

The Ellsworth City Council met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall on February 10, 2025, with Mayor Dolorus Yager presiding, and the following council present: Laube, Funk, Olsen, Phipps. Roll Call 4-0

| | January Receipts | January Disbursements |
|-------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| General Fund | 8365.05 | 33581.98 |
| Road Use Fund | 6036.05 | 1288.56 |
| Employee Benefit Fund | 71.25 | 782.09 |
| Emergency Fund | | |
| Local Option Sales Tax Fund | 7024.28 | |
| Tax Increment Finance Area 1 | | |
| Tax Increment Finance Area 2 | | |
| Tax Increment Finance 1 Amend | | |
| Bingo Fund | 4445.78 | 2385.55 |
| Debt Service Fund | 38.11 | |
| Capital Project-Storm Water | | |
| Capital Project-Water Tower | | 5840.00 |
| Water Fund | 24307.22 | 17668.60 |
| Water Sinking Fund | | |
| Sewer Fund | 5200.00 | 7281.21 |
| Electric Fund | 66188.69 | 60358.86 |
| Electric Sinking Fund | | |
| Storm Water Fund | 4469.72 | |
| Storm Water Sinking | | 5473.00 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | \$126146.15 | \$134659.85 |

AGENDA APPROVAL: Motion by Olson, second by Laube. Roll Call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

Sogard present 6:02 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA: Motion by Laube, seconded by Funk to approve the following items listed on the consent agenda. Roll call votes 5-0. Motion carried.

- a. Motion to approve January 28 minutes
- b. Motion to approve January Payment of Claims

PUBLIC FORUM: None Present

BUDGET DISCUSSION:

FIRE/EMS: Fire Chief Jaysen Evans present to discuss proposed budgets for Fire Department and EMS. Proposed increases in 24/25 budget include additional funding for FD training and increased amounts to building maintenance. Bid from Sogard Excavating for removal of old Fire Station led to discussion by PW Supervisor Vanlangen at the prospect of investing in a grapple hook by the city which would enable city staff to handle demo projects in the future. Supervisor Vanlangen will bring quote for equipment to next council meeting to discuss adding into the FY 25/26 budget.

POLICE: Proposed budget was emailed to City Clerk, Mayor and Council. The City will use proposed per capita (\$129.76) numbers in 25/26 FY.

LIBRARY: Proposed budget was email to City Clerk, Mayor and Council. Changes to note are wage increases for both library staff and a reduction in budgeted cost for utilities.

MUSEUM: An annual budget request was made via email by Janet Adix of \$300 to be used for regular expenses by the Museum. A balance of \$45 from FY 24/25 was mentioned, which does not match the city's current balance of \$300. A list of proof of expenses will be requested by the City Clerk to be communicated to council at the next regular meeting,

WAGES: Personnel committee discussed annual reviews for City Clerk Eckers, PW Supervisor Vanlangen and City staff Knickerbocker. Raises proposed for Eckers at 8%, Knickerbocker at 6% and Vanlangen at 6% with an additional 4% after water certification completed. Proposed raises accepted by Knickerbocker and Eckers. Vanlangen requested an additional rate increase. Personnel committee will meet at the close of tonight's regular session to discuss further.

OTHER REQUESTS: None

ECA: ECA President Olson gave examples from the ECA budget of expenses throughout the year, including the proposed reinstallation of monthly newsletter mailings at \$700 per month. Olson asked the council if contributing to this proposed expense was something they would consider. Clerk Eckers will look into per until cost to print on the city's printer and per until cost to mail using the city's bulk mailing permit. This will be discussed further at the next regular council meeting.

CITY HALL UPDATES: City Clerk Eckers updated the Council on progress with the Urban Renewal Plan, proposed update on a Comprehensive Plan for the city, renovations and updates to the City Hall building, and the Clerk certification classes just completed the week prior. Clerk Eckers also updated the Council on several development grants that may be applicable to Main Street streetscape project and the Watertower project. Clerk Eckers will continue to work with Ottie Maxey of the Ames Regional Alliance to pursue these funding opportunities. Clerk Eckers presented information on a short term CD special First State Bank is running. Clerk Eckers will find out what's necessary to add another financial institution to the cities' current depository ordinance.

PUBLIC WORKS:

- a. OLD WATER PLANT BATHROOMS – Parks Dept Staff Knickerbocker will begin gathering quotes for a remodel project with the plan to re-open public bathrooms in the city park. City staff will work with local law enforcement to design a plan that will minimize the occurrence or threat of vandalism in these facilities.
- b. CONCESSION STAND BALLPARK BATHROOMS – Council requested these bathrooms be priority in the spring, new toilets, sinks and doors. Knickerbocker will work with Clerk Eckers to gather quotes to propose to council.
- c. LOGOS ON CITY TRUCKS – City Logo design and quotes provided by Clerk Eckers presented to council.

CITY-WIDE CLEANING: Tabled to next session

RESOLUTION SETTING DATE FOR PUBLIC HEARING ON URBAN RENEWAL PLAN AMENDMENT: Motion by Funk and second by Olson to accept Resolution 2-10-25 and set a public hearing at 5:30 p.m. on March 10, 2025. Roll call votes. 5-0. Motion carried. Resolution adopted.

PAYROLL CYCLE: Mayor Yager proposed Resolution 2-11-25 to amend payroll cycle for full-time city employees to every other Friday in lieu of bi-monthly. Motion by Funk and second by Sogard to adopt Resolution 2-11-25. Roll Call votes. 5-0. Resolution adopted. Clerk Eckers will discuss necessary steps to enforce this Resolution with software company, Banyon.

CODIFYING PROPOSAL: Clerk Eckers presented council with codifying proposal from Simmering-Cory Firm of \$5000. The most recent Code book, also published by Simmering/Cory is from 2008. For an additional fee of \$1100 the Code can be digitized and for \$450 per year can be hosted online. Motion made by Funk and seconded by Phipps to recodify but not digitize or have the code by hosted online. Roll call votes. 5-0. Motion carried.

MAX LEVY HEARING: Motion made by Funk to set max levy hearing date as April 2nd, 6pm. Second by Sogard. Roll call votes. 5-0. Motion carried.

FIRST DRAFT DEVELOPERS' AGREEMENT 1325 DELPHI: Council will read over and discuss potential changes by next regular session.

LIABILITY INSURANCE: Council discussed addition of ball field and concession stand to the liability policy at cash value \$16000 as opposed to replacement cost of \$32000. Clerk Eckers will communicate with Laura Larson of Shomo-Madsen Insurance to make these changes.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Yager called for adjournment at 8:13 p.m.

Dolorus Yager, Mayor

Heidi Eckers, City Clerk