

The Ellsworth City Council met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall on MAY 12, 2025 with Mayor Yager presiding, and the following council present: Funk, Sogard, Phipps, and Olson. Members of the public present: Barry Anksorus, Andrew Holden, Cody Robertson, Roger Mason, Ron Cook, Brian Zimmerman, Ashely Platte, Kayla Knippel, Jessica Lowe, Jennita Brennan, Officer Kaleb Morton. Staff present: Nick Vanlangen.

AGENDA APPROVAL: Motion by Funk, seconded by Olson 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 April 22nd Minutes and April 28th Special Hearing Minutes.
- b. Motion to approve April payment of Claims.
- c. Motion to approve debt payment to Iowa Finance Authority for SRF Loan in the amount of \$95,675.50 plus service fee of \$3,335.00, due June 1st, 2025.
- d. Motion to approve Kum and Go #133 Class E Liquor License and Kum and Go Retail Permit for Tobacco Sales.

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

PUBLIC FORUM: Kayla Knippel addressed the Council with questions about how City Boards operate in Ellsworth. Barry Anksorus addressed the Council about the EJS police board. Kalya Knippel addressed the Council with concerns about the morality of the current Mayor. Mayor Yager and Councilman Funk both addressed Ms Knippel questioning the reasoning for her accusation. Both Mayor Yager and Councilman Funk have extensively researched actions taken regarding accusations made in recent Police Board minutes. Legal council was also sought by Mayor Yager prior to taking action concerning the handling of documents referenced in Police Board minutes.

ECA: Ashley Platte was present to update the Council on improvements, ECA volunteers are collaborating with the city staff on two of the city parks. The concession stand at the ball field is getting a facelift, paint, bathroom updates, and Ms Platte has acquired an estimate for a new roof from Thompson Construction for \$3800. ECA hosting a softball game or tournament as a fundraiser was discussed to help offset the cost of the new roof. The City has already purchased paint and has budgeted for other improvement expenses for FY2026. A new sink and new doors were requested as a part of the renovation process at the concession stand.

639 BRINTON EMPTY LOT: Roger Mason was present to express interest in purchasing the empty lot. Mr Mason plans would be to do weed control, mowing, and plant some trees. Motion by Sogard and seconded by Phipps to advertise a 30-day closed bid on the property with a minimum bid of \$5000. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ELLSWORTH FARMERS MARKET: Jennita Brennan and Jessica Lowe were present to request access to Dewitt Street sidewalk use for the upcoming weekly Ellsworth Farmers Market, beginning June 4th from 5pm to 7pm. Motion by Funk and second by Sogard to allow downtown Dewitt Street access to the Farmers Market, Wednesdays beginning June 4th through October from 5pm to 7pm weekly. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ELLSWORTH PARKS BOARD: No board members present

LIBRARY: None present

FIRE/EMS: None present with comment

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION BINGO SCHOLARSHIPS: Council was presented with two applications for Bingo scholarships, Connor Deppe and Neveah Nelson. Both applicants met the GPA requirements. Motion by Funk and second by Olson to award Donnor Deppe and Neveah Nelson with a \$500 Bingo scholarship each. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION MIDLAND INVOICE 101 HWY 175: Council discussed previous expansion projects in the industrial park/urban renewal area. Clerk Eckers had David Speed with Midland on the phone to answer questions from the Council. Clerk Eckers will continue to work with Amy Bjork at Dorsey and Whitney to add this property back into the Urban Renewal Area #1. Motion by Sogard and seconded by Olson to pay \$20,000 towards the boring and wire of the Truck Wash project. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS: Discussion and Possible action, slow down signs at Ellsworth City Park. Both Mayor Yager and Councilwoman Sogard read public comments they had been asked to share concerning speeding vehicle issues around the city park. These comments suggested stop signs and slow down signs are not being adhered to, but that speed

bumps might be more effective. Officer Kaleb Morton was present and offered to increase patrols in the area. Supervisor Vanlangen will get a quote from DOT prior to next Council meeting for speed bumps that city staff could install around the park, pending Council approval.

CITY HALL: Clerk Eckers presented the Council with an update for the rear door of the City Hall building from Z&Z Glass for \$7490. Clerk Eckers will request tax of \$490 be removed from the invoice prior to approval of the improvement. This improvement had previously been approved by the Council, motion and vote not required. Clerk Eckers updated the Council on process to amend the FY 24/25 Budget. After reaching out to the Department of Management Clerk Eckers was made aware amendment was not necessary for FY 24/25 at this time. The previously scheduled proposed Budget Amendment Hearing on May 27th is no longer required.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Yager adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

/s/ Dolorus Yager, Mayor

/s/ Heidi Eckers, City Clerk

X_____

Dolorus Yager, Mayor

X_____

Heidi Eckers, City Clerk