

The Ellsworth City Council met in regular session at 6:02 pm at City Hall on April 28, 2026, with Mayor Anksorus presiding, and the following council members present: Sogard, Olson, Phipps, with Jensen arriving at 6:05 and Funk arriving at 6:28. Also in attendance were Ashley Platte, Hope Caudle, Brittany Williams, Eric Shomo with Shomo Insurance, and Dr Kaushik Ragan.

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

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

- a. Motion to approve April 13, 2026 council minutes.
- b. Motion to approve April 28, 2026 payment of claims.
- e. Motion to approve payment of \$98,233.00 to EMC Insurance for 2026 premium coverage.

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

**PUBLIC FORUM:** Hope Caudle was present to discuss with the Council storm water drainage issues around the area of Park Ave Circle on the north side of the city. Supervisor Vanlangen will be looking into new grates to help prevent blockages.

**PUBLIC HEARING FY 27 BUDGET:** Mayor Anksorus opened the public hearing at 6:10 pm. No public present. Mayor Anksorus closed the public hearing at 6:11 pm.

**RESOLUTION 04-28-2026 ADOPTION OF FY27 BUDGET:** Motion by Sogard and seconded by Olson to adopt the FY 27 Budget and Resolution 04-28-2026. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

**SHOMO INSURANCE – WIND/HAIL DEDUCTIBLE BUY-DOWN POLICY:** Eric Shomo of Shomo Insurance was present to answer questions about the current deductible levels on city property for storm damage. Currently, the policy is a percentage of replacement cost-based, which, in the example of the water plant and community center, totals a deductible of over \$73,000 for each incident. After discussion, motion by Phipps and seconded by Olson to approve wind/hail deductible buy-down policy for \$6705.11. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

**LIBRARY:** None present

**FIRE/EMS:** Council was presented with a second quote for the planned FY27 improvements to the fire station from Supervisor Vanlagen from Brown Builders of Story City in the amount of \$50,563. No action has been taken by the Council at this time. Clerk Eckers included Thompson Construction's quote from the last meeting in the FY27 Budget.

**ECA:** Ashley Platte and Brittany Williams were present to update the Council on the success of the Dump Your Junk Event on April 25. There were 91 vehicles that came through the line, over 200 tires collected, and Friday the 25<sup>th</sup> 21 houses participated in the curbside pickup option. The Council thanked the ECA for their efforts in helping to keep Ellsworth looking it's best and look forward to this event growing even more in the future. The Council was presented with several maps and timelines for events for the upcoming Ellsworth Extravaganza on June 26-28. The ECA requested road closures Friday around the city park for the kiddie parade. Saturday morning for a 5k run, Saturday midday for the car show, touch a truck, and Xtreme tumbling exhibition, as well as around the park for the Saturday evening for the bank and beer/wine trucks. Motion by Olson and seconded by Sogard to approve all road closures for Extravaganza festivities and events the weekend of June 26-June 28. Roll call votes 5-0. Motion carried.

#### **CITY HALL:**

- a. ISU Comp Plan – Final Review: Clerk Eckers presented the Council with the final draft of the Ellsworth Comp Plan, any edits need to be sent to Eckers by no later than Thursday April 30<sup>th</sup>.
- b. Tree Inventory – Mayor Anksorus divided up the city and printed maps to record by potential damage causing potential of any dead or diseased trees and has been working on marking them down. Councilwoman Sogard offered to take one part of the town and help with the project. Clerk Eckers will have the final draft of the tree nuisance letter prepared by the May 11<sup>th</sup> meeting and will have the addresses listed for Council to review.
- c. Water tower pro-forma: tabled until May 11

- d. Eagle Scout Project at the Ellsworth Community Center: Keegan Glen, local Eagle Scout, submitted a proposal to City Hall to paint parking lines at the community center this summer. Glen requested that the City provide one case of the striping paint to help with the cost. Motion by Sogard and seconded by Olson to approve the project and donation of paint to the project. Roll call votes 5-0. Motion carried.
- e. Commercial Development Proposal - Dental Clinic: Dr Kaushik Ragan was present to discuss a proposal of opening a dental and health clinic in Ellsworth. The proposal came with the ask of the city purchasing a parcel and building a Morton building with continued city ownership, and Dr. Kaushik outfitting the inside of the building with pod-style pop-up dental suites. Dr Kaushik presented the council with a letter of intent and requested the Council approve. Councilman Phipps discussed waiting until the May 11 meeting to give members time to do some research about the needs and benefits of the facility prior to signing the letter of intent.
- f. Bingo Scholarships: Four \$500 scholarship applications were received by the City from South Hamilton Students. All met the requirements. Motion by Sogard and seconded by Olson to approve and award all four scholarships. Roll call votes 5-0. Motion carried. Councilwoman Olson will attend the awards ceremony on May 13<sup>th</sup> to present the scholarship awards.
- g. Lucky Wife Wine Slushies: Motion by Jensen and seconded by Olson to approve the liquor license for Ellsworth Extravaganza weekend. Roll call votes 5-0. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC WORKS:**

- a. Bolton and Menk RO Membranes/Water Plant Updates: Supervisor Vanlangen updated the Council on well and sand filter testing process as requested by the Engineering firm prior to installing the new RO filters and running the RO System.
- b. Water Affidavit Operator Discussion: Alan Hanson submitted his resignation to the City of Ellsworth as the water affidavit operator. Vanlangen continues to pursue his certification testing. He will reach out to a contact to potentially step in temporarily as affidavit operator.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by Funk and seconded by Olson to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 pm. Roll call votes 5-0. Motion carried.

/s/ Barry Anksorus, Mayor

/s/ Heidi Eckers, City Clerk

X \_\_\_\_\_  
Barry Anksorus, Mayor

X \_\_\_\_\_  
Heidi Eckers, City Clerk