

The Ellsworth City Council met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall on April 22nd, 2025 with Mayor Yager presiding, and the following council present: Sogard, Phipps and Olson. With Funk arriving at 6:10pm. Also in attendance were Linda Clark with ECA, Ottie Maxey with Ames Regional Economic Alliance, and Chris Kehoe with The Trashman.

	March Receipts	March Disbursements
General Fund	12046.59	25453.16
Road Use Fund	5444.79	15714.91
Employee Benefit Fund	220.86	1010.74
Emergency Fund	0.00	
Local Option Sales Tax Fund	5575.16	
Tax Increment Finance Area 1	0.00	
Tax Increment Finance 1 Amend	0.00	
Bingo Fund	6378.30	3431.79
Debt Service Fund	118.15	0.00
Capital Project-Strm Water		
Capital Project-Water Tower		1907.00
Water Fund	26058.17	40873.17
Water Sinking Fund		
Sewer Fund	6580.80	9431.61
Electric Fund	65490.28	115.944.05
Electric Sinking Fund		
Storm Water Fund	4612.79	53.11
Storm Water Sinking		5473.00
	\$132525.89	\$219292.54

AGENDA APPROVAL: Motion by Sogard, seconded by Olson to approve the agenda. Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried.

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

- a. Motion to approve April 14th, 2025 council minutes.
- b. Motion to approve March payment of claims.
- c. Motion to approve annual liquor license renewal for Love’s Travel Stops

Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried and claims hereby made a portion of these minutes.

PUBLIC FORUM: None Present

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION - ON FISH FARM TIF REBATE: Ottie Maxey with Ames Regional Economic Alliance was present to discuss with the council the economic benefit to having the Fish Farm facility purchased and in use. Data for impact on the general fund by offering a TIF incentive to a potential buyer was also discussed. Motion by Sogard and seconded by Phipps for Clerk Eckers to draft a memo containing Ellsworth’s interest in offering a 10 year \$67,000 TIF incentive to a potential buyer contingent upon utility impact changes being made by the buyer prior to operation as well as the nature of business to be conducted in the facility. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION – MEMBERSHIP TO HAMILTON COUNTY GROWTH PARTNERSHIP: Motion by Sogard to pay first year membership at \$500 level to the Hamilton County Growth Partnership. Seconded by Funk. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION – DEVELOPER’S AGREEMENT PARCEL 40872436226006: Motion by Phipps to approve proposed developer’s agreement drafted by Schlottfeldt Engineering, seconded by Sogard. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

ELLSWORTH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION: Linda Clark, ECA Treasurer and council woman Marcy Olson, ECA President discussed with council some ideas to improve the citywide “Dump Your Junk” event. Chris Kehoe of The Trashman was

also present to offer insight on details regarding a weekend-long, potential curbside pickup cleanup event in Ellsworth. The weekend of June 21st was discussed as a doable weekend for The Trashman's schedule and ECA event schedule.

FIRE/EMS: None Present

LIBRARY: None Present

PLANNING AND ZONING APPOINTMENT: Mayor Yager appointed Alyssa Zimmerman of Ellsworth to join the Ellsworth Planning and Zoning Board. Fellow board members include: Beth Grove, Brian Zimmerman, Paula Newman, and Jim Maxwell.

FY 25/26 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING: Mayor Yager opened the FY 25/26 Budget Public hearing. After giving the public opportunity to be heard, Mayor Yager closed the FY 25/26 Budget Public hearing. Motion by Funk and second by Olson to adopt Resolution #04-22-25 and the 25/26 Budget and Certification of taxes. The total tax levy will be 10.199, with revenues and transfers equaling \$2,471,353 and total expenditures and transfers equaling \$2,718,759. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

SETTING PUBLIC HEARING FOR FY24/25 BUDGET AMENDMENT: Motion by Funk and second by Olson to set 24/25 Budget amendment hearing for 6pm on May 27th. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION – SALE OF BINGO TABLES AND CHAIRS TO KAMRAR LIONS CLUB: Motion by Phipps and second by Sogard to sell the remaining Bingo tables and chairs to the Kamrar Lion's club for \$90. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION – ELECTRIC UTILITY IMPROVEMENTS TO 101 HWY 175: Supervisor Vanlangen discussed with Council the upcoming electric infrastructure project involving expansion of the Ellsworth Car and Truck Wash. A Midland Power quote was also discussed for these improvements. Council discussed the property no longer being in the Urban Renewal District and therefore, no TIF funds could be utilized to pay for the infrastructure expenses. Prior business expansion projects have resulted in a shared cost of boring and the business paying for additional transformers required for their project. Motion by Funk and seconded by Sogard to have the city pay for wire and boring along the city easement and the business as an existing and expanding enterprise, paying for the remaining portion of wire, boring, and for the transformer. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried. Clerk Eckers will draft an invoice including these parameters for payment.

PUBLIC WORKS: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION – FY 25/26 PURCHASE OF NEW BACKHOE: Discussion between Public Works Supervisor Vanlangen and the Council concerning the need for a new backhoe. Council requested more purchase or lease options prior to making a decision. Agenda item tabled.

CITY HALL UPDATES – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: APPOINTING A MODERATOR FOR UPCOMING TOWN HALL: Councilman William Funk appointed as Moderator for April 27 Town Hall at the Ellsworth Community Center.

CITY HALL UPDATES - DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: CITY HALL MERCHANT PROCESSING: Motion by Sogard and second by Olson to accept proposal by Professional Solutions Financial Services to an in-house credit card processing system for City Hall. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Pro Tem Funk adjourned the meeting at 9:08 pm.

/s/ Dolorus Yager, Mayor

/s/ Heidi Eckers, City Clerk