

## **REGULAR SESSION**

October 8, 2025

The Essex City Council met in regular session in the Essex Community Room at 6:00 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. City Clerk Catherine Moore and City Attorney Sorensen were also present.

The agenda was approved. Motion by Franks, second by Wenstrand-Larson. 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 6:00pm Motion by Eshelman, second by Gresham. Ayes: All. Returned to open session at 6:51pm, Motion by Ballinger, second by Wenstrand-Larson. Ayes: All

Members of the public present: Kathy Silvestre, Tim Hill, Tim Moyer

Public Comments: None

Tim Moyer-Planning and Zoning, he asked about the ramp at the opera house. He is concerned that it is not ADA compliant. The mayor stated that when it was constructed, they were advised by the contractor and building inspector that it was not ADA but was fine for just wheelchair accessible and that it was fine as long as it was not advertised as such. To make it compliant the ramp would have had to go around the building or taken up all parking and the cost would have been significant, which is why the board at the time decided to go with the way it is. Tim was also concerned that he feels planning and zoning is not being utilized properly and would like the council to look at Chapter 22, the council agreed and asked him to return at next month's meeting to discuss further.

Approval of paying back property taxes on property 812 North Ave. Motion by Franks, second by Wenstrand-Larson. Ayes: All

Approval of ECC request to move Trunk or Treat location. Motion by Wenstrand-Larson, second by Franks. Ayes: All

Approval of ECC request to purchase bleachers and do dirt work to install with insurance money. Motion by Eshelman, second by Gresham. Ayes: All

Discussion/approval North Ave gate installation, a quote was received for the price of gates at \$139.99 each and we need 4 and having Twin Oaks drill up to 8 holes for \$350. The gate would be locked when there was inclement weather such as rain or snow to protect it from being torn up. There would be signs posted for road closed and no trespassing and charges would be pressed if anyone goes around the gates when closed. Motion by Wenstrand-Larson, second by Eshelman. Ayes: All

Resolution 2025-28 parking ordinance 69.05. It was discussed to utilize a new parking ordinance that would remove 72 hour limit and implement NO overnight parking in the business district. The business district would be classified as the 600 blk of Iowa Ave to Hwy 48, there would be no

parking from 2am-5:30am. Tickets would be issued, and the vehicle would be towed at the owner's expense. The only exception would be for residential homes/apartments located in the business district and they would get a permit from City Hall with proof of residence. Signs would be posted to say such. Motion by Eshelman, second by Gresham. Ayes: All

Exam- Exit interview, the exam went well and there were a few small issues which have been corrected with signing off by Mayor and council on certain items. It was also recommended that the remaining TIF be returned to the county and the LMI be determined how the council would like to utilize and what the suggestions from the bond attorney were. One suggestion was to use it to clean up a nuisance property and then donate the lot for a \$1 to someone like Habitat for Humanity to build an LMI Housing opportunity. Motion to accept the exam results. Motion by Eshelman, second by Franks. Ayes: All

Approval of advertising for sale open lots in town for sale, the council liked the signs and agreed that a public notice would be created and posted with all open lots once cleaned up and signs posted. They wanted pricing on 5 signs and there would be a clause that they would require new builds within a certain time frame.

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

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

Public comments on agenda items, Kathy said self-reflection is important. Tim Moyer said the reason he couldn't come earlier or be a part of the board for the Opera House was due to his wife's health. Tim Hill requested that when they go to dig the holes for the gate on North Ave to use one call and a reminder to always use one call when doing any digging.

Approval of consent agenda. Minutes: September 10, 2025; Treasurer's Report September 30, 2025; Abstract of Claims September 11, 2025 – October 8, 2025. Motion by Eshelman, second by Wenstrand-Larson. Ayes: All.

City attorney updates, 300 Forbes has opened an estate and is working on getting the property cleaned up and sold. 303 Brooks had an inspection and is in very bad shape, he will send the report over for review.

Mayor Kinney took a complaint about the driving habits of fire fighter members and stated the member did have the proper certificate to allow the lights and to exceed the speed limit safely when responding to a call. This certificate is state issued and approved and has nothing to do with the city nor can the city revoke this. The members' insurance and themselves are responsible for any issues or accidents that occur since this is in no way approved or encouraged by the city.

Returned to closed session at 8:36pm. Motion by Franks, second by Wenstrand-Larson. Ayes: All. Returned to open session at 9:03pm. Motion by Franks, second by Wenstrand-Larson. Ayes: All: All

Good News:

- Jeff – Action at the range has been good
- Betty – Beautiful day
- Cathy – Getting a new desk
- Dennis – Spent the day at the range and it was a beautiful day
- Nicole – Beans are good, and is thankful for crop insurance
- Patti – Enjoyed the super moon
- Calvin – His son took his 4-year-old grandson to Estes Park to hike and he insisted on having his own backpack and carried it himself for the entire 3 ½ mile hike and never asked for help
- Mahlon – Had a woman move in and realized it was his wife finally home!

Adjournment at 9:09pm. Motion by Franks, second by Wenstrand-Larson. Ayes: All.

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Mayor, Calvin L. Kinney

ATTEST:

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City Clerk, Catherine Moore