



ELLSWORTH COMMUNITY
ASSOCIATION
MAY NEWSLETTER

Community Association Officers:

President:

Marcy Olson

cornflower39@yahoo.com

Vice President: Ashley Platte

Secretary: Amber Davis

Treasurer: Linda Clark

Board Member:

Marv Norem

Editor:

Janet Adix

ellsworthia@netins.net

MAY dates to remember:

Highway 175 Cleanup

May 3rd, 2025, 8:00AM

Meet at HWY 175 & DeWitt St

Bring Gloves



MOTHER'S DAY
FLOWERS

Sign up for Mother's Day Flowers at
City Hall, Post Office and Telephone
Office



Monday May 5 thru Friday May 9

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE

MAY 26TH

Homewood Cemetery 11:00AM

In case of inclement weather
meet at Trinity Lutheran Church



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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
First Quarter: 4 Full Moon: 12 Last Quarter: 20 New Moon: 26	APRIL S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	JUNE S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	GUIDE TO BEST FISHING DAYS BEST  GOOD  POOR 	1  Library board meet 5:30	2 	3  Hwy 175 Clean Up Bingo Community Center 5:00
4 Trinity Lutheran Church 9:00	5 	6  Comm. Assoc 6:00 Comm. Center	7 	8 	9 	10  Bingo Community Center 5:00
11 Trinity Lutheran Church 9:00 Mother's Day	12  City Council 6:00	13 	14 	15 	16 	17  Bingo Community Center 5:00 Armed Forces Day (USA)
18 Trinity Lutheran Church 9:00	19  Victoria Day (Canada)	20 	21  Firemen Meeting 7:00	22 	23 	24  Bingo Community Center 5:00
25 Trinity Lutheran Church 9:00	26  Memorial Day (USA)	27  City Council 6:00	28 	29  Ascension Day	30  Homewood Cemetery meet TLC 10:00	31  Bingo Community Center 5:00
MAY						2025

Notices:

NEWSLETTER MATERIAL DUE: by the 25th of the month for the next month's edition. Send by email to ellsworthca@netins.net or Ellsworth Community Association, PO Box 272, Ellsworth, Ia 50075. Subscribe/unsubscribe by email: send your request to ellsworthca@netins.net.

Ellsworth Meals: Contact Linda Clark 515-297-3012 if you wish to have the noon meal delivered. Delivery Monday thru Friday, no holidays. Each meal \$5.00

Community Coffee - Tuesdays 9:30-?. Trinity Lutheran Church, Ellsworth. Everyone welcome.

Lord's Cupboard: Bethesda Lutheran Church, Jewell, 1st Monday 1:00-2:00, 5:00-6:30, other Mondays 5:00-6:30.

Birthdays This Month

Steve Gelder	2nd	Janet Adix	15th	LaVone & Steve Flygstad	5th
Steve Senn	3rd	Mathew Hill	19th	Megan & Justin Thompson	12th
Steve Butler	4th	Doris Twedt	20th	Staci & Jason Thompson	27th
Alex Davis	5th	Konni VanLangen	22nd		
Doug VanLangen	5th	Bob Olson	22nd		
Adam Hill	6th	Fiona Brown	24th		
Linda Clark	9th	Onika Brown	24th		
Mackenzi Busch	9th	Joan Kuhfus	25th		
Kevin Bottorff	9th	Dameon Cook	27th		
Steve Holt	13th	Marty Danielson	27th		
Mary Kay Rash	13th	Jacob Tolle	28th		
Nathan Robinson	15th	Elijah Henderson	29th		

ANNIVERSARIES

2025 SH School Graduates from Ellsworth

Anders Egelykke (Foreign exchange student living with Steve & Lindsey Gelder)

Grant Larson

Neveah Nelson

Wylie Nervig

Thomas Wirth

Names courtesy of SH School.



REMEMBERING THE PAST: School Bell



The Bell, cast in 1884, was used as a fire bell for Ellsworth Community until 1911, when the town installed the electric whistle. As a fire bell, it was mounted on a marquee of the wooden store building (Holt Plumbing, Heating, Refrigeration & Electric building) in the central part of Main Street.

In 1911, it was mounted in the belfry of the first school house. In 1913, it was mounted on the roof of the new grade school building with a rope attached to the handle of the bell pulling it from the second floor of the school building. The bell ringing was a most desirable duty of the students.

The bell was taken down in 1975 by Raymond Anderson and his son Dennis from the grade school building. Carl Anderson built a frame and Clarence Kuhl purchased a red wagon upon which it is mounted. The bell is the property of the Ellsworth Historical Museum.

MARCH 25TH CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The Ellsworth City Council met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall on MARCH 25, 2025 with Mayor Yager, and the following council present: Funk, Sogard, Laube, Olson. Councilman Phipps arrived at 6:08 p.m. Members of the public present: Sheriff Alex Pruismann, Officer Kaleb Morton, Ashley Platt, Linda Clark, Jeanne Shader, Gary Johnson, Barry Anksorus.

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

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

- a. Motion to approve March 10 Minutes.
- b. Motion to approve March payment of Claims.
- c. Motion to approve quote to replace media in water plant sand filters to HydroKlean for \$31,960.00.

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

PUBLIC FORUM: None

EJS/HAMILTON COUNTRY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT: Mayor Yager opened discussion giving history on current difficulties with the EJS Police Board, including but not limited to the recent request that Jewell be allowed three votes to Ellsworth's two and Stanhope's two; as well as the recent resignation of EJS Police Chief David Turpen. Mayor Yager as one of the police board representatives for Ellsworth reached out to Hamilton County Sheriff Alex Pruismann to inquire on a potential arrangement for additional services. Sheriff Pruismann in attendance addressed the council and offered to answer any questions and clarified that the Sheriff Department was not present to try and replace EJS but to provide additional information to the Council and public present. Councilwoman Sogard began with asking Sheriff Pruismann how he could see the arrangement working. Sheriff Pruismann mentioned Ellsworth's current \$14 per capita 28E agreement and then stated for \$20 per capita an arrangement similar to Blairsburg, Williams, Stratford could be an option, which would include additional patrols through the town. The Sheriff's department requires deputies to spend x amount of time in each town in the county when they are on duty. Sheriff Pruismann mentioned he plans to do end of year reporting to each town on how many hours were spent and how many calls the department responded to. Sheriff Pruismann also stated Ellsworth could give the department a list of special events, dates, etc that the city would appreciate law enforcement presence. Councilwoman Olson as specifically how many hours in a 24-hour period a deputy would be present, Sheriff Pruismann could not commit to a certain number and stated it depends on how many deputies are on duty at the time/day and if there were calls in other locations in the county. Sheriff Pruismann assured the council that if there was a call from Ellsworth involving violence or break in dispatch would send someone. Councilman Funk as how the coverage would differ from what we are currently paying the Sheriff's Department.

Council Minutes continued on page 5

Sheriff Pruismann stated that there is no way to be able to predict specific hours present, however, that is why he plans to give each city a “receipt” for calls and time spent at the end of each year based on the department's logs and reporting system. Sheriff Pruismann stated that if there are specific times or locations extra patrol was requested by the city as a part of a new or different 28E agreement that could be written into the contract. Sheriff Pruismann stated the department does not do nuisance abatement, however, they will serve notices at a cost of around \$25 plus mileage per. As a reference point it was mentioned that Stratford paid around \$5000 for a fiscal year having the department serve notices within their city. Councilwoman Sogard addressed Officer Morton asking if the EJS Police Board was planning to replace Police Chief Turpen. Officer Morton responded it depends and will be discussed at the next meeting and would also depend on Ellsworth's status with EJS. Councilwoman Sogard read an email from past council person Steve Gelder who was not able to attend but encouraged the current Council to not make a decision at this meeting but to explore all of the options, needs of the community, and costs involved further prior to making any changes. Councilwoman Sogard addressed Public works employees Nick Vanlangen and Lee Knickerbocker to inquire what it would look like for them to service nuisance/ ordinance violations. PW Supervisor Vanlangen mentioned it was nice to have EJS officers within 4 to 6 minutes away as usually there can be volatile reactions from those receiving notices and in the past Ellsworth would have Officer Morton or Turpen service notices. Officer Morton addressed the Council and Mayor Yager specifically assuring that police board members are cycled regularly and even if there is a contentious environment now it will work itself out with the next shift in representatives from the individual communities. Concerns were raised by several council members as to the questionable nature/conflict of interest in having a past Police Chief sit on the Police Board. Officer Morton addressed the council and encouraged them to keep in mind what is best for the community as a whole prior to making any decisions. Community member Barry Anksorus was present and gave an example of the recent presence and help of EJS Officer Morton including rapid response time and thorough follow-through in the case of a stolen vehicle. The Council discussed comments and information shared by Sheriff Pruismann, Officer Morton, and Mr Anksorus. The Council discussed holding a Town Hall to allow all members of the community an opportunity to weigh in on this possible shift/change. Town Hall will be at the Ellsworth Community Center on Sunday April 27th at 2pm. Clerk Eckers will send details for publication following Iowa Code for Public Hearing requirements, post on social media, and Public Works employees will post letters on every door alerting the community to this meeting.

SCHOOL BUS SIGN ON 175: Councilwoman Sogard made inquiries to DOT, and received email correspondence that a flashing light bus stop sign was not necessary due to the area meeting minimum line of sight requirements for no sign being necessary. DOT did mention the no passing zone could be extended in front of the day care location on 175 and they would approve and erect a speed awareness sign in the area both westbound and eastbound. Council discussed all options and asked if Public Works Supervisor Vanlangen could reach out to DOT for the cost of the city purchasing a flashing light bus stop sign and having the city employees do the install.

BALL FIELD USE REQUEST: Councilman Laube requested use for adult softball league use of the ball field on Saturdays. Councilman Phipps also involved in the league. Non-council member request at the next council meeting for a motion and vote.

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ECA: Volunteers Linda Clark and Ashley Platt were present to request the use of the Ellsworth Park shelter house for a community ice cream social event on August 2nd from 3pm to 9pm, which would feature live entertainment, food trucks and games as well as a kayak raffle donation courtesy of Swell Watercraft. Motion by Sogard and seconded by Phipps to allow the use of the shelter house on August 2nd from 3pm to 9pm free of charge for the ECA event. Roll call votes 4-0, Olson abstain. Motion carried. Linda Clark requested a donation for upcoming silent auction during the Easter festivities on April 19. Mayor Yager mentioned speaking with Allen Watts at Bingo and he will put together a prize package to include in the fundraiser. Motion to approve this bingo donation made by Funk and seconded by Sogard. Roll call votes 4-0, Olson abstain, motion carried.

LIBRARY: Motion made by Sogard to not approve credit card for Library director Hunter, seconded by Olson. Roll call votes 5-0, motion carried.

FIRE/EMS: Motion made by Sogard and seconded by Laube to approve weather siren quote by Abbott Electric for \$5560.00, roll call votes 5-0. Council inquired of Clerk Eckers an update on the reimbursement checks for Fire/EMS. Clerk Eckers is waiting on call list from EMS Supervisor Butler prior to sending out the reimbursements to the volunteers.

CITY HALL UPDATES: City Clerk Eckers updated the council on the meetings concerning the city's ability to leverage TIF rebate to a potential buyer of the fish farm property in the industrial park. Continued work with Nate Summers, Ellsworth's financial advisor is necessary prior to updating a developer's agreement. Clerk Eckers' requested pursuing an amendment to the Urban Renewal district through Amy Bjork at Dorsey and Whitney to include most of the city limits in order to maximize any TIF increment for future development fiscal benefit to the city. Motion made by Sogard and seconded by Funk to pursue this amendment process. Roll call votes 5-0, motion carried. Discussion by council on pursuing an update to the city ordinance concerning days of the week for council meetings. Motion by Sogard and seconded by Laube to update the ordinance to the 2nd Monday and 4th Monday both still meeting at 6pm. Roll call votes 4-1 with Olson voting nay. Motion carried. Clerk Eckers will pursue updating the Ordinance and will include on the next agenda. Motion made by Laube and seconded by Funk to accept the 24, 25, 26 audit contract with Jeri Maher. Roll call votes 5-0, motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATES: Public works supervisor Vanlangen updated the Council on the progress in updates to the water plant. Council discussed all receiving inquiries from residents concerning water pressure and color. Supervisor Vanlangen mentioned the issues should be resolved once the media is replaced in the sand filters, removing iron from the water, and after replacing the RO membranes instead of the current bi-pass. The new media has been ordered and will be replaced within a month.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Yager adjourned the meeting at 7:57 pm.

/s/ Dolorus Yager, Mayor

/s/ Heidi Eckers, City Clerk

APRIL 14TH CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The Ellsworth City Council met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall on APRIL 14, 2025 with Mayor Yager presiding, and the following council present: Funk, Sogard, Phipps, and Olson. Members of the public present: Officer Kaleb Morton (EJS), Linda Clark (ECA), Allen Watts (Bingo), Don Meyers of WHKS Engineering, John Joiner of WHKSEngineering, and Chris Nelson of Murphey Tractor. Staff present: Lee Knickerbocker.

AGENDA APPROVAL: Motion by Funk, seconded by Phipps 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 March 25 Minutes and April 2 Special Hearing Minutes.
- b. b. Motion to approve March/April payment of Claims.
- c. Motion to approve annual insurance premiums to Shomo-Madsen-Krause for \$90,039.00.
- d. Motion to approve transfer of Bingo funds to 3-month CD with Availa Bank for \$50,000.
- e. Motion to approve transfer of Library funds to 3-month CD with Availa Bank for \$39,000.
- f. Motion to approve transfer of Water Utility funds to 6-month CD with Availa Bank for \$150,000.
- g. Motion to approve transfer of Electric Utility funds to 6-month CD with Availa Bank for \$250,000.

Councilwoman Sogard made a motion to propose an amendment to the March 25 Minutes to add clarification that for the price paid to EJS annually, the Hamilton County Sheriff Department could not dedicate a full-time deputy to the City of Ellsworth. Seconded by Olson Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

Mayor Yager moved Consent Agenda (d.) to the regular Agenda. Roll call votes 3-1 with Sogard voting nay. Motion carried and claims hereby made a portion of these minutes.

PUBLIC FORUM: Allen Watts addressed the council and gave updates on steady attendance at weekly Bingo. He thanked the council for the improved lighting and requested 8 new/replacement trash receptacles as well as additional security lighting outside the building by the southeast doors.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEM (d.): Discussion and possible action moved to April 22nd regular Council Meeting.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON FISH FARM TIF REBATE: Nate Summers, the Ellsworth City Financial Advisor, phoned in to discuss available TIF to be used as an incentive for potential buyers of the 1802 Industrial Park Road property. \$100,008 is available annually until the property sunsets in 10 years.

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This will reduce the General Fund levy by \$27,382 annually. The City is not obligated to offer the full available TIF in a developer's incentive agreement. Mr Summers also discussed with the council potential revenues from a fully functioning business occupying the 1802 Industrial Park Rd facility. While electric and water revenues cannot be used for the same purposes as General Fund Levy they would still significantly effect available funds in those utilities for future development. No action was taken by the council at this time.

DISCUSSION OF PRELIMINARY HOUSING DEVELOPMENT DESIGN BY WHKS ENGINEERING: Don Meyers and Joh Joiner of WHKS were present to discuss their two proposed designs for possible housing development on parcels 40872331105003 and 40872331107001.

ECA: Volunteer Linda Clark was present to discuss with the council information about the annual dump your junk event in Ellsworth. The Council requested prices for both having dumpsters set near IAS as has been done in the past and the potential cost involved to both ECA and the City if curbside services were offered to the community for larger items. Additional Discussion and Possible Action will be at the April 22nd Council Meeting.

LIBRARY: None Present

FIRE/EMS: None Present

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION OF SOUTH HAMILTON T-BALL AND SOUTH HAMILTON SOCCER PROGRAM

DONATION REQUEST: An email from Regina Beaune (director for both programs) was shared with council including a request for \$150 for each program as a donation from Bingo. Motion by Phipps to approve the \$150 Bingo donation to SH T-Ball and the \$150 Bingo donation to SH Soccer programs. Seconded by Sogard, roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

COUNCIL MINUTES/CLAIMS CITY OF ELLSWORTH APRIL 14 , 2025

SETTING FY25/26 BUDGET ADOPTION HEARING: Motion by Funk to set the Budget Adoption Hearing for April 28th at 6pm. Seconded by Olson, roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

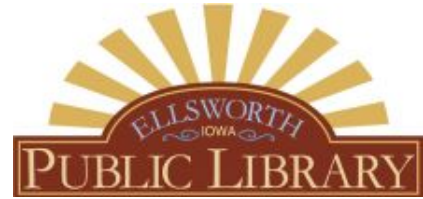
ACTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE #17.04 PERTAINING TO COUNCIL MEETINGS: After Council discussion, it was determined no action was required as no changes will be made. The Council meetings will continue to be on the 2nd Monday of each month at 6 pm and the 4th Tuesday of each month at 6 pm. 1st, 2nd, 3rd Readings failed.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION OF NEW UTILITY SHOP DEMOLITION AND NEW STRUCTURE: The bidding process is not required in cities under 50,000 in population for vertical structures under the amount of \$81,000 according to Iowa Code chapter 26. The Council was presented with a bid from Next Generation Buildings for a 40 foot wide by 100 foot long by 16 foot inside height composite steel frame shop building for \$74,926.00. Motion to accept this bid and move forward with the project by Phipps and seconded by Funk. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION OF ELECTRIC UTILITY IMPROVEMENTS TO 1-011 HWY 175: A price quote for boring and transformer presented to Council from Midland Power. Discussion was to wait on action until Public Works Supervisor VanLangen was present to answer questions.

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

May 2025



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- BASE Exercise Group | 10:15-10:45am EVERY FRIDAY
- Board Meeting (open to public) | 5:30-6:30pm on Thursday, May 1
- WIP Group (Works in Progress) | 5:30-7pm on Monday, May 5
 - Calling all quilters, knitters, crocheters, embroiderers, painters, etc! This is a time to work on our projects together. For anyone who wants to join but doesn't have a project, we will also have adult coloring pages and brush lettering kits.
- Young(ish) Adult Book Club | 6:00-7:00pm on Monday, May 26
 - Come pick up a book to join this new book club for adults in their 20s-30s(ish)! This month, we will be discussing *The Last Thing He Told Me* by Laura Dave.
- Early Childhood Storytime | 10:00-10:30am on Friday, May 30
 - Open to infants to preschool kids! Come socialize with other kids/parents, listen to a couple of interactive stories, and, of course, play!

More details about any of these programs can be found at ellsworth.lib.ia.us/events.

SUMMER READING PROGRAM:

Information about this year's summer reading program is available at the library. This year's theme is Level Up at Your Library, which means we will have lots of fun playing many different games! Please stop to sign up and grab a reading log and a summer calendar, and follow us on social media to stay up to date. Programs will begin in June.

The Ellsworth Farmers Market is coming back this summer.

Watch for the dates in the June Ellsworth Newsletter.

ELLSWORTH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Ellsworth Community Association needs your membership. Dues are **\$20.00** for single or family memberships. Send your check/cash to: **Ellsworth Community Association, PO Box 272, Ellsworth, Iowa** along with the following form. Please include all names of the family, address and phone number. Thank you for your interest in the Ellsworth Community. Send to:

Ellsworth Community Association

PO Box 272

Ellsworth Iowa 50075

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY the following information for our records:

Name _____

Address _____

Home Phone () _____ - _____

Cell Phone () _____ - _____

E Mail _____

Fill out if you want to be included on the Birthday/Anniversary calendar:

First Name Last Name Month / Day

B _____ **A** _____ / _____

B _____ **A** _____ / _____

B _____ **A** _____ / _____

B _____ **A** _____ / _____