

The Ellsworth City Council met in regular session at 6:03 p.m. at City Hall on September 23, 2025, with Mayor Dolorus Yager presiding, and the following council members present: Sogard (via telecom), Funk, Olson, Phipps arriving at 6:23 pm, and Sogard leaving at 6:28 pm. Also in attendance were Brian Zimmerman, Brandi Nelson, Travis Anderson, and Brittany Williams.

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

**CONSENT AGENDA:** Strike B from the Consent Agenda. Motion by Olson, seconded by Funk to approve the following items listed on the consent agenda:

- a. Motion to approve September 8, 2025 council minutes.

Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried and claims hereby made a portion of these minutes.

**PUBLIC FORUM:** Brian Zimmerman expressed concern about the number of young children riding around on two-wheeled scooters in town and not following any traffic laws. Mayor Yager assured Mr Zimmerman that this topic has been discussed at EJS Police Board meetings, and Police Chief Morton will be addressing the issue by talking to the children and their parents.

**REQUEST TO USE GYMNASIUM:** Travis Anderson was present to request the use of the Ellsworth Gym for basketball practices Sundays through Fridays on behalf of four South Hamilton teams from early October to the beginning on March during regular and tournament season. He also inquired as to the willingness of the city to tear down and set up the gym for Bingo on Saturdays. Motion by Funk to allow use of the gym by four teams, each paying the city \$100 as a lump sum for the duration of use, no guaranteeing city staff will do the teardown and set up, but when available, offering city staff help. Second by Olson. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: WATERTOWER NEXT STEPS:** Motion by Funk and second by Phipps to postpone future bid for an elevated water tower until early in the first quarter of 2026. Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried.

**ECA:** Brittany Williams was present to request that a date be chosen and approved for Dump Your Junk 2026. After discussion of possible dates and proximity to Ellsworth Extravaganza, motion by Funk and second by Olson to approve the Dump Your Junk date of Saturday, April 25th, with the potential location of the dumpsters being in front of the city sheds instead of the Co-Op. Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried.

**FIRE/EMS:** Brandi Nelson, a local real estate agent, was present to request sponsoring a game at Bingo, where the proceeds would go to the Ellsworth Fire Department, and her business would sponsor the prize of a gift card. After the discussion, it was determined that Brandi should speak with Bingo coordinator Allen Watts before the Council's consideration.

**LIBRARY:** Clerk Eckers updated the Council on the resignation of Library director Karlie Hunter. Advertisements have been posted online and placed in the newspaper. Mayor Yager updated the Council on a conversation she had with Hunter concerning the historic library quilt possibly being donated to the Historical Museum. Hunter will reach out to Janit Adix, Museum director, and discuss the options.

**PUBLIC WORKS:** PW Supervisor Vanlangen and staff Knickerbocker were present. Vanlangen updated the Council and said the new RO filters in the water plant should be installed and online by Wednesday night. The new backhoe arrives Friday. The bracket for the mounting of the weather siren is still being manufactured, and the tennis court was prepped and ready for sealing.

**CITY HALL UPDATES:** Clerk Eckers invited the Council to participate in the tree planting at the City Park on Monday October 6<sup>th</sup> from 11 am to 1:30 pm. Sack lunches will be provided by the Jewell Market for the kids from South Hamilton and the other volunteers. The public is welcome to come help as well! Please bring a shovel! Clerk Eckers read through notes taken during the IEDA Downtown assessment on Monday, September 22. The full report should be available for the Council and public in four weeks. Clerk Eckers reminded the Council about the Community Meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> of October at 6:30 pm.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mayor Yager called for adjournment at 7:08pm. Motion to adjourn by Olson and seconded by Funk. Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried.

X \_\_\_\_\_  
Dolorus Yager, Mayor

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