

The Ellsworth City Council met in regular session at 6:00 pm at City Hall on May 26, 2026, with Mayor Anksorus presiding, and the following council members present: Sogard, Jensen, Phipps, and Funk. Also in attendance were Katie Sterk with Bolten and Menk, Brian Zimmerman, Ashley Platte with the ECA and Brittany Williams with the ECA.

AGENDA APPROVAL: Motion by Olson, seconded by Sogard to approve the agenda. Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried.

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

- a. Motion to approve May 11, 2026 council minutes.
- b. Motion to approve May 26, 2026 payment of claims.
- c. Motion to approve SRF Water Plant Loan Payment of \$101,062.50
- d. Motion to approve Dollar General Tobacco License 2026-2027.
- e. Motion to approve Maverik Class E Liquor License Renewal 20026-2027.
- f. Motion to approve Love's Truck Stop Special Class C Liquor License Renewal 2026-2027.
- g. Motion to approve Class C Retail Liquor License for "Bus Events" for the Ellsworth Extravaganza 2026.

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

PUBLIC FORUM: Brian Zimmerman was present to bring to the Council's attention an accessory building at 546 DesMoines Ave that doesn't meet the set back requirements in the city's Ordinance. Brian Zimmerman also lodged a complaint regarding several vehicles with no current registration, flat tires, and broken or missing windows in town.

PUBLIC HEARING – ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT CONCERNING ELEVATED WATER STORAGE TANK PROJECT: Mayor Anksorus opened the hearing at 6:13 pm. No public present for comment. Hearing closed at 6:14 pm.

PUBLIC HEARING – WATER RATE ORDINANCE #605 RATE CHANGES: Mayor Anksorus opened the public hearing at 6:15 pm. Clerk Eckers read an email from Randy Olson, owner of the Ellsworth Truckwash, requesting that the Council consider incentivizing larger water users by adopting a lower rate increase. Ashley Platte asked for clarification on how much a residential bill would be affected by the rate increase. Mayor Anksorus closed the public hearing at 6:21 pm.

FIRST READING OF PROPOSED WATER RATE ORDINANCE #605 RATE CHANGES: Councilman Funk read the proposed amended Ordinance #605.

RESOLUTION TO FIX A DATE FOR A PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSAL TO ENTER INTO A GENERAL OBLIGATION WATER IMPROVEMENT LOAN AND DISBURSEMENT AGREEMENT AND TO BORROW MONEY THEREUNDER IN A PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$1,000,000: Motion by Sogard and seconded by Jensen to set the date for June 8th at 6 pm. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

IAMU MUTUAL AID PROGRAM AGREEMENT: Motion by Phipps and seconded by Jensen to agree to the terms of the IAMU Mutual Aid Program Agreement. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

BUILDING PERMIT 1617 DELPHI STREET: Clerk Eckers presented the original building permit, correspondence from the property owner, and an updated drawing/photo, which changed the placement of the west-facing fence to allow access to city utilities present in the area. Permit approved by Supervisor Vanlangen.

BROWN BUILDS LLC QUOTE FOR CITY SHED INTERIOR WORK \$46,725: Tabled as Council requested two more local company bids for the same scope of work by the next Council meeting.

28E AGREEMENT HAMILTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT – PAYMENT OF \$7112 AT \$14 PER CAPITA RATE: Motion by Funk and seconded by Sogard to approve the FY26 28E agreement and invoice for \$7112 to the Hamilton County Sheriff's Department. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

BINGO SPONSORSHIP OF ELLSWORTH EXTRAVAGANZA: Motion by Sogard and seconded by Jensen to have Bingo fund donate \$1000 on July 1st to the Ellsworth Community Association to help with the costs involved in the group's efforts to put on the bi-annual town festival. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

LIBRARY: None present

FIRE DEPARTMENT- SEALED BIDS FIRE TRUCKS: Motion by Funk and seconded by Phipps to accept the bid of \$1500 for the 1952 Ford fire truck. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried. Motion by Jensen and seconded by Phipps to accept the bid of \$200 for the 1969 Chevy fire truck. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

ECA: Ashley Platte was present to request access to the Community Center as a rain location for Church in Park as well as Sunday brunch on June 28th as a part of the Ellsworth Extravaganza weekend. Motion by Sogard and seconded by Jensen to allow access to the Community Center as a rain location on June 28, 2026. Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried.

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.

CITY HALL: Clerk Eckers updated the Council on progress for the tree removal policy project and will post to social media upcoming training dates for Clerking/Financial Officer training when City Hall will be closed.

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. Personnel committee recommended immediate termination on the grounds of not complying with a signed agreement and 60-timeline to complete Vanlangen’s water operator certification testing. Clerk Eckers made a conference call to City Attorney Heeren to ask if a member of the personnel committee could make the motion for termination. Motion by Funk and seconded by Phipps to pursue immediate termination of Supervisor Vanlangen. Roll call votes Jensen: nay Funk: aye Phipps: aye Sogard: abstain. Motion failed. Motion by Sogard and seconded by Jensen to allow Supervisor Vanlangen until the June 8 Council session to take and pass level 1 water certification test and then revisit termination if criteria hadn’t been met. Roll call votes Sogard: aye Jensen: aye Funk called to amend the motion. Motion by Funk and seconded by Phipps to amend Sogard’s motion and by June 8 Council session Supervisor Vanlangen must have taken level 1 water certification test as well as Lagoon/Wastewater test with passing results to avoid immediate termination on June 8. Roll call votes Jensen: aye Sogard: aye Funk: aye Phipps: aye. Motion carried.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE WATER AFFIDAVIT OPERATOR HIRE: Motion by Funk and seconded by Sogard to hire Danny Anderson as a part-time city employee on a month-by-month basis at \$1500 per month to act as the City Water Affidavit Operator. 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

X _____
Barry Anksorus, Mayor

X _____
Heidi Eckers, City Clerk