

The Ellsworth City Council met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall on August 11th, 2025, with Mayor Yager presiding, and the following council members present: Phipps, Funk, Olson. Holden arriving at 6:25pm. Also in attendance were Ashely Platte and Brian Zimmerman

	August Receipts	August Disbursements
General Fund	4288.69	59247.50
Road Use Fund	5549.62	4327.42
Employee Benefit Fund	72.62	2471.06
Emergency Fund	0.00	0.00
Local Option Sales Tax Fund	6498.60	0.00
Tax Increment Finance Area 1	0.00	0.00
Tax Increment Finance 1 Amend	0.00	0.00
Bingo Fund	5734.82	7454.60
Debt Service Fund		0.00
Capital Project-Strm Water		
Capital Project-Water Tower		36134.10
Water Fund	31480.63	77975.17
Water Sinking Fund		
Sewer Fund	8535.76	28397.79
Electric Fund	86761.73	107627.25
Electric Sinking Fund		
Storm Water Fund	5551.72	0.00
Storm Water Sinking		5473.00
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	\$154474.19	\$326636.47

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

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

- Motion to approve July 22nd, 2025 council minutes.
- Motion to approve August 11th payment of claims.
- Motion to approve Bingo donation to the Ellsworth History Museum of \$300.
- Motion to approve investment of Fire Department savings for a 6 month CD of \$200,000.

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

PUBLIC FORUM: None Present

CITIZEN COMPLAINT: There has been a slow water leak in the ditch along Ubben north of town. Public Works Supervisor Vanlangen has called Hall's Backhoe to come address the issue by the end of this week or the beginning of next week. Clerk Eckers will contact the property owner with an update.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH RALLY SUNDAY: Motion by Funk and second by Olson to approve road closure on September 14th from 9 am -2 pm in front of Trinity Church for their rally Sunday festival. Roll call votes. 3-0. Motion carried.

HALLOWEEN DATE: Motion by Funk and second by Phipps to set Thursday, October 30th, as the city-wide trick or treat night for 2026, from 6 pm to 8 pm. Roll call votes. 3-0. Motion carried.

PARKS BOARD UPDATE: Public works staff Lee Knickerbocker attended the Parks Board meeting on August 6th to update the board on project status in the city park. The Board will be reaching out to DeDe Henderson to ask for help with some grant research and the availability of resources to help with project costs for new playground equipment. The public restroom updates are underway, a ring camera will be installed to help alleviate vandalism risks. The Pickleball court project will be initiated by late next week. The Parks Board is looking for volunteers to help with painting the courts once the cracks are filled and sealed.

ECA: Ashley Platte was present for ECA and requested that hours be extended for the Ellsworth Extravaganza 2026. The date is June 27, and she asked that the park remain open until midnight instead of the usual 11 pm. Discussion about a needed Resolution to make an exception for the one day commenced. Motion by Funk and second by Olson to allow the ECA to rent the community center on November 9th 2025 free of charge for their 2nd annual soup supper from 5 pm to 8 pm. Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried. Motion by Funk and second by Olson to approve ECA's use of the Park Shelter House on April 4th, 2026, for their annual breakfast/brunch for Easter. Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried. Ashley mentioned a possible date of April 26th, 2026, for the next Dump Your Junk event. Council discussed looking into a later date, closer to summer, and the extravaganza. Motion by Funk and second by Olson to approve ECA use of the Community Center on November 8th, 2026 free of charge for their 3rd annual soup supper fundraiser. Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: DEVELOPERS' AGREEMENT PARCEL 40872436226006: A new building permit was submitted by the Overland Group, as well as the appropriate DNR requirements and sewer and utility easements. Motion by Holden and second by Funk to approve the updated Developer's Agreement. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: THOMPSON CONSTRUCTION QUOTE FOR METAL ROOF INSTALL ON SCHOOLHOUSE – After discussion concerning future plans and use for the building, Motion by Funk and second by Phipps to approve quote by Thompson Construction of \$37,312.59 for tear off, repair, and replacement of the roof on the old schoolhouse building. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATES: Supervisor Vanlangen updated the Council on the old fire department building being emptied. Sogard Excavating will be tearing the building down in the next week or two. The new doors on the new city shed will be installed this week. Once complete, the fire department equipment currently being housed in a rented space will be moved over to the new city shed where rent will not be charged. The weather siren is still waiting on a custom bracket before it can be mounted on the new pole by the fire station. The water plant is having a valve issue that Vanlangen is addressing. The new RO filters will be installed in the water plant early next week. They have all arrived at the facility at this point.

CITY HALL UPDATES: Clerk Eckers updated Council on a recent visit by state arborist Joe Herring with the DNR and his assessment of re-populating trees throughout city easements, public spaces, the storm water ditch, and the lagoons. Joe prepared a map with locations, suggested species, and recommendations, which clerk Eckers shared with the council. Clerk Eckers will be applying for the DNR Trees for Kids Grant to help cover the cost of initial tree purchases. City Hall building renovations have begun, and Clerk Eckers updated the council on the timeline for the south-facing wall resurfacing, the front façade work, and the rear door work. Clerk Eckers discussed with Council Ellsworth being selected to participate in a comprehensive community planning process with the College of Design through Iowa State University. Clerk Eckers will be reaching out to Ellsworth TelCom to request a partnership contribution, which will make the city eligible for the Ripple Effect Grant through Iowa Area Development Group, which will help offset the cost of the comprehensive planning project. The first visit by the Iowa State students will be on Wednesday, August 27th, from 3 pm to 6 pm, to have their first look at the community and to define priorities with local leaders, and the direction for the community in this 10-year plan. Clerk Eckers updated the Council on upcoming clerk training dates, state audit, and reporting dates.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Yager called for adjournment at 7:39pm.

/s/ Dolorus Yager, Mayor
/s/ Heidi Eckers, City Clerk

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Dolorus Yager, Mayor

X _____
Heidi Eckers, City Clerk