The Ellsworth City Council met in regular session at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall on September 25, 2024, with Mayor Yager presiding, and the following council present: Sogard, Laube, and King as a phone in.

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

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

1. Motion to approve September 9th council minutes

Motion by Laube, seconded by Sogard. Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried and claims hereby made portion of these minutes.

**Public Forum:** None Present.

**Inside Farmer’s Market:** Jessica Lowe will be contacting Ellsworth Library to discuss rental rate for the back room to host an indoor farmer’s market in November. Second option for location would be the Ellsworth community center.

**Rotoform Transformer:** James Marsh, owner of Rotoform Molding was present to discuss payment of commercial transformer at 1435 Industrial Park Road, Ellworth. Motion made by Sogard to pay Midland invoice pending discussion with county Auditor regarding retroactive or potential for use of TIF funds. Second – Laube. Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried.

**Rotoform – Payment Plan:**  City Clerk will communicate with owner of Rotoform Molding, James Marsh, to set up payment plan for transformer costs.

**Fowl Permit Renewals:** City Clerk will mail forms with reminder to past list of residents on file with fowl in their within city limits property.

**Library Funds Trasfer:**  Mayor Dolorus Yager proposed returning $9,375.99 of unused allocated funds from fiscal year 2023/2024 to the Ellsworth Library per the Library’s 5 year plan. Motion made by King and seconded by Sogard to approve the Mayor’s proposal. Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried.

**Wellmark Employee Insurance Annual Renewal:**  Motion made by Laube and seconded by Sogard to renew employee insurance package through Wellmark at an increase for 2025 of 1.8%. Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried.

**Fire Department Rental Agreement:** Mayor Dolorus Yager approved the proposed rental agreement from Ellsworth Loading for use by the Ellsworth Fire Department at $1200 per month plus utilities to be paid by Ellsworth Fire Department.

**Fire Department Tow Bill – Reimbursement to Evans Autobody:**  Mayor Dolores Yager approved reimbursement to Evans Autobody for towing of Ellsworth Ambulance, minus any taxes charged totaling $439.33.

**FIRE/EMS:**  Not Present

**Speed Limit Signage:** Police Chief Dave Turpen looked into the 25 MPH and 35 MPH speed limit signage along R61 within the city limits of Ellsworth. Signs are legible and in the correct locations, suggested moving the south-facing 35MPH sign further north and adding a second 25MPH sign to replace it for additional clarity to vehicles/operators.

**Industrial Electric Rates:** Not discussed and moved to next month’s meeting when all council will be present.

**Resolution for Utility Deposit Policy:** Motion made by Sogard and seconded by Laube to adopt resolution No. 09-25-2024. Resolution states: “a.) collect $300 deposit and receipt the funds into the Electric Fund b.) apply deposit paid to the entire remaining balance of the utility account after the current occupant has notified the City of their final read date. c.) If there is a credit balance due after the final bill to the customer, the City will refund the credit balance to the customer from the Electric Fund. D.) If there is an outstanding balance due to the City, the City will proceed with collecting the outstanding balance from the customer.” Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried to adopt Resolution No. 09-25-2024.

**Bingo Tables and Chairs**: Motion by King and seconded by Laube to offer the old community center tables and chairs being stored in the city shed to the public at $10 per table and $2 per chair. Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried. City clerk will create order form and receipt to be available during Saturday evening Bingo at the Ellsworth Community Center and available at City Hall for members of the public who are interested in purchasing tables or chairs.

**City Hall Updates:** City Clerk updated the council on upcoming trainings including on the Utility Billing/Accounting/Check Writing software through Banyon Data, accredited clerk training through Municipal Professionals Institute and IMFOA conference and classes. City Hall will be closed on September 30, October 2-4, and October 17-18 for the city clerk to attend these sessions.

**Public Works Updates:** Public Works Supervisor Nick Vanlangen updated the council on the progress of the ammonia treatment for the lagoons. Nick will be getting an updated schedule from the company as well as an updated estimate on expenses prior to next council meeting. Nick updated the council on the progress for the Ellsworth Truck Wash new truck bay project at 1011 Hwy 175.

**Comments:** Sogard discussed the hours that the city burn site was open. Public Works supervisor Nick Vanlangen confirmed the burn site is unavailable on Sundays, Mondays, and holidays. Laube discussed public input on the need for stop lights at the on/off ramps for Interstate 35. Sogard will further investigate with DOT.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mayor Dolorus Yager called for adjournment at 6:03 pm.