

REGULAR SESSION

August 13, 2025

The Essex City Council met in regular session in the Essex Community Room at 6:30 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 until 6:47pm. Absent: none. City Clerk Catherine Moore and City Attorney Sorensen @7:00pm were also present.

The agenda was approved. Motion by Franks, second by Gresham. Ayes: All.

Motion to enter closed session pursuant to Iowa Code Section 21.5(i) to prevent injury to reputation and upon the request of the individual that may be affected by and for closed session 6:30pm Motion by Eshelman, second by Ballinger. Ayes: All.

Returned to open session 6:59PM

Members of the public present: Don Olson, Mark & Sabrina Marriott, Kathy Silvestre, Michele Welchans.

Public Comments: None

Marriott downtown building update: Tuck pointing done back corner, they are building windows and have water on, and restaurant rented. Jess is working on office space in center of building and stated they are on schedule and have a plan for phase 2 with 3 upstairs Airbnb's. Update again at the January meeting.

Approval Short term occupancy request for ECC Derby track Labor Day weekend. Motion by Eshelman, second by Franks. Ayes: All.

Approval of ECC liquor license Labor Day weekend pending dramshop approval. Motion by Ballinger, second by Wenstrand-Larson. Ayes: All.

Approval of ECC request for electric plugs at Anderson Park. Motion by Wenstrand-Larson, second by Eshelman. Ayes: All.

Approval of Essex Library Foundation request for "End of Summer Reading Party". Motion by Ballinger, second by Franks. Ayes:

Discussion/approval of a handicap parking spot at the Opera House, agreed to one at end of ramp and sign on building. Motion by Wenstrand-Larson, second by Ballinger. Ayes: All

Discussion/approval placement location of Falk's sign, Heritage Park and triangle by Casey's were suggested, council decided on the triangle by Casey's. Motion by Franks, second by Eshelman. Ayes: All.

Approval of ECC request for trunk or treat. Motion by Wenstrand-Larson, second by Franks. Ayes: All.

Approval 2025 Outstanding Obligations Report. Motion by Gresham, second by Wenstrand-Larson. Ayes: All.

Purchase proposal/resolution 529 Iowa Ave. All agreed with the stipulation of 24 months to develop if not the city gets it back and the money paid is forfeited to the city. Public hearing at next meeting. Motion by Wenstrand-Larson, second by Eshelman. Ayes: All.

Purchase proposal/resolution 812 North Ave.-No action will be posted once they are cleaned and ready to be sold

Purchase proposal/resolution 709 Burlington Ave- No action will be posted once they are cleaned and ready to be sold

Approval of bids for fire hydrant repair/replacement and ditch cleaning. Bids 1 & 2 for fire hydrants were approved. Motion by Franks, second by Ballinger. Ayes: All. Bid 3 for ditch cleaning was a no have to budget for next year and get new bid at that time.

Approval of resignation of library trustee Ellie Stoaks. Motion by Eshelman, second by Greham. Ayes: All.

Approval of new library trustee Amy Samuelson. Motion by Franks, second by Ballinger. Ayes: All.

Complaints, council agreed last month flag style and height are not important, they just need to have one and a slow-moving vehicle sign but if not visible with seat up they are not concerned. All enforcement is up to council, and they agree to send a response to the complaints stating such.

Discussion/resolution golf cart ordinance 82.04 8. A (slow moving vehicle sign). Council agreed to keep the slow-moving sign but change ordinance from bicycle safety flag to any flag and height.

Discussion/resolution parking ordinance 69.05. Council discussed how to enforce and reviewed the two proposals for no overnight parking. Some council members feel this is civil and don't want to change it and even would like to remove the ordinance all together. Councilman Eshelman made a motion for his no overnight parking proposal and there was no second. It will be added to next month to drop the ordinance all together.

Acceptance of monthly Page County Sheriff's report July 1, 2025 – July 31, 2025. Motion by Wenstrand-Larson, second by Ballinger. Ayes: All

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

2024 Water System Improvements Project: Resolution ordering construction of 2024 Water System Improvements, and Fixing a date for Hearing thereon and Taking of Bids therefor. Motion by Ballinger, second by Franks. Ayes: All.

No public comments on agenda items.

Approval of consent agenda. Minutes: July 9, 2025, July 21, 2025; Treasurer's Report July 31, 2025; Abstract of Claims July 10, 2025 – August 12, 2025. Motion by Wenstrand-Larson, second by Ballinger. Ayes: All.

Sorensen updated the council on property on Forbes, and he has a hearing Friday to see about the estate and filing a claim against it for past due water bill and shut off repair. He would also like to fine \$350 and move forward. He also started action on 303 Brooks with holes in roof of house and garage.

Council updates: Nicole stated Sunday night her husband took items to pile and witnessed some suspicious behavior from vehicles there, all information will be forwarded to the sheriff for review. Dennis took care of Airport Road, and it needs rock; he will get a quote to review at next meeting. Calvin stated a citizen filed a complaint and wants to view camera footage, but safety does not allow viewing at city hall as we have no place for it and needs council approval as it concerns a city employee. He has talked to Sheriff's office about viewing videos there or at Mahlon's office for privacy and safety concerns. He would like to see council adopt a procedure of this manor for any video viewing requests to protect everyone's safety and privacy. The council agreed this is the best method for handling. Civil defense siren, we cannot locate who installed but are researching places to repair or replace. Lost flag poles in the wind so we will go back to only putting up for Holidays and taking down in between. Need guidance on repainting lines on Mainstreet to make sure they are the right size and angle, also need to be white and old lines painted black. Estimate for Shenandoah Street sweeper is \$200hr, council agreed its too much so the brush on the skid steer should be used instead.

Entered closed session again at 8:35pm, per Mahlon's request as he missed the beginning of the meeting so he could be updated. Motion by Franks, second by Wenstrand-Larson. Ayes: All.

Returned to open session at 8:40pm, Motion by Wenstrand-Larson, second by Ballinger. Ayes: All.

Mayor Kinney with council's support is requesting Mahlon respond as said in closed session.

The City Clerk updated the council on how timesheets have been corrected to show the correct pay period/week, and the guys are now taking off early on the same pay period as their water weekend to cut OT. Also reviewed the OT policy in the handbook and we should not pay overtime unless the hours worked are greater than 40, this does not include holiday pay or PTO.

Good News:

- Jeff – Busy with range and is excited they soft opened today!
- Betty – Hank the rabbit gets a haircut tomorrow!
- Cathy – Leaving for vacation tomorrow!
- Dennis – Won once at bingo Saturday!
- Nicole – James got his first haircut!
- Patti – Had a great trip and can't wait to go again!
- Mahlon – Went to Casper, Wy for a going away party for his brother that passed.
- Calvin – Is revamping Select motors

Adjournment at 9:10PM. Motion by Wenstrand-Larson, second by Eshelman. Ayes: All.

Mayor, Calvin L. Kinney

ATTEST:

City Clerk, Catherine Moore