

The Ellsworth City Council met in regular session at 6:02 p.m. at City Hall on February 25th, 2025 with Mayor Pro Tem William Funk, and the following council present: Olson and Phipps. Sogard arrived at 6:05 p.m.

AGENDA APPROVAL: Motion by Olson, seconded by Phipps to approve the agenda. Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried.
CONSENT AGENDA: Motion by Olson, seconded by Phipps to approve the following items listed on the consent agenda:

- a. Motion to approve February 10 Minutes.
- b. Motion to approve purchase of 3-month CD with Availa using \$490,000 in LOST funds.
- c. Motion to donate \$150 to South Hamilton Post Prom Committee from Bingo Funds.

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

ECA: Linda Clark and Darlene Campbell present to discuss dispersal of monthly newsletter. Current rate to do every door mailing including rural Ellsworth is \$700 per month. Discussion with council about potential other options that would still meet the desires of some to receive a physical copy of the newsletter in the mail. After discussion narrowed down to sending out a one time every door mailing of a one page signup document. There will be an annual fee to receive the newsletter in the mail, as it's readily available on the city's website as well as emailed to those who request it for no charge. Motion made by Sogard to have the 1 page signup mailing be printed at city hall, ECA will provide the paper and cover postage, ECA will provide the city clerk with the document to be printed after their next ECA meeting. Second by Phipps. Roll call votes 3-0, Olson abstained. Motion carried.

SOGARD ESCAVATING: After discussion with supervisor Vanlangen, no grapple hook for the city will be purchased this year. The old fire station with its close proximity to the neighboring property needs to be done by a more experienced excavation company. Motion made by Phipps to accept the bid of \$7800 to demolish and remove debris of the old fire station by Sogard Escavating. Second Olson. Roll call votes 3-0, Sogard abstained. Motion carried. Motion made by Phipps to accept the bid of \$6550 to demolish the old city utility shed and build up the site for new shed by Sogard Escavating. Second by Olson. Roll call votes 3-0, Sogard abstained. Motion carried.

BOOST GRANT CITY COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING: City Clerk Eckers met with Ottie Maxey of the Ames Area Economic Alliance to write a BOOST grant to help cover the cost of comprehensive planning this past week. The project scope was such that the deadline of February 28th for the grant could not be met. City Clerk Eckers will continue to pursue quotes for comprehensive planning and developing a steering team for the project. There is an alternative grant as an option to help with the cost with a more feasible deadline.

CITY LAND PURCHASE PROPOSAL: After council discussion Motion by Sogard to dissolve purchase/offer on parcels 40872331105003 and 40872331107001 for \$30,000/acre. Second by Olson, roll call votes 4-0, motion carried.

BUDGET DISCUSSION: DNR suggested budget for FY 25/26 for the Jewell/Ellsworth trail of \$750 was brought before council by Clerk Eckers. This amount will not be included in FY25/26 budget after discussion by council and input from city staff VanLangen and Knickerbocker.

FIRE/EMS: NOT PRESENT

LIBRARY: NOT PRESENT

CITY HALL UPDATES: City Clerk Eckers updated council on a request city hall received from the real-estate agent for the fish farm facility in the way of possible incentives the city could offer to a buyer. Clerk Eckers has reached out to bond attorney Amy Bjork to see what the agreement looked like originally and what is possible in the urban renewal district at this time. Clerk Eckers met this past week with Ellsworth museum director Janet Adix to discuss budget for the museum for FY24/25 and proposed budget for 25/26. Director Adix was unaware there was \$250 in the FY 24/25 budget of \$250 for the Museum and will turn in a few receipts for reimbursement of expenses. Clerk Eckers mentioned the process could be simplified for accounting purposes if Bingo made a donation which could be deposited and tracked in the library savings account for FY 25/26. South Hamilton baseball rec league director Jeremy Sloane reached out the city hall this past week to discuss timing for upcoming baseball season with practices to begin the end of March and games to begin April 21st. City staff Vanlangen and Knickerbocker will be working on the ball field surface and updating the concession stand bathrooms prior to the start date. City Clerk Eckers will alert ECA to the first game date for scheduling of the concession stand. Clerk Eckers updated council on need for new city attorney. Due to the number of larger scale projects on the docket for the city including potential land purchases, it has been suggested the city look into hiring a

lawyer on retainer. City Clerk Eckers will make inquiries and update the council on potential costs and availability at the next council meeting.

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATES: PW Supervisor Vanlangen was present to update council on updates at the water plant. Currently two of the plant's pumps are being rebuilt. Vanlangen has a few inquiries out for continued quotes to replace media in sand filters and the RO membranes. Vanlangen updated council on success of maintenance work on the detention tanks that took place Monday Feb 24th. The water output has benefitted by it's increased clarity since this maintenance was finished. Supervisor Vanlangen and Councilman Phipps both updated council on Watertower project. SRF financing will be pursued and the city will budget for covering the cost of an increase in size of the watertower over and above what the SRF approved and within the size that was recommended by engineering firm Bolten and Menk working on the project. Bid letting maybe begin as soon as 2 months from now. The water rate study was done by Nate Summers of UMB bank and Clerk Eckers will include proposed numbers to council at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Pro Tem Funk adjourned the meeting at 7:59 pm.

X _____

William Funk, Mayor Pro Tem

X _____

Heidi Eckers, City Clerk