

REGULAR SESSION

January 8, 2025

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-Larson. Absent: Franks. City Clerk Ohnmacht and City Attorney Sorensen were also present.

The agenda was approved. Motion by Ballinger, second by Wenstrand-Larson. Ayes: All.

Guests present: Kim Tudor, Cindy VanFosson, Drake Riddle. Public comments: Kim Tudor thanked the Council for their part in helping to get the railroad tracks fixed. Cindy VanFosson is the newly appointed county auditor. She spoke on the upcoming special election.

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

1. Mayor Pro Tem: Patti Ballinger
2. Library Board of Trustees Chairperson: Stacy Nelson
3. Zoning Administrative Officer: Tim Moyer
4. Essex Youth Sports Chairperson: Rianne Juarez

The City Council unanimously reappointed the following on motion of Wenstrand-Larson, second by Gresham:

1. City Clerk/Treasurer: Mary Ohnmacht
2. City Attorney: Mahlon Sorensen
3. Public Works Director: Wade Sholes
4. Street Superintendent: Don Olson
5. Planning & Zoning Commission: Tim Moyer, Blake Jensen, 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: John Bengtson, Jim Alexander, Sandy Correll, Dennis Liljedahl
8. Page County Landfill representative: Patti Ballinger, alternate: Betty Franks
9. Building inspectors: Mike Burnison
10. Fire Chief: Tim Bowers

Acceptance of monthly Page County Sheriff's report December 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024. Motion by Ballinger, second by Wenstrand-Larson. Ayes: All.

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

Approval of holiday garbage schedule. Motion by Ballinger, second by Wenstrand-Larson. Ayes: All.

Approval Resolution 2025 – 01: Establishing Regular Meeting Dates for the Calendar Year 2025. Motion by Ballinger, second by Wenstrand. Ayes: Ballinger, Gresham, Wenstrand-Larson. Nays: Eshelman. Motion carried.

Approval Resolution 2025 – 02: Appointing & Retainer and Compensation of City Attorney. Motion by Wenstrand-Larson, second by Ballinger. Ayes: All.

Approval Resolution 2025 – 03: Designating Official Newspaper(s). Motion by Ballinger, second by Wenstrand-Larson. Ayes: All.

Approval Resolution 2025 – 04: Naming Depositories. Motion by Ballinger, second by Eshelman. Ayes: All.

Approval Resolution 2025 -05: Engagement Letter Ahlers Cooney Water Revenue. Motion by Ballinger, second by Wenstrand-Larson. Ayes: All.

Approval Resolution 2025 – 06: Wage Resolution. Motion by Gresham, second by Wenstrand-Larson. Ayes: All.

The council discussed several street signs that need to be replaced. Gresham has made a list, and they will be ordered.

The Opera House rental rates were discussed. Motion by Wenstrand-Larson to increase rates by \$50. Second by Ballinger. Ayes: All.

Approval of IRS standard mileage rates for 2025 of 70 cents per mile. Motion by Ballinger, second by Gresham. Ayes: All.

No public comments on agenda items.

Approval of Consent Agenda: Minutes: December 11, 2024, December 18, 2024, December 23, 2024; Treasurer's Report December 31, 2024; Abstract of Claims: December 12, 2024 – January 8, 2025. Motion by Ballinger, second by Wenstrand-Larson. Ayes: All.

Sorensen would like to propose the Sheriff's Office citing for several ordinance violations. Kinney will reach out to Sheriff McCalla.

Sorensen is working on the zoning ordinance update.

Sorensen updated the Council on nuisance properties.

Mayor updated the Council on well #6. It is currently offline. The orange truck will need work done this spring. The garbage truck has repairs scheduled.

Good News:

- Mahlon: his 3-month-old grandson gave him a good Christmas gift.

- Patti - has a cover for her UTV and is ready for snow.
- Nicole - James had a good night's sleep and so did his parents.
- Dennis - got a good bargain on after Christmas candy.
- Jeff - visited Palmer candy outlet while having a good visit at home.
- Mary - daughter is home.
- Calvin - taking Caleb with him to the Superbowl.

Adjournment at 8:10 PM. Motion by Ballinger, second by Wenstrand-Larson. Ayes: All.

Mayor, Calvin L. Kinney

ATTEST:

City Clerk, Mary A. Ohnmacht