

The Ellsworth City Council met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall on July 14TH, 2025, with Mayor Yager presiding, and the following council members present: Sogard, Phipps, and Olson. Council member Funk arrived at 6:04 p.m. Also in attendance were Ron Cook, Ashley Platte, Linda Clark, Jim Leiding with Bolton and Menk, DeDe Henderson with Conservation Creations, and library director Karlie Hunter.

OATH OF OFFICE: New Council Member Andrew Holden appointed at June 24th session, took his Oath of Office.

AGENDA APPROVAL: Motion by Sogard, seconded by Olson to approve the agenda. Roll call votes 5-0. Motion carried.

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

- a. Motion to approve June 24th, 2025 council minutes.
- b. Motion to approve July 14th payment of claims.

Roll call votes 5-0. Motion carried and claims hereby made a portion of these minutes.

PUBLIC FORUM: Ron Cook was present and requested an extension for his junk vehicle citation, which had had a deadline of June 30th. As it was not an agenda item, the Council could make no actionable decision at this meeting, and Ron Cook's request for extension will be on the July 22nd Agenda.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR WATERTOWER PROJECT: Mayor Yager opened the public hearing at 6:07 p.m. Jim Leiding with Bolton and Menk was present to answer questions from the public. No public present with comment or question. Mayor Yager closed the public hearing at 6:09 p.m.

BOLTEN AND MENK – WATERTOWER DISCUSSION: Jim Leiding with Bolton and Menk was present to update the Council on the bidding process. Jim stated that the deadline of November 2026 for project completion was a hurdle for several of the potential bidders he spoke with due to back log of jobs for available steel crews. He suggested the Council consider extending to fall of 2027. Public works Supervisor Vanlangen expressed concerns about the increased cost of replacement for the RO membranes and sand filters as their efficacy is compromised currently due to the number of cycles the water plant and tower must endure due to increased usage in the industrial park. Discussion of a smaller tower was had; however, a smaller tower does not change the need for a longer timeline and/or earlier completion date. The current bids in hand will be discussed at the regular council session on July 22nd.

PARKS BOARD: Linda Clark was present to update the council on previous discussion by the parks board for upgraded amenities in the city park. Linda had a sale bill with a quote for a new set designed for 3 to 12 year olds that would be placed between the park shelter house and the old water plant. It would have pea gravel for the footing. The quote was for \$27,179 for just the equipment, which did not include labor for installation or the pea gravel. Linda was asking if this park improvement could be sponsored by the Bingo fund. Council and Clerk Eckers discussed the option of using Bingo funds as a match for a few grant applications to help pay for the improvements. No actionable decision made by Council at this time. The next Parks Board meeting is Wednesday August 6th at 6pm at the park shelter house should any public wish to attend.

LIBRARY: Karlie Hunter and DeDe Henderson were present to request a Bingo donation of \$2,780.81 to help with the costs involved in a story walk project along the eastern part of the JewellEllsworth trail. Conservation Creations, the non-profit DeDe Henderson represents, applied for and received a \$4000 POET grant to help with the project costs. Motion by Sogard and seconded by Olson to approve a Bingo donation of \$2,780.81 to Conservation Creations to help with the funding for this Ellsworth Library-supported project. Roll call votes 5-0. Motion carried.

ECA: Ashley Platte and Linda Clark were present to update the council on the progress in fundraising via the 50/50 raffle at Saturday Bingo nights to help with the cost involved in the concession stand improvements at the ballfield. So far the ECA has raised \$1,300. Ashley presented Clerk Eckers with the ECA's 50% portion of the Thompson Construction invoice for the new roof on the concession stand in the amount of \$1900. Ashley and Linda also updated the Council on the upcoming Ice Cream Social on August 2nd in the city park. Ice cream toppings are being donated by the Webster City Dairy Queen, and a \$5 meal will be provided by the Jewell Market. ECA volunteers are still looking for corporate or private sponsors to help with the costs of the entertainment for the event.

BUILDING PERMIT – 1425 DELPHI: Clerk Eckers presented council with the approved building permit for the new fence at this address.

FIRE/EMS: The weather siren is having a mounting bracket made by Abbott Electric and will be mounted as soon as the hardware is completed.

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATES: Supervisor Vanlangen has scheduled his water certification test for DNR compliance on July 21st. The improvements to the soon-to-open public restrooms at the park are underway, and all replacement items have been ordered and are in hand. Vanlangen is still awaiting the final shipment of replacement RO filters for the water plant.

CITY HALL UPDATES: Clerk Eckers updated Council on end of FY25 process and presented the Council with a final balance sheet. Clerk Eckers had the assistance of past Clerk Kathy Eittreim in this process and is truly grateful. Eckers also gave updates on the pickleball court refresh, City Hall building renovations, and progress on the future schoolhouse project.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Yager called for a vote to adjourn. Motion by Funk and seconded by Olson. Roll call votes 5-0. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm.

/s/ Dolorus Yager, Mayor
/s/ Heidi Eckers, City Clerk

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Dolorus Yager, Mayor

X _____
Heidi Eckers, City Clerk