The Ellsworth City Council met in special session at 5:00 p.m. June 25, 2024 at City Hall with Mayor Yager presiding and the following council present: Laube, Gelder and King. Absent: Sogard and Funk

**AGENDA APPROVAL:** Motion by King, seconded by Gelder to approve the agenda. Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** Motion by King, seconded by Laube to approve Kum and Go #133 Owner Update Changes for Class E Alcohol Permit. Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC FORUM:** None.

**CITIZEN COMPLAINT:** Kathy Eittreim attended the meeting in regards to a street light on the corner of Des Moines and Delphi that has been out for several years. She had previously filled out a complaint form in July of 2022, and Supervisor Vanlangen has attempted to replace the bulb and wiring twice, to no avail. She is requesting the City have someone from an electric company come out and finally address the light. The council will assign this to the public works department and follow up from there.

**PROPERTY MAINTENANCE:** Due to numerous changes and policy updates, the City Clerk suggested forming an Ordinance Committee in order to prepare for a recodification of the City’s Code of Ordinances. The Code book has been in the process of being re-done since prior to the current Clerk’ employment, however was never completed due to the utility section not being reviewed by previous staff. Motion by Laube, seconded by Gelder to form an Ordinance Committee to aid in updating and completing a new book of ordinances. Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried.

**DNR UPDATES:** Water/WasteWater Operator Alan Hanson was present to discuss with the council the Lead and Copper survey that the DNR is requiring every City to complete. The group discussed different methods of getting the survey circulated and what questions would need to be included in order to complete the DNR requirements. The council also spoke with Hanson about the plan of action that was being required by the DNR for the lagoon and when the engineers needed to be contacted and a report needed to be submitted.

**CITY CHARGES:** The Clerk presented several invoices that were not approved, were not issued PO numbers, or were for more than the approved amounts. She stated that it was impossible to plan for future expenses, stay in budget or even keep track of expenditures if the current policies put in place weren’t being followed. The council discussed the capability of our staff performing repairs verses calling in contractors to do the repairs at twice the cost, what the current parts inventory is for such repairs and why invoices received don’t match the quotes that were approved. It was agreed that the invoices will not be paid until further discussion is had with the parties involved.

**INDUSTRIAL DEMAND CUSTOMERS:** The Clerk has been attempting to obtain a multiplier to begin billing new demand users in the City based on their yearly usage for the last year and a half. Contact has been made with Midland Power, Supervisor Vanlangen and the Council regarding the frustration of not having these answers for months. There seems to be a miscommunication between the entities involved on who is responsible for providing this information. Councilmember King volunteered to reach out to Midland for more answers. The Clerk will again follow up with Supervisor Vanlangen.

**THIRD READ OF ORDINANCE #623 AMENDING THE CITY CODE PERTAINING TO SEWER RENTAL:** Changes were discussed with the rates of the ordinance. The third reading failed. The ordinance will be stricken.

**THIRD READ OF ORDINANCE #624 AMENDING THE CITY CODE PERTAINING TO THE ELECTRIC UTILITY:** Changes were discussed with the rates of the ordinance. The third reading failed. The ordinance will be stricken.

**THIRD READ OF ORDINANCE #625 AMENDING THE CITY CODE PERTAINING TO RATES FOR ELECTRIC HEATING:** Changes were discussed with the rates of the ordinance. The third reading failed. The ordinance will be stricken.

**FISCAL YEAR END TRANSFER RESOLUTION:** Motion by King, seconded by Gelder to approve Resolution #925 authorizing the City Clerk to make certain transfers for year-end expenses. Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried.

**NEW FISCAL YEAR CHANGES/REMINDERS:** Due to the Clerk receiving numerous questions regarding the rental fees for the shelter and gym, building permit fees and the utility disconnection process, she asked that the Council review the changes that had occurred over the last 3-4 years and address any questions or concerns they may have. The council also discussed enforcement and procedures for implementing code violations.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mayor Yager adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

