

## **REGULAR SESSION**

May 14, 2025

The Essex City Council met in regular session in 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, Gresham, Wenstrand-Larson. Absent: none. Former City Clerk Ohnmacht, new City Clerk Catherine Moore and City Attorney Sorensen were also present.

The agenda was approved. Motion by Ballinger, second by Eshelman. Ayes: All.

Members of the public present: Zach Schultz, Shane Hemmenway, Kathy Silvestre, Tim Hill, Craig Almquist, Lori Racine, Dennis & Teresa Perry, Mark & Sabrina Marriott, Jessica Niskin, and John Johnson.

Zach Schultz from JEO presented to the council wastewater compliance issues. The deadline for DNR compliance is March 1, 2031. He also presented JEO providing technical assistance with the NPEDS permit.

Approval JEO Agreement for professional services for the alternative report at the estimated cost of \$32,500. Motion by Wenstrand-Larson, second by Franks. Ayes: All.

Kathy Silvestre, the owner of 527 Iowa Avenue, presented the council with parking concerns on Iowa Avenue.

Jon Johnson, attorney for Mark and Sabrina Marriott presented a business plan the Marriott's have developed for 601 and 605 Iowa Avenue. Sabrina Marriott read the plan to the council. The Marriott's informed the council that they have funding in place to move forward with their plans.

Wenstrand moved to dismiss the legal action pending with the Marriott's with the Marriott's providing an update in August of 2025. Second by Eshelman. Ayes: All.

Public hearing: Resolution 2025 – 16 authorizing the appointment of an officer to enforce a city ordinance or regulation and authority to issue a civil citation to a person who commits a municipal infraction. Kathy Silvestre asked several questions how ordinances will be enforced. The public hearing was closed.

Approval of first reading Resolution 2025 – 16. Motion by Ballinger, second by Franks. Ayes: All.

Motion to waive second and third reading of Resolution 2025 -16 by Ballinger, second by Wenstrand-Larson. Ayes: All.

Motion to adopt as Ordinance 2025 -04: authorizing the appointment of an officer to enforce a city ordinance or regulation and authority to issue a civil citation to a person who commits a municipal infraction by Ballinger, second by Franks. Ayes: All.

Approval of third reading of utility rates. Motion by Eshelman, second by Franks. Ayes: All.

Approval of Ordinance 2025 -01: An Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Essex, Iowa, by Amending Provisions Pertaining to Water Service Charges. Motion by Gresham, second by Ballinger. Ayes: All.

Approval of Ordinance 2025 – 02: An Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Essex, Iowa, by Amending Provisions Pertaining to Sewer Service Charges. Motion by Eshelman, second by Franks. Ayes: All.

Approval of Ordinance 2025 – 03: An Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Essex, Iowa, by Amending Provisions Pertaining to Collection Fees for the Collection and Disposal of Solid Waste. Motion by Franks, second by Wenstrand-Larson. Ayes: All.

Approval of hiring Catherine Moore as City Clerk. Motion by Eshelman, second by Wenstrand-Larson. Ayes: All.

Acceptance of monthly Page County Sheriff's report April 1, 2025 – April 30, 2025. Motion by Franks, second by Wenstrand-Larson. Ayes: All.

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

Approval of Water Supply Construction Permit. Motion by Wenstrand-Larson, second by Eshelman. Ayes: All.

Approval of new Essex Youth Sports board members: Cheyenne Johnson and Adisyn Stalzer. Motion by Wenstrand-Larson, second by Gresham. Ayes: All.

Approval Resolution 2025 – 18: Adopting Resolution: Code of Conduct; Procurement Policy; Equal Opportunity Policy; Excessive Force Requirements; Affirmative Fair Housing Policy; Residential Anti-Displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan. Motion by Wenstrand-Larson, second by Franks. Ayes: All.

Approval Resolution 2025 – 19: Wage Resolution. Motion by Ballinger, second by Eshelman. Ayes: All.

Approval Resolution 2025 – 20: Purchase of 812 North Avenue. Motion by Franks, second by Ballinger. Ayes: All.

Approval Resolution 2025 – 21: Approving Catherine Moore as duly authorized to sign & execute financial documents. Motion by Eshelman, second by Gresham. Ayes: All.

Approval of ECC Saturday Night in the Park request. Motion by Wenstrand-Larson, second by Franks. Ayes: All.

Essex childcare request to park a trailer on corner city owned lot of Iowa Avenue was denied. The request for use of Memorial Park on October 4<sup>th</sup> was approved.

No public comments on agenda items.

Approval of consent agenda. Minutes: April 9, 2025, April 21, 2025 April 29, 2025; Treasurer's Report April 30, 2025; Abstract of Claims April 10, 2025 – May 14, 2025. Motion by Ballinger, second by Eshelman. Ayes: All.

Sorensen updated the council on nuisance properties.

Council updates: Eshelman reminded that lines need repainted on Iowa Avenue. Franks asked if the council needs to help mow prior to Memorial Day.

Mayor Kinney updated the council on illegal dumping at the yard waste site and vandalism at Anderson Park. He had a list for mowing letters.

Good News:

- Jeff – God is good
- Betty – God is good
- Cathy – it's almost bedtime.
- Mary – my dogs are enjoying me working at home
- Dennis – God is good
- Nicole – had to buy new clothes for little guy (he's growing!)
- Patti – planted 3 gardens
- Mahlon – he has been busy
- Calvin – lost dog Ella – adopted new dog Cooper.

Adjournment at 9:11 PM. Motion by Eshelman, second by Franks. Ayes: All.

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Mayor, Calvin L. Kinney

ATTEST:

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City Clerk, Mary A. Ohnmacht