

The Ellsworth City Council met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall on June 24th, 2025, with Mayor Yager presiding, and the following council members present: Phipps, Sogard, Funk, and Olson. Also in attendance were Vera Rios, Andrew Holden, Curtis Jensen, Irene Postma, Brian Zimmerman, Barry Anksorus.

	June Receipts	June Disbursements
General Fund	1044.28	5078.68
Road Use Fund	0.00	653.33
Employee Benefit Fund	0.00	0.00
Emergency Fund	0.00	0.00
Local Option Sales Tax Fund	0.00	0.00
Tax Increment Finance Area 1	0.00	0.00
Tax Increment Finance 1 Amend	0.00	0.00
Bingo Fund	0.00	433.92
Debt Service Fund	0.00	0.00
Capital Project-Strm Water		
Capital Project-Water Tower		4500.00
Water Fund	22895.85	1870.80
Water Sinking Fund		
Sewer Fund	5618.75	570.85
Electric Fund	59304.50	5627.58
Electric Sinking Fund		
Storm Water Fund	3830.44	0.00
Storm Water Sinking		
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	\$92693.82	\$18735.16

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

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

- a. Motion to approve June 9th, 2025 council minutes.
- b. Motion to approve June payment of claims.

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

PUBLIC FORUM: None Present

NUISANCE ABATEMENT: Request for extension for a junk/non-movable vehicle at 324 Lakin by Vera Rios. Council discussed and agreed to extend prior to citation until June 30.

WATER RATES: Clerk Eckers made a call to UMB Bank financial advisor Nate Summers via conference line. The Council discussed an updated pro forma prepared by Mr Summers for the repayment of the new water tower and the necessary water rate increase as a part of the repayment plan. The Council asked if in a new proposed change to the current Water/Sewer rate Ordinance, the size of the connection could be a factor for a proposed rate. Mr Summers will work with Clerk Eckers to draft a potential change to the water/sewer rate Ordinance by the next Council meeting on July 14th. Proposed rate increases could also be effected by the final bid accepted for the probable cost of the new water tower project.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: SEALED BIDS 639 BRINTON AVE: Motion by Sogard and seconded by Olson to accept the bid of \$8000 by Logan Prime for the purchase of the lot from the City. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

COUNCIL VACANCY INTERVIEWS: Mayor Yager welcomed the candidates for the council seat vacancy. Present were Barry Anksorus, Irene Postma, Andrew Holden, Curtis Jensen, and Brian Zimmerman. All were asked questions by Council members and Mayor.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: DEVELOPERS' AGREEMENT PARCEL 40872436226006: Updated or new version of Developers' Agreement not finalized in time to be presented to council. A DNR Sewer Access Agreement was presented.

Supervisor Vanlangen can approve the DNR form. Clerk Eckers has been in communication with the City engineer for this project as well as the engineer for the Overland group. An updated Developer's Agreement is planned to be presented on the July 14th meeting for council discussion/decision.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: ELECTRICAL IMPROVEMENTS 1011 IA-175: Short Circuit Electric as project manager for the Ellsworth Truck Wash was present to update the Council on the progress of the project. Midland Electric is planning to do the boring and placing of wire surrounding the expansion next week. Clerk Eckers presented the council with copies of the Olson Industrial Park Urban Renewal Plan stating the city is committed to funding electrical improvements in that area. Clerk Eckers is still working with bond attorneys on amending the Urban Renewal plan to include once more the industrial developments on the south side of Hwy 175. Motion by Funk and Seconded by Sogard to pay Midland for the new transformer in the amount of \$13,711.39 for the expansion to the Ellsworth truck wash. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

LIBRARY: None present

FIRE/EMS: Andrew Holden asked for update on when the weather siren would be mounted. Supervisor Vanlangen said the new taller pole was just placed the siren should be mounted the end of next week.

ECA: Councilwoman Olson updated the Council on what a success the recent Dump Your Junk event was. A thank you card was presented to the Council from the ECA and read by Clerk Eckers. The ECA was particularly grateful for the help from Supervisor Vanlangen with the back hoe for large items and EJS Officer Morton's involvement in helping to pinpoint properties needing to utilize this free event/cleanup to stay in compliance with the city's ordinances.

FISCAL YEAR 25 YEAR END TRANSFER RESOLUTION: Resolution # 06-24-25 Authorizing Clerk Eckers to transfer funds for year-end accounting. Motion to approve by Sogard and seconded by Olson. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATES: Supervisor Vanlangen updated the Council on the arrival of 26 of the 66 RO membranes for the water plant, the rest should arrive within the next 2-4 weeks and then will be installed all at the same time. He also updated the Council on the new taller weather siren pole that was placed, the hope being the sound will carry further in the event of weather emergencies.

CITY HALL UPDATES: Clerk Eckers updated Council on progress for some improvements in the city park, including a quote for resurfacing the tennis court and converting the court into two pickleball courts. The bathrooms at the City Park will also be renovated in the coming months, including having automatic times locks so that they can be accessed by the public during the day during the park's open hours. Clerk Eckers continues to pursue continuing education, and certification through IMFOA and the League of Cities as well as IEDA economic development conferences and classes. Clerk Eckers recently met with Conservation Creations director DeDe Henderson, Hamilton County Conservation director Brian Lammers and Ellsworth Library Director Karlie Hunter to discuss a story walk being installed along the JewellEllsworth trail as well as plans for a conservation-themed mural. Clerk Eckers also is pursuing updating the city's tree inventory with state DNR arborists. They are coming to do a full inventory on July 7. Clerk Eckers plans to write at least one DNR grant to help with the expense of trees to replace the ash tree mitigation that has been ongoing on city property for the past several years.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: COUCIL VACANCY APPOINTMENT: After discussion about the candidates and interviews, motion by Sogard and seconded by Funk to appoint Andrew Holden to the Ellsworth City Council to fill the vacancy of Jeremy Laube's position. Roll call votes 3-1 with Phipps voting nay. Motion carried. Clerk Eckers will prepare Oath of Office for Andrew Holden, and he will be an active voting council member at July 14th regular Council session.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Yager called for a vote to adjourn. Motion by Olson seconded by Sogard. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

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

X _____
Dolorus Yager, Mayor

X _____
Heidi Eckers, City Clerk