

The Ellsworth City Council met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall on January 13, 2025, with Mayor Dolorus Yager presiding, and the following council present: Sogard, Laube, Funk, Olsen, Phipps.

	December Receipts	December Disbursements
General Fund	31394.15	13558.30
Road Use Fund	5829.03	1859.09
Employee Benefit Fund	1662.71	865.36
Emergency Fund		
Local Option Sales Tax Fund	5210.41	
Tax Increment Finance Area 1		
Tax Increment Finance Area 2		
Tax Increment Finance 1 Amend	1971.17	
Bingo Fund	2917.40	2296.03
Debt Service Fund	913.11	
Capital Project-Storm Water		
Capital Project-Water Tower		5275.50
Water Fund	27538.35	10182.88
Water Sinking Fund		11672.50
Sewer Fund	7185.51	5935.59
Electric Fund	85991.00	79029.28
Electric Sinking Fund		
Storm Water Fund	4476.09	
Storm Water Sinking		5473.00
	\$175088.93	\$139147.53

AGENDA APPROVAL: Motion by Funk, second by Laube. Roll Call votes 5-0. Motion carried.

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

- a. Motion to approve December 17 minutes
- b. Motion to approve “The Girls Catering” Liquor License
- c. Motion to Approve 02/01/25 Pumper Tank Payment of \$11,349.00
- d. Motion to Approve \$1000 Bingo Donation to YSS for FY 24/25

PUBLIC FORUM: None Present

ECA: Marcy Olson was present to update council on upcoming ECA events and to ask permission to use the Community Center for a pancake breakfast on April 19th, before during and after the Annual Easter Egg Hunt. The Breakfast would be free will donation and run from 9am to 11am. The Easter Egg Hunt would still be located in the city park at 9am. Motion made by Sogard to allow use of Community Center on April 19th for this fundraiser and to waive the rental fee. Second by Funk. Roll call votes 4-0 with Olson abstaining. Motion carried.

FIRE/EMS: Fire Chief Jaysen Evans was present. City Clerk Eckers and Chief Evans have met several times to discuss changing the way the volunteers are reimbursed for their calls annually. Chief Evans has proposed starting and keeping track of the call reimbursements as individual “wearable” accounts for the volunteers. This benefit would also hopefully help increase interest from locals in volunteering as

numbers are lower than in previous years at this point. The city would go back to reimbursing the volunteers for wearables and fuel as a method of payment as opposed to payroll. The volunteers would remain on the workman's comp insurance policy. Motion made by Funk and seconded by Olson to change method of payment for the volunteer fire firefighters. Roll call votes 4-0 with Sogard abstaining.

Chief Evans updated the council on the furnace in the fire station, it was able to be repaired. There's an EMA meeting in Webster City at the courthouse on Jan 22 and an elected official from Ellsworth needs to be present for budget voting. Council discussed and Mayor Yager agreed to attend. Chief Evans is still collecting bids for the tear down of the old fire station as well as the new pole for the weather siren.

LIBRARY: Karlie Hunter (library director), board members Beth Grove and Linda Bottorf were present for discussion. The board members shared with the council that in July the library director will be receiving a \$2 per hour raise the part time staff a \$1 per hour raise. Council was presented with state library statistics from similar sized library programs. Board members made the request to council to obtain a credit card for small purchases by the library director Hunter. Council needed to discuss. The Library board also expressed interest and investing some of their savings through IPAIT where the diversified savings interest rate is currently 4% and the money can still be accessed within 24 hours as opposed to a fixed term investment. The board will let city clerk Eckers know the amount they wish to invest. The funds will continue to be managed through city hall. The board brought up some questions about the library's insurance premiums. They would prefer to take out a renters policy to cover the contents of the building as opposed to continue paying for the insurance on the entire property which includes the building as the city owns the building, the argument was made that the city should be responsible for the coverage on the building. Director Hunter will speak with SMK insurance in Jewell about what the cost difference would be and get back with Clerk Eckers.

PRESENTATION BY IA AREA DEVELOPMENT GROUP ON UTILIZING TIF FUNDS – BRUCE NUZUM: David Speed with Midland Power, Steve Holt with the Ellsworth Development Corporation, and Oattie Maxey with the Ames Regional Alliance were present for this agenda item. Bruce was introduced by David Speed and handed out paper copies of a presentation regarding TIF fund management and definitions of Urban Renewal Areas, TIF districts and how the city can better utilize these available funds.

CITY HALL UPDATES: City Clerk Eckers updated the Council on several projects being worked on at city hall. Eckers continues the bidding process to replace flooring in City Hall. Replacement windows have been ordered for the building through Z&Z Glass out of Iowa Falls and clerk Eckers will keep council updated on the progress of these renovations. Clerk Eckers updated the council on proposed dates for the 25/26 budget season and upcoming Clerk certification training through the Municipal Professionals Institute and Iowa State.

PUBLIC WORKS: Not Present

PROSAL TO CHANGE TIME OF SECOND MONDAY COUNCIL MEETING: After council discussion, Phipps made a motion to change the times of both the second Monday meeting and the fourth Tuesday meeting to 6pm to offer clarity to the schedule, to take effect at the January 28th meeting. Second by Sogard. Rolls call votes 5-0. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Dolorus Yager called for adjournment at 8:46 p.m.

Dolorus Yager, Mayor

Heidi Eckers, City Clerk