

REGULAR SESSION

January 12, 2022

The City Council of Essex met January 12, 2022 at 7:00 PM in the Community Room, Essex City Hall. Mayor Kinney called the meeting to order and roll call was taken showing the following members of the Council present or absent. Present: Ballinger, Eshelman, Franks, Wenstrand. Absent: None. City Clerk Ohnmacht and City Attorney Sorensen were also present.

The Agenda was approved. Motion by Ballinger, second by Franks. Ayes: All.

Members of the public present: Mark Marriott, Dennis Gresham, Amy Toye, Stephen Swanson, Paula Vandusen. There were no comments from the public.

Steven Swanson spoke of his desire to purchase vacant lot 707 Omaha Avenue. Sorensen informed him that the County had assigned the delinquent tax certificate to the City and he plans to file for a deed. A resolution to sell this property will be on the February agenda.

Mayor Kinney appointed the following with unanimous support of the City Council:

1. Mayor Pro Tem: Patti Ballinger
2. Library Board of Trustees Chairperson: Carla Kirchert
3. Zoning Administrative Officer: Tim Moyer
4. Essex Youth Sports Chairperson: Alice Walters

The City Council reappointed the following:

1. City Clerk/Treasurer: Mary Ohnmacht
2. City Attorney: Mahlon Sorensen
3. Public Works Director: Kelly Morehouse
4. Street Superintendent: Mark Marriott
5. Planning & Zoning Commission: Joey Samuelson, Tom Ross, Roger Burns, Carol Chambers
6. Essex Low Rent Housing Board of Commissioners: Joey Samuelson, Jan Humphrey, Jeannine Liljedahl, Brent Younggren, Ken Royer
7. Cemetery Board of Trustees: Lisa Nelson, Jim Alexander, John Bengtson, Sandy Correll
8. Page County Landfill Representative: Patti Ballinger, alternate: Betty Franks
9. Building Inspector: Mike Burnison
10. Fire Chief: Todd Franks

Approval of Resolution 2022 – 02: Establishing Regular Meeting Dates for the Calendar Year 2022. Motion by Franks, second by Wenstrand. Ayes: All.

Approval of Resolution 2022 – 03: Appointment and Retainer and Compensation of City Attorney. Motion by Ballinger, second by Wenstrand. Ayes: All.

Approval of Resolution 2022 – 04: Designating Official Newspapers. Motion by Wenstrand, second by Eshelman. Ayes: All.

Approval of Resolution 2022 – 05: Naming Depositories. Motion by Franks, second by Ballinger. Ayes: All.

Approval of Resolution 2022 – 06: Transfer of Funds Lied Public Library. Motion by Franks, second by Wenstrand. Ayes: All.

Approval of Resolution 2022 – 07: Transfer of Funds Perpetual Care. Motion by Ballinger, second by Franks. Ayes: All.

Approval of Resolution 2022 – 08: Wage Resolution Library Assistant. Motion by Ballinger, second by Franks. Ayes: All.

Acceptance of monthly police report: December 5, 2021 – January 8, 2022. Motion by Franks, second by Wenstrand. Ayes: All.

Acceptance of delinquent utilities report. Motion by Franks, second by Eshelman. Ayes: All.

Acceptance of holiday garbage schedule. Motion by Franks, second by Wenstrand. Ayes: All.

Acceptance of fire department retirement tabled until February due to not receiving department minutes.

Approval of second reading of Resolution 2021 – 38: Sewer Service Charges. Motion by Ballinger, second by Franks. Ayes: All.

Council discussed changes to golf cart and UTV ordinance. Sorensen will prepare a resolution for February meeting.

Council discussed building permit and complaint forms. Forms will be updated.

Approval of IRS standard mileage rates for 2022 of 58.5 cents per mile. Motion by Franks, second by Wenstrand. Ayes: All.

The Rural Fire meeting will be Wednesday, February 9, 2022 at 6:30 PM prior to the regular council meeting.

Approval of work orders. Motion by Wenstrand, second by Eshelman. Ayes: All.

Approval of Consent Agenda: Minutes: December 8, 2021, January 5, 2022; Treasurer's Report: December 31, 2021; Abstract of Claims December 9, 2021 – January 12, 2022. Motion by Franks, second by Wenstrand. Ayes: All.

Approval to fill council vacancy by appointment. Motion by Eshelman, second by Wenstrand. Ayes: Eshelman, Wenstrand. Nays: Ballinger, Franks. Motion failed.

Approval to fill council vacancy by appointment with letters of appointment due February 1, 2022 and the decision to fill the vacancy made on February 2, 2022. Motion by Wenstrand, second by Eshelman. Ayes: Ballinger, Eshelman, Wenstrand. Nays: Franks. Carried 3-1.

Sorensen updated the council on nuisance properties. The City has taken ownership of 710 Iowa Avenue. He will work on a court order to have shed torn down at 303 Brooks Street. Sorensen also educated the Council on Johnson Subdivision covenants and electronic communication.

Council communication: Wenstrand requested to set up joint meeting with the school.

Public comments on agenda items: Amy Toye suggested interview ideas for council position.

Good News: Eshelman appreciated the guidance from the council members. Franks commented on the good weather. Ballinger reported hearing good comments about Garrison Tavern and Grill and what good food they are serving. Sorensen also spoke of how nice it was to have a good business in town. Kinney expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to serve as mayor. Wenstrand spoke of the basketball teams getting some wins. Ohnmacht was appreciative of the good work atmosphere.

Next meeting budget workshop January 19, 2022 at 6:00 PM.

Adjournment at 8:54 PM. Motion by Franks, second by Wenstrand. Ayes: All.

Mayor, Calvin L. Kinney

ATTEST:

City Clerk, Mary A. Ohnmacht