

The Ellsworth City Council met in regular session at 6:00 pm on June 8, 2026, at City Hall, with Mayor Anksorus presiding, and the following council members present: Olson, Jensen, Phipps, and Funk. Also in attendance were Katie Sterk with Bolten and Menk, Brian Zimmerman, Ashley Platte with the ECA, Brittany Williams with the ECA, Hope and Bobby Caudle, EJS Police Chief Kaleb Morton, Dale Graham, and Jordan Walbaum.

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

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

- a. Motion to approve May 26, 2026 council minutes.
- b. Motion to approve June 8, 2026 payment of claims.

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

**PUBLIC FORUM:** Ashley Platte brought community concerns about the intersection of Hwy 175 and Ubben/Delphi with regard to a safe crossing point for pedestrians in the future, once Dollar General is open. The Council recommends Ashley start a petition for a flashing light crossing with community support to submit to the DOT. Bobby Caudle was present and raised concerns about severe water backup in the city's stormwater system at the intersection of Park Ave and Park Ave Circle whenever it rains. Bobby submitted a work order to the city in 2012, and to his knowledge, the issue has never been remedied.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSAL TO ENTER INTO A GENERAL OBLIGATION WATER IMPROVEMENT LOAN AND DISBURSEMENT AGREEMENT:** Mayor Anksorus opened the public hearing at 6:22 pm. No public present. Hearing closed.

**RESOLUTION TAKING ADDITIONAL ACTION ON PROPOSAL TO ENTER INTO A GENERAL OBLIGATION WATER IMPROVEMENT LOAN AND DISBURSEMENT AGREEMENT:** Motion by Phipps and seconded by Funk to approve Resolution 06-08-2026. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION APPROVING CONTRACT AND PERFORMANCE AND/OR PAYMENT BONDS FOR THE 200,000 GALLON ELEVATED WATER STORAGE TANK PROJECT:** Motion by Olson and seconded by Jensen to approve Resolution 06-08-2026(2). Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

**ACCESSORY BUILDING 546 DESMOINES AVE:** Tabled until Clerk Eckers and Councilman Funk can deliberate with the city legal council.

**E-BIKE/SCOOTERS/ELECTRIC VEHICLES:** There was discussion about collaborating with the City of Jewell on a proposed ordinance to ensure consistent enforcement by local law enforcement. Clerk Eckers will reach out to Jewell City Clerk to arrange a work session with the two communities' Police Board members. Council will look over the packet examples from Humboldt and Ankeny and get back to Clerk Eckers individually within the next week. Officer Morton was present and mentioned he would like to see helmets included as a requirement and recommended safety classes.

**ITC ELECTRIC LINE EASEMENTS:** Motion by Jensen and seconded by Funk to grant the requested easement updates from ITC. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

**SECOND READING PROPOSED WATER RATE ORDINANCE NO. 605:** Tabled until the June 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

**BUILDING PERMIT(S) 1026 DEWITT STREET:** Nick Vanlangen confirmed no city utilities are present on the East side of the road that would interfere with the concrete driveway being extended. Clerk Eckers will follow through with collecting permit fees from the property owner.

**TREE REMOVAL INVOICES 1721 DELPHI STREET:** After discussion by Council Motion by Jensen and seconded by Olson to submit invoices of \$800 (per invoice) from Robb's Tree Service to both neighbors of the property who requested the City have four dead/diseased trees topped. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

**CITIZEN COMMENT FORM – SIDEWALKS:** Clerk Eckers received a citizen comment form concerning the sidewalk at 1725 Dewitt. Clerk Eckers presented the current city/state codes concerning maintenance of sidewalks. Sidewalk maintenance remains the responsibility of the property owner. The City will alert the property owner to the ordinance, the condition, and the timeline for required repairs. Motion by Olson and seconded by Jensen to have Clerk Eckers pursue abatement of the nuisance/dangerous sidewalk. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION 06-08-2026(3) TO SET PUBLIC HEARING TO AMEND THE FY 27 BUDGET FOR JULY 13, 2026 6 PM:** Motion by Phipps and seconded by Olson to set the public hearing to amend the FY 27 Budget for July 13, 2026, at 6 pm. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

**LIBRARY:** Supervisor Vanlangen mentioned to the Council that he was called only 23 minutes prior to the library foam party, with a request for assistance at the park to hook up water and electricity for the vendor. He would appreciate more lead time and transparency of needs/assistance from the library in the future.

**FIRE/EMS:** None present

**ECA:** Ashley Platte and Brittany Williams were present to update the Council on the parameters for the beer garden for Ellsworth Extravaganza. There will be portable bathrooms within a fenced area, one entrance with ID's being checked, and no beverages allowed to leave the designated area. 21 plus only and wristbands will be placed after ID's are checked. The ladies also updated the Council on the timeframes for road closures during the event and asked if Clerk Eckers could send out a message the week prior to alert community members to the closures. Friday evening, the streets surrounding the city park will be closed from 6 – 6:30 pm to accommodate the kiddie parade. The 1500-1700 blocks of Dewitt will be closed on Saturday from 9am to 2pm. After 2 pm on Saturday, the four streets surrounding the City Park will be closed to allow for pedestrian safety.

**PUBLIC WORKS:** Katie Sterk, Engineer with Bolton and Menk was present to update the Council on recent testing and systems analysis at the City Water Treatment Facility. Newly hired affidavit operator Danny Anderson had compiled a list of equipment needed for purchase to update the anti-scalant system, at the recommendation of the engineering firm. Katie Sterk also earmarked work that needs to be done on the chlorine pre-treatment system at the water plant. By the next Council meeting, Katie will have a scope of work and a fee schedule for a full asset inventory of the water plant. Motion by Jensen and seconded by Olson to approve the purchase of the anti-scalant equipment totaling \$6661.85. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried. Public works employee Knickerbocker and Clerk Eckers presented the Council with an upcoming electric system training offered by the Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities. Knickerbocker would like to participate in the three-day course to learn more about maintaining the city's electric systems. Motion by Phipps and seconded by Jensen for Eckers to pursue signing Knickerbocker up for the training. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

**CITY HALL:** Clerk Eckers presented an estimate from Commercial Construction Products for replacing the rear door at City Hall, the company that just replaced all doors on the concession stand in the park and the two new public restrooms at the city park. Motion by Funk and seconded by Phipps to approve the purchase of the new door and painting/sealant of the new door for a total of \$3400. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried. Clerk Eckers presented the Council with a potential job description and duties for a part-time assistant in City Hall. The Personnel Committee will meet to discuss recommended salary ranges and speak with Clerk Eckers about the hiring process and timeline.

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE EMPLOYEE MATTER:** Supervisor Vanlangen was addressed and asked if he wished the following discussion to be in closed session. Vanlangen wished for all council and public discussions to be in an open, regular session. Vanlangen presented the Council with a packet of transcription emails from the previous two weeks showing all results and attempts for water level 1 testing and wastewater system testing. Discussion by Council, staff, and members of the community. Motion by Funk and seconded by Phipps that by the June 23<sup>rd</sup> Council session, Vanlangen must show proof of progress in attempts with written documentation of any passing or failed results of exams. On the July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026 Council meeting, Vanlangen must show the passed/certification results of both Class 1 water affidavit operator and wastewater/lagoon tests. By the July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026, Council session, Vanlangen must have the Class 2 water affidavit test either completed/passed/failed/or scheduled status. Failure to meet these aforementioned requirements will result in immediate termination on July 13, 2026. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by Jensen and seconded by Funk to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 pm. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

/s/ Barry Anksorus, Mayor

/s/ Heidi Eckers, City Clerk

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Barry Anksorus, Mayor

X \_\_\_\_\_  
Heidi Eckers, City Clerk