the council for the improved lighting and requested 8 new/replacement trash receptacles as well as additional security lighting outside the building by the southeast doors.

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEM (d.):** Discussion and possible action moved to April 22<sup>nd</sup> regular Council Meeting.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON FISH FARM TIF REBATE:** Nate Summers, the Ellsworth City Financial Advisor, phoned in to discuss available TIF to be used as an incentive for potential buyers of the 1802 Industrial Park Road property. \$100,008 is available annually until the property sunsets in 10 years. This will reduce the General Fund levy by \$27,382 annually. The City is not obligated to offer the full available TIF in a developer's incentive agreement. Mr Summers also discussed with the council potential revenues from a fully functioning business occupying the 1802 Industrial Park Rd facility. While electric and water revenues cannot be used for the same purposes as General Fund Levy they would still significantly effect available funds in those utilities for future development. No action was taken by the council at this time.

**DISCUSSION OF PRELIMINARY HOUSING DEVELOPMENT DESIGN BY WHKS ENGINEERING:** Don Meyers and Joh Joiner of WHKS were present to discuss their two proposed designs for possible housing development on parcels 40872331105003 and 40872331107001.

**ECA:** Volunteer Linda Clark was present to discuss with the council information about the annual dump your junk event in Ellsworth. The Council requested prices for both having dumpsters set near IAS as has been done in the past and the potential cost involved to both ECA and the City if curbside services were offered to the community for larger items. Additional Discussion and Possible Action will be at the April 22<sup>nd</sup> Council Meeting.

**LIBRARY:** None Present

**FIRE/EMS:** None Present

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION OF SOUTH HAMILTON T-BALL AND SOUTH HAMILTON SOCCER PROGRAM**

**DONATION REQUEST:** An email from Regina Beaune (director for both programs) was shared with council including a request for \$150 for each program as a donation from Bingo. Motion by Phipps to approve the \$150 Bingo donation to SH T-Ball and the \$150 Bingo donation to SH Soccer programs. Seconded by Sogard, roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

**SETTING FY25/26 BUDGET ADOPTION HEARING:** Motion by Funk to set the Budget Adoption Hearing for April 28<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. Seconded by Olson, roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

**ACTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE #17.04 PERTAINING TO COUNCIL MEETINGS:** After Council discussion, it was determined no action was required as no changes will be made. The Council meetings will continue to be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at 6 pm and the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 6 pm. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> Readings failed.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION OF NEW UTILITY SHOP DEMOLITION AND NEW STRUCTURE:** The bidding process is not required in cities under 50,000 in population for vertical structures under the amount of \$81,000 according to Iowa Code chapter 26. The Council was presented with a bid from Next Generation Buildings for a 40 foot wide by 100 foot long by 16 foot inside height composite steel frame shop building for \$74,926.00. Motion to accept this bid and move forward with the project by Phipps and seconded by Funk. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION OF ELECTRIC UTILITY IMPROVEMENTS TO 1-011 HWY 175:** A price quote for boring and transformer presented to Council from Midland Power. Discussion was to wait on action until Public Works Supervisor VanLangen was present to answer questions.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mayor Yager adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

/s/ Dolorus Yager, Mayor

/s/ Heidi Eckers, City Clerk

X \_\_\_\_\_

Dolorus Yager, Mayor

X \_\_\_\_\_

Heidi Eckers, City Clerk