

REGULAR SESSION

July 9, 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, Wendstrand-Larson. Absent: none. City Clerk Catherine Moore and City Attorney Sorensen were also present.

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

Members of the public present: Joey Samuelson, Jessica Niskin, Tess Nelson, Steve Locke

Steve Locke of JEO gave an overview of the 2022 new permit limits and explained the city has 9 years to reach the new compliance which they have submitted the alternatives report that was due July 1st, 2025. He also said the city must stay in limits that were set by the previous license and to do that he suggested adding aeration and this process could take 2 ½ years to be fully implemented but they will start on a plan once the agreement is approved.

Approval of JEO agreement. Motion by Franks, second by Wendstrand-Larson. Ayes: All.

Approval of ECC request for permission to make improvements to the derby track. Tess clarified the work to be done would build up the outer area so no cars could go over into the crowd during events. They would plow the infield and add permanent bleachers.

ECC also requested permission to host street dance at the derby track. The council voted to approve both with the specification that ECC provide proof of liability insurance and dramwork. Motion by Eshelman, second by Gresham. Ayes: All.

Jessica Niskin provided an update on the lagoon, TSS went down from last year as did the CBOD. She showed pictures of the sludge being gone from the sides and the water has gone from brown to green as it should be. She also agreed that aeration was a good thing to have at a lagoon.

Public hearing on the purchase of 709 Burlington. Mayor Kinney opened the hearing at 7:50 there were no comments and closed at 7:52. Approval of the purchase motion by Ballinger, second by Franks. Ayes: All.

Approval of hiring Marshall Brown as Public Works director. Motion by Eshelman, second by Gresham. Ayes: All.

Approval of continuing Page County Sheriff services for another year. Motion by Franks, second by Wendstrand-Larson. Ayes: All.

Approval of Casey's Marketing Company cigarette/tobacco/nicotine/vaper application. Motion by Eshelman, second by Ballinger. Ayes: All.

Approval of annual examination contract-Brockelman & Associates. Motion by Wendstrand-Larson, second by Gresham. Ayes: All.

Approval Resolution 2025 – 27: Wage Resolution. Motion by Franks, second by Ballinger. Ayes: All.

Discussion on Parking Ordinance 69.05, Councilman Eshelman suggested a change to something similar to Shenandoah and several other Iowa cities, where there is no overnight or more than 24-hour parking allowed on public parking in a business district unless you have a residence there and signs would need posted. Councilman Gresham suggested adding more parking at the end of Iowa street where it meets Central Street where there used to be parallel parking. It was also brought up to leave it alone since it's been this way for years with no issues in the past. There was also a suggestion for reducing it to 48 hours but requiring 24 hours parked off public parking, but business district would need defined. Eshelman is to present his proposal officially for vote at the August meeting.

Acceptance of monthly Page County Sheriff's report June 1, 2025 – June 30, 2025. Motion by Ballinger, second by Gresham. Ayes: All

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

No public comments on agenda items.

Approval of consent agenda. Minutes: June 11, 2025; Treasurer's Report June 30, 2025; Abstract of Claims June 12, 2025 – July 9, 2025. Motion by Ballinger, second by Eshelman. Ayes: All.

Sorensen updated the council on Tuck's property and that the mayor and himself had a meeting with them and discussed the progress. They will meet again in 6 months for an update and timetable.

Council updates: Add Mariott's to August agenda for 6-month update. The mayor talked to Sheriff McCala about continuing services and both were satisfied with how it has been going. 30 days notices on 2 properties that need shut offs replaced. A citizen called and complained about grass clipping in the street, one of the council members was able to go look and there wasn't much so they cleaned it up themselves and deemed no citation was needed. There was another complaint received about a golf cart without proper safety equipment (flag and slow-moving vehicle sign), upon investigation the mayor was able to show pictures that the cart did have both and was within the city guidelines, so no action was taken.

The City Clerk asked about what the council wanted done with an old folding chair storage cart that had been replaced for safety reasons. The council decided it was best to scrap it. The clerk also updated the council on the total so far for clean up days \$4,742.00 and showed the council what Tess and the ECC had been painting and fixing up at the park.

Good News:

- Jeff – Daughter expecting his 4th grandchild!
- Betty – Daughter and family went on vacation, so she got to dog sit her grand dog Bentley and now he expects her to take him on rides every time she sees him!
- Cathy – Spent the weekend with her daughter enjoying the pool and fireworks!

- Dennis – Spent weekend with his sister-in-law and helped her paint!
- Nicole – James is walking!
- Patti – No voice, because she spent the weekend with family here and karaoke was involved!
- Mahlon – Parents had a 1971 Maverick and his daughter and son in law picked it up this weekend to fix up and drive!
- Calvin – Took some calls about fireworks but most were very respectful and appreciated that citizens seemed to follow the ordinance!

Adjournment at 9:20 PM. Motion by Eshelman, second by Wenstrand-Larson. Ayes: All.

Mayor, Calvin L. Kinney

ATTEST:

City Clerk, Catherine Moore