

REGULAR SESSION

March 8, 2023

The Essex City Council met in regular session at the Essex Community Room at 7:00 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 Eshelman. Ayes: All.

Guests present: Randy Wenstrand, Danielle Miller, Kim Juarez, Dennis Gresham, Tracey Ellis, Lyl Ellis, Heidi Hertensen, Stephen & Paula Swanson, Cheryl Terry, Carol York, Sabrina Marriott.

Public comments: Lyl Ellis spoke in favor of urban chickens.

Cheryl Terry spoke about concerns with her neighbor's garbage not being contained and blowing into her yard and about dogs running loose.

Acceptance of monthly police report: February 5, 2023 – March 4, 2023. Motion by Franks, second by Wenstrand. Ayes: All.

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

Randy Wenstrand presented questions the library board had with their budget.

Bids and potential plans were reviewed for the City owned lot 707 Omaha Avenue. Motion to accept Stephen Swanson's bid of \$500 was made by Wenstrand, second by Franks. Ayes: All. Public hearing will be held in April.

Approval of Cummins Sales and Service estimate of \$2,830.06 for repairs and maintenance for sewer plant generator. Motion by Franks, second by Wenstrand. Ayes: All.

Approval of Additional Services JEO Consulting Group, Inc. for 2022 Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project. Motion by Ballinger, second by Wenstrand. Ayes: All.

Approval Resolution ordering construction of 2022 Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation and Fixing a Date for hearing thereon and taking bids therefor. Motion by Franks, second by Eshelman. Aye: All.

Approval Resolution 2023 – 11: To Establish Scheduled Civil Penalty for Animal Protection/Control. Motion by Franks, second by Eshelman. Ayes: All.

Approval Resolution 2023 – 12: Updating City of Essex Tree Ordinance. Motion by Wenstrand, second by Thornton. Ayes: All.

A discussion was held regarding urban chickens. Council members will be reaching out to residents to get community feedback.

Opera House rules were discussed. Motion to approve the fees presented by Franks, second by Thornton. Ayes: All.

City wide garage sales and clean up were discussed. The dates set for garage sales are May 5th and 6th. City wide clean-up will follow May 12th and 13th.

Starting pay for open position was discussed. Motion by Franks to set at \$17 per hour. Motion died for lack of a second. Motion by Wenstrand to set at \$18 per hour, second by Ballinger. Ayes: Ballinger, Eshelman, Wenstrand. Nays: Franks, Thornton. Motion carried.

Approval of shared marketing position. Motion by Ballinger, second by Eshelman. Ayes: All.

Sidewalk removal permit reviewed. Motion to deny permit due to sidewalk being a “through” walkway by Franks. Second by Ballinger. Ayes: All.

Volunteer day with the school was discussed. Franks will help supervise cleaning of all the park flower beds.

Public comments on agenda items: Dennis Gresham asked about sidewalks damaged by trees.

Approval of Consent Agenda: Minutes: February 8, 2023, February 13, 2023, March 6, 2023; Treasurer’s Report February 28, 2023; Abstract of Claims February 9, 2023 – March 8, 2023. Motion by Ballinger, second by Thornton. Ayes: All.

Sorensen plans to take more action against property owners on South Avenue.

Good News:

- Heather – thankful for passing of marketing position
- Nicole – excited for marketing position
- Patti – excited to see trees allowed in parkway
- Jeff – great discussion with Essex Housing Board about PILOT program
- Betty – Integrity will have opera house work completed in about a week
- Mary – excited to have cousin and family moving to the community
- Calvin – works with a good council

Adjournment at 9:15 PM. Motion by Thornton, second by Wenstrand. Ayes: All.

Mayor, Calvin L. Kinney

ATTEST:

City Clerk, Mary A. Ohnmacht