

The Ellsworth City Council met in regular session at 6:01 p.m. at City Hall on August 26th, 2025, with Mayor Yager presiding, and the following council members present: Phipps, Sogard, Holden, and Olson. Also in attendance were Brian Zimmerman and Katie Sterk with Bolten and Menk.

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

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

- a. Motion to approve August 11, 2025 council minutes.
- b. Motion to approve August 26, 2025 payment of claims.

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

PUBLIC FORUM: None Present

PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS, FORM SPECIFICATIONS, CORM OF CONTRACT AND ESTIMATE OF COST FOR THE PROPOSED 350,000 GALLON ELEVATED WATER STORAGE TANK PROJECT: Mayor Yager opened the public hearing. None present for comment. Mayor Yager closed the public hearing.

RESOLUTION FINALLY APPROVING AND CONFIRMING PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS, FORM OF CONTRACT AND ESTIMATE OF COST FOR THE 350,000 GALLON ELEVATED WATER STORAGE TANK PROJECT: Motion by Sogard and seconded by Olson to adopt Resolution #8-25-2025/1 Resolution finally approving and confirming plans, specifications, form of contract and estimate of cost for the 350,000 elevated water storage tank project. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

CONSIDERATION OF BIDS FOR THE 350,000 GALLON ELEVATED WATER STORAGE TANK PROJECT: Katie Sterk of Bolten and Menk was present to discuss the one bid received from this latest round of bid letting. Opened at 3pm on August 20th at city hall. The single bid received was from Phoenix Fabricators of Avon, Indiana, in the amount of \$5,401,047.00. The recommendation of Bolten and Menk is to reject this bid as the Engineer's estimate was \$2,887,115.00. Katie discussed options for revisions to the plans prior to another round of bid letting. She will attend the next Council meeting with more information on alternatives.

RESOLUTION AWARDDING CONTRACT FOR THE 350,000 GALLON ELEVATED WATER STORAGE TANK PROJECT: Motion to reject bid by Phipps and seconded by Holden. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH OPEN PARK SHELTER USE: Mayor Yager let the Council know TLC would be holding services on Sunday September 7th in the Open Park Shelter House again and will be doing a blessing of the backpacks and blessing of the pets for the community at 9am.

ECA: NONE PRESENT

LIBRARY: NONE PRESENT

FIRE/EMS: Councilman Holden updated the Council about all of the fire equipment now being moved from the rental building to the city shed across the street. Fire Chief Evans is still working on the weather siren project downtown.

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATES: Staff not present. Clerk Eckers presented council with an email from the owner at 1422 Detroit Street. The owner requested that a large rock be placed around the culvert to make it easier to keep weeds and tall grass at bay, as the sides are too steep for a mower. After discussion, motion by Phipps and second by Olson to allow the property owner to place rock on the sides of the culvert, which resides in the city easement. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

CITY HALL UPDATES: Clerk Eckers updated Council on the progress of a collaborative art project between the City and Conservation Creations (a local non-profit). Artist Siriaco Garcia has agreed to do two murals for Ellsworth. Conservation Creations director DeDe Henderson will be applying for an Iowa Arts Council Grant to help cover the cost of these murals, as well as through sponsorship, for which Clerk Eckers has sent letters to local businesses to solicit. To secure the artist an initial design fee of \$250 is required. Motion by Phipps and seconded by Sogard to approve the City paying for the design fee of \$250. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried. Clerk Eckers also shared an email from the Iowa State Professor Julie Robison who will be bringing the College of Design students to Ellsworth for their first tour and meet and greet with officials August 27th. Professor Robison requested elected officials be at City Hall around 4:45 as opposed to the previously planned time of 5pm due to several students needing to leave by 5pm. Clerk Eckers will begin typing up

materials after the initial meeting regarding necessary Town Hall meetings for student community polling as a part of the comprehensive planning data collection process.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Yager called for adjournment. Motion by Olson and seconded by Holden. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.

/s/ Dolorus Yager, Mayor

/s/ Heidi Eckers, City Clerk

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Dolorus Yager, Mayor

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Heidi Eckers, City Clerk