The Ellsworth City Council met in regular session at 4:59 p.m. at City Hall on October 22, 2024, with Mayor Yager presiding, and the following council present: Sogard, Laube, Funk, and Phipps. Also, in attendance EJS police Chief Turpen.

**OATH OF OFFICE:**  Newly Appointed Councilman Brian Phipps took his Oath of Office, witnessed by Council, Mayor and attested by City Clerk.

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

**PUBLIC FORUM:** None Present.

**1720 DEWITT STREET:** Police Chief Turpen gave update on abandoned vehicles case at 1729 DeWitt Street. Vehicles per court order on 10/22/24 to be removed and moved by November 12, 2024.

**FIRE/EMS:**  City Clerk Eckers presented communication received from Fire Chief Jayson Evans about current priorities and projects for the Ellsworth Fire Department. First is the relocation of the weather siren. Council discussed suggestion of erecting a pole at the SW end of the current/new fire station building with controls being located inside the building. Estimates for installation of both pole and wiring by licensed businesses/technicians need to be acquired prior to approval. Second priority is what will be done with the old fire station building. Council discussed options of both repair and removal and replacement. Suggest three estimates for either option be gathered and presented before a decision can be made. The EFD has requested monthly financial reports from City Hall. The Council and City Clerk Eckers agreed this can be done moving forward. Council also discussed repairs needed on truck #85. Update on what repairs are needed will be gathered and presented at the next Council meeting. Public Works Supervisor Nick Vanlangen will manually set off the town siren for the opening and closing of Beggar’s Night on October 31st at 6pm and 8pm.

**COUNCIL SEAT VACANCY:**  Council discussed both options to appoint and option to hold a special election to fill the vacancy after last meetings’ resignation of Kalib King. Motion made by Funk to pursue appointment with applications open until November 26th Council meeting. Seconded by Sogard. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

**CITY HALL UPDATES:** City Clerk Eckers updated the Council on training sessions in the past two weeks, progress on training in the accounting software, utility billing, as well as updates to the building. City Clerk also updated the Council on businesses participating in the downtown Halloween Trick-Or-Treat on October 31st in conjunction with ECA’s event at the Fire Station and Trunk-Or-Treat event at Trinity Lutheran Church.

**PUBLIC WORKS UPDATES:**

1. Public Works employees not present. Update from City Clerk Eckers on Lead/Copper Survey status. Public Works employees dispersed door to door surveys in the past several days and the public is encouraged to participate and return to City Hall.
2. Water Tower Update: A meeting is scheduled with the Ames Alliance, City Clerk Eckers, and Public Works Supervisor Vanlangen later this week to discuss available grant opportunities for the project and next steps needed to move forward with the project.

**BOARD APPOINTMENTS:** Mayor Yager appointed Councilman William Funk as Mayor Pro Tem. New Committee and Board Appointments Include:

Personnel Committee: Mayor Yager, Councilman Funk, and Councilman Phipps

Finance Committee: Mayor Yager and City Clerk Eckers

Utilities Committee: Mayor Yager and Public Works’ Employee Lee Knickerbocker

Buildings and Grounds Committee: Public Works’ Supervisor and Employee Nick Vanlangen and Lee Knickerbocker

Sanitary Board: Dale Graham with alternates of Councilwoman Sogard and Mayor Yager

Police Board: Mayor Yager and Councilman Laube

Crimestoppers: Police Chief Turpen

Library Board: Linda Graves, Beth Grove, John Lovell, Wayne Newman, Linda Bottorff

Planning & Zoning Board: Roger Volkman, Brian Zimmerman, Beth Grove, Paula Newman, Jim Maxwell

Board of Adjustments: Marsha Anderson, Dale Graham, Steve Holt, Linda Clark with Brian Phipps resigning due to new Council position. Appointment to fill vacancy will be made by Mayor Yager at the next Council meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mayor Dolorus Yager called for adjournment at 5:54 pm.

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Dolorus Yager, Mayor Heidi Eckers, City Clerk