

REGULAR SESSION

April 10, 2024

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, Gresham, Wenstrand. Absent: Franks. City Clerk Ohnmacht and City Attorney Sorensen were also present.

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

Guests present: Chelsea McAdams and Ashley Holmes. McAdams and Holmes spoke on the Essex Child Care Center's intention to build a new facility and sell the old one on Iowa Avenue. They also submitted a complaint about stray cats.

Michael Malotki representing Thrasher Foundation Repair presented the Council with an option of repairing the sidewalk in the 500 block on the north side of Iowa Avenue. The cost was presented as \$6,194.53. A discount of \$309.73 was also quoted with the total coming to \$5,884.80. Motion by Wenstrand to approve the project, second by Ballinger. Ayes: All.

Mayor Kinney opened the public hearing for the proposed budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. There were no written or oral comments or objections. The public hearing was closed.

Approval Resolution 2024 – 12: Budget Adopting Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2025. Motion by Wenstrand, second by Ballinger. Ayes: Ballinger, Eshelman, Gresham, Wenstrand. Nays: none.

Mayor Kinney opened the public hearing for the proposed amendments of utility rates. There were no written or oral comments or objections. The public hearing was closed. Approval of first reading of proposed amendments of utility rates, motion by Ballinger, second by Wenstrand. Ayes: All.

Acceptance of monthly law enforcement report: March 2024. Motion by Ballinger, second by Eshelman. Ayes: All.

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

Approval of Pay Application Number 3 2022 Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation in the amount of \$114,451.27. Motion by Ballinger, second by Wenstrand. Ayes: All.

Approval of library board member appointment, Heather Thornton. Motion by Eshelman, second by Gresham. Ayes: All.

The Opera House rules were discussed. They will be changed to read "nothing" on the walls and if any rules are broken, deposit is forfeited. Motion by Ballinger to have Sara Skidmore do the cleaning when needed. Second by Wenstrand. Ayes: All.

Approval Resolution 2024 – 11: Transfer of Funds Perpetual Care. Motion by Wenstrand, second by Eshelman. Ayes: All.

Discussion of sale of 529 Iowa Avenue tabled.

Zoning ordinance was discussed. Sorensen will have 5-7 changes at the May meeting for the Council to review.

Code enforcement was discussed with no action taken.

No public comments on agenda items.

Approval of Consent Agenda: Minutes: March 13, 2024, March 26, 2024; Treasurer's Report: March 31, 2024; Abstract of Claims: March 14, 2024 – April 10, 2024. Motion by Ballinger, second by Wenstrand. Ayes: All.

Sorensen updated the council on officer hiring, lot purchase and other properties.

Ballinger reported concerns of no markings on well heads, Airport Road needing work and the gate not closed or locked. Trees on the highway do need to come down. Gresham reported concern of property on Iowa Avenue.

Mayor Kinney updated the Council on several items.

Good News:

- Nicole – has new medication and it helps.
- Patti – attended district Republican convention and it was good.
- Mahlon – things are good.
- Jeff – running for county supervisor.
- Dennis – got yard work done.
- Mary – Cat had kittens.
- Calvin – granddaughter celebrated birthday.

Adjournment at 9:03 PM. Motion by Wenstrand, second by Ballinger. Ayes: All.

Mayor, Calvin L. Kinney

ATTEST:

City Clerk, Mary A. Ohnmacht