The Ellsworth City Council met in regular session at 6:02 p.m. at City Hall on January 27, 2026, with Mayor Anksorus presiding, and the following council members present: Phipps, Olson, Jensen, and Funk. Also in attendance were Ashley Platte, Brittany Williams, and city staff Lee Knickerbocker and Public Works Supervisor Nick Vanlangen.

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

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

a. Motion to approve January 12, 2026 council minutes.

b. Motion to approve January 27, 2026 payment of claims.

c. Motion to approve fire truck payment of $11,349.00.

d. Motion to name South Hamilton Record News as the official publication for the City of Ellsworth.

e. Motion to reappoint Austin Heeren as City Attorney.

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

PUBLIC FORUM: None Present
FIRE/EMS: None Present
LIBRARY: None present
ECA: A. Bingo Certificates for Trivia Night: Motion by Olson and second by Funk to have Bingo donate four $25 gift certificates for Bingo use to the ECA to use as prizes for the first place Trivia Night team. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried. B. Triva Night BYOB/Insurance: Ashley Platte, ECA Board President and Brittany Williams discussed not being able to hire an outside beer/liquor vendor with the short timeline for planning the event. They requested the Council consider allowing a BYOB for this one Trivia Night and are looking into any extra insurance required for the facility in such an instance. Council requested ECA readdress the possibility at the February 9th meeting once they have specific information on insurance.
HAMILTON COUNTY SOLID WASTE COMMISSION APPOINTMENT: TABLED
GIFT CARD DONATION: Clerk Eckers presented Council with a pre-loaded visa gift card in the amount of $250 that was not utilized prior to the holidays as a bonus for a former EJS employee. This gift card cannot be returned. Clerk Eckers recommended the Council discuss a charity organization to gift this to. Motion by Funk and second by Phipps to give the gift card to the Friends Forever program of Webster City to use to help purchase a new TV for their facility. Roll call votes 3-0 with Councilwoman Olson abstaining.
MIDAS LMI SURVEY UPDATE: Mayor Anksorus took a few surveys from some of the Council members to help expedite the completion of the survey work. Clerk Eckers recommended any Council members struggling to find community members at home at the listed addresses could come to city hall during the week and call these individuals to complete the required surveys to be eligible for the CDBG Grant which would be utilized for the new water tower.
COUNCIL/CITY COMMITTEE DISCUSSION: Mayor Anksorus requested the Council give feedback on which committees they wanted to be a part of moving forward. Police Board would be Olson and Anksorus, Personnel Committee – Funk and Anksorus, Streets/Alleys/Sidewalks – Phipps and Jensen, Electric Utility Committee – Jensen and Funk, Parks and Rec Committee, which includes Bingo – Olson and Sogard, and Water/Sewer Committee – Sogard and Phipps. The appointments and the inception of these committees will be on the agenda for the February 9th Council session.
PUBLIC WORKS: Supervisor Vanlangen updated the Council the street light repairs, present Council with a watertower cleaning quote from Viking Industrial Painting for $1900, and tabled Budget FY27 discussion to the February 9th meeting.
CITY HALL UPDATES: Clerk Eckers updated Council on new email addresses for the Council and Mayor and staff, new cell phones for the public works employees, the submission of 2025 W2s and 1099s. Clerk Eckers presented Council with the liquor license application for "the Girls Catering" for the February 6th Wild Turkey Federation Banquet held at the Community Center. Motion by Phipps and second by Jensen to approve the liquor license on February 6th for The Girls Catering. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.
ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Anksorus called for adjournment at 7:02pm.

/s/ Barry Anksorus, Mayor
/s/ Heidi Eckers, City Clerk

X_____ X_____
Barry Anksorus, Mayor Heidi Eckers, City Clerk