The Ellsworth City Council met in regular session at 7:01 p.m. at City Hall on September 9, 2024, with Mayor Yager presiding, and the following council present: Sogard, Laube, and Funk.

August Receipts August Disbursements

General Fund 683.28 11,091.32

Road Use Fund

Employee Benefit Fund

Emergency Fund

Local Option Sales Tax Fund

Tax Increment Finance Area 1

Tax Increment Finance Area 2

Tax Increment Finance 1 Amend

Bingo Fund 2940.00 374.94

Debt Service Fund

Capital Project-Storm Water 2531.21

Capital Project-Water Tower

Water Fund 18897.32

Water Sinking Fund

Sewer Fund 4960.67

Electric Fund 50349.10

Electric Sinking Fund

Storm Water Fund

Storm Water Sinking

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**SWEARING IN OF NEW CITY CLERK:** Heidi Eckers took oath of office.

**AGENDA APPROVAL:** Motion by Sogard, seconded by Funk 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 August 12th council minutes
2. Approve Trick or Treat Date – October 31, 2024
3. Approve Love’s Truck Stop ABD License Renewal
4. Motion to approve August payment of claims

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

**PUBLIC FORUM:** Marv Norem came to the city to recommend Steve Holt for the open council seat.

**MARK HILL:** Contacted by Dollar General to purchase land located at 1325 Delphi to build a store. The council will be communicating with Planning and Zoning. Planning and zoning will be setting a meeting to discuss.

**1617 DAYTON STREET –** Corey and Chrissy Young were present to discuss an anomaly with water on one month’s utility bill. Recordings of past clerk’s conversations were shared, the council had copies of water usage for a six month period surrounding the anomaly. City council voted to waive the month in dispute. Motioned by Sogard, seconded by Laube. Roll call votes 3-0. Motion Carries.

**PARK BOARD:** Mayor Dolorus Yager nominated the following community members as the Park Board to oversee improvements to the city park: Linda Clark, Leah Phipps, Maddie Warren, Melanie Reisinger, Andra Willis, and Chrissy Young.

**ECA:**  Linda Clark was present to update the council on upcoming community events. Halloween will be a collaborate event with the Fire Station on Thursday October 31st 2024, 5-6pm at the fire station and citywide trick or treating from 6pm to 8pm. Christmas celebration also in collaboration with the fire department will be the 14th of December.

**LEAD AND COPPER SURVEY UPDATE:**  Businesses and building owners will be receiving a letter from Nick Valangan, supervisor of Public Works with an update on what’s required by October 12, 2024 deadline.

**FIRE/EMS:** Fire Chief Evans was in attendance. Moving the existing alert siren from storage to being mounted on the new Fire Station was discussed by Nick Vanlangen and Fire Chief Evans. Insurance will cover the cost, including retrofitting the building to meet structural requirements. A rental agreement between the Ellsworth Fire Department and Ellsworth Loading for rental of the Ellsworth Loading building was discussed. Vote to approve postponed. Rent would be paid by our insurance company. Ellsworth Fire Department would be responsible for utilities. Three fire trucks and one trailer will be housed at Ellsworth loading until they are either sold or a new relocation plan in place. Fire Chief Evans gave update on repairs needed to current equipment including a master cylinder replacement in the Equipment truck #28, new batteries in the Pumper truck and emergency brake work on the ambulance. The retirement of Bruce Thopmson was discussed, a party is planned to celebrate his 50 years of commitment to the community on September 22nd from 4pm to 6pm at Jewell Golf. Fire Chief Evans shared with the council that the Ellsworth Ambulance and EMS department are now Advanced Treatment Certified. . Reminder that the Ellsworth Fire/EMS monthly meetings are the third Wednesday of each month at 7pm at the Fire Station.

**CITY HALL UPDATES:** Public works will be replacing the faucet in the bathroom at city hall and repairing the rear exit for fire safety purposes.

**SIGNATURE CARDS:** Mayor Dolorus Yager designated council person William Funk and City Clerk Heidi Eckers to be added to the signature cards at Availa Bank for all city, ems, and bingo accounts.

**RESIGNATION:** Motion made by Funk to accept the resignation of council member Steve Gelder. Seconded by Laube. Roll call votes 3-0. Motion Carries.

**COUNCIL SEAT VACANCY:** Council discussed options to either appoint new council member after a period of 2 weeks of accepting applications or holding a special election. Council seat must be filled by October 14th of 2024. Motion to proceed with accepting applications and appointing a new council member made by Funk, seconded by Laube. Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carries. Heidi Eckers will get notice to the SHRN, post to website and print applications to have available at city hall.

**COMMENTS:** Funk thanks Sogard for contacting DOT and arranging work on approach to Delphi. The state has completed work. Laube gave update on Disc Golf course at the Ellsworth city park. He has contacted the sign company and working on gathering more information for complete quote on project. He will be putting together a proposal that can be used for soliciting donations to help offset the cost of the project. PW Supervisor Nick VanLangen gave update on car wash project. The city is waiting on delivery of the transformer and is collecting quotes for the cost involved with installing a primary power box as well as boring from 175. David Speed with Midland Power will be sending examples to the City of other municipalities process for payment contributions towards similar projects.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mayor Dolorus Yager called for adjournment at 8:29pm.