The Ellsworth City Council met in regular session at 5:11 p.m. at City Hall on December 17, 2024, with Mayor Dolorus Yager presiding, and the following council present: Laube, Olsen, Phipps.

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

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

1. Motion to approve December 9 minutes

**PUBLIC FORUM: None Present**

**OPEN GYM TIME AT COMMUNITY CENTER:** After discussion about minor changes made to the liability release, motion made by Laube to begin open gym time at the Ellsworth Community Center Sundays 4pm to 6pm. Community members interested should stop into Ellsworth City Hall to sign a liability release and pay a one time $10 fee which will cover all residents in household during open gym days and hours until March 2, 2025. Motion seconded by Olson, roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried. City Clerk Heidi Eckers will prepare membership/access cards to hand out as community members come and pay their $10 fee. These cards need to be presented upon arrival to open gym time.

**ECA:** Marcy Olson, President of the ECA, updated council on the rescheduled Christmas events this coming Saturday, December 21. Their volunteers will be dispersing holiday meal baskets as well as helping with the festivities at Ellsworth Fire Department starting at 4:30pm.

**FIRE/EMS:** None Present

**LIBRARY:** None Present

**CITY HALL UPDATES:** City Clerk Eckers updated the Council on progress with façade and bathroom renovations to City Hall, status with the new water rate study being conducted by financial advisor Nate Summers, a now remedied situation of fraudulently cashed checks from Love’s Travel Stop, and an update on storm water drainage district 30 brought in by County Supervisor Rick Young.

**PUBLIC WORKS UPDATES:** PW Supervisor Nick Vanlangen and PW employee Lee Knickerbocker were present to update the council. Nick let the council know he is waiting to hear back from DMACC on potential testing dates for his water safety certification. Nick and Lee brought to the Council’s attention the growing concerns with avian flu in our county, Joe Armbruster from the USDA approached PW employees about addressing the risks in wild bird populations near the city lagoons. Motion made by Phipps to adopt the avian flu management work initiation agreement presented to council, giving Joe Armbruster access to the lagoons to manage the wild bird population and reduce the risks of avian flu to nearby commercial turkey facilities. Motion seconded by Olson, roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried. PW Supervisor Vanlangen mentioned two streetlights with sensor issues on DeWitt Street. These sensors have been replaced by city staff, they suspect faulty wiring and requested bringing in Short Circuit Electric to help them remedy the issues. Schotfeldt Engineering is sending the needed reports to DNR addressing the ammonia levels at the lagoons. Westech will be coming to probe 3 of the sand filters at the new city water plant in the next few weeks to test the media and its efficacy.

**APPOINTMENTS:** Mayor Dolorus Yager appointed Bill Robb as the City representative to the Sanitation Board.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mayor Dolorus Yager called for adjournment at 5:46 p.m.

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Mayor, Dolorus Yager City Clerk, Heidi Eckers