

REGULAR SESSION

September 14, 2022

The City Council of Essex met in regular session at the Essex Community Room at 8:00 PM. 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, Thornton, Wenstrand. Absent: none. City Attorney Sorensen and City Clerk Ohnmacht were also present.

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

Guests present: Heidi Hertensen. No public comments.

Approval third reading Resolution 2022 – 21: Amending Chapter 25 Cemetery Sale of Interment Rights and Perpetual Care. Motion by Ballinger, second by Wenstrand. Ayes: All.

Approval Ordinance 2022 – 09: Chapter 25 Cemetery Sale of Interment Rights and Perpetual Care. Motion by Franks, second by Wenstrand. Ayes: All.

Acceptance of monthly police report: August 7, 2022 – September 10, 2022. Motion by Wenstrand, second by Thornton. Ayes: All.

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

Approval of Essex Youth Sports appointment of Board members Sarah McDowell and Jamie Swaim. Motion by Franks, second by Eshelman. Ayes: All.

Approval Annual Urban Renewal Report 2021 – 2022. Motion by Wenstrand, second by Thornton. Ayes: All.

Approval Amendment 1 to 2020 Facility Plan Report Wastewater Treatment Facility. Motion by Franks, second by Ballinger. Ayes: All.

Discussion on fuel surcharge. It will be reviewed in December.

Budget workshops were discussed. They will be held at 6:00 PM on December 7, 21 and 28. Budget worksheets will be distributed to department heads with a due date of December 1st. Department presentations will be December 7th with each department getting 15 minutes to present their budget needs.

Request for Proposal was presented from Broeckelman and Associates. The Atlantic firm declined to return a proposal. Motion to approve proposal by Franks, second by Ballinger. Ayes: All.

Request from The Red Oak Express to be designated as the second publication for the City. Motion to approve by Ballinger, second by Franks. Ayes: All.

Mayor announced that will start looking for snow removal help with next Council meeting as the deadline.

Council discussed Trees! Please! Grant. Discussion included what trees to plant and where. Will be replacing a tree or two along Highway 48 and the cemetery. Then will start planting trees at the entrance of the cemetery.

Council reviewed banners for downtown and chose 2 to designs to move forward with.

The Mayor updated the Council on 710 Iowa Avenue. It is scheduled to be demolished the week of September 19th.

Work orders were reviewed.

Approval of Consent Agenda: Minutes: August 10, 2022; Treasurer's Report August 31, 2022; Abstract of Claims: August 11, 2022 – September 14, 2022. Motion by Franks, second by Thornton. Ayes: All.

Public Comments on agenda items: Heidi Hertensen expressed her disappointment on Council switching to Red Oak Express as second publication choice.

Nuisance letters were reviewed. Sorensen was directed to send a letter to the mortgage company dealing with 511 Nebraska Avenue.

Sorensen reported on his issues dealing with a potential site for the water tower.

Future Agenda items: update on cameras.

Good news:

- Jeff – Labor Day weekend with family was impressed with so many activities for everyone.
- Betty – Opera house has new doors and the cemetery looks nice.
- Calvin – good to see all of the Council pitch in for the community over Labor Day.
- Mahlon – best Labor Day he has ever seen
- Patti – Labor Day movie and fireworks were amazing
- Nicole – got married and Labor Day was great
- Heather – Labor Day was enjoyed by her family and the Derby was good.

Adjournment at 9:30 PM. Motion by Franks, second by Wenstrand. Ayes: All.

Mayor, Calvin L. Kinney

ATTEST:

City Clerk, Mary A. Ohnmacht