

SPECIAL SESSION

October 22, 2025

The Essex City Council met in special session at Essex City Hall Council Chambers at 6:00 PM. Mayor Calvin Kinney called the meeting to order and roll call was taken showing the following members of the Council present or absent. Present: Eshelman, Gresham, Franks, Absent: Ballinger, Wenstrand-Larson. City Attorney Sorenson and City Clerk Moore were also present.

Members of the public present: Brenda Haynie, Maxine Vance, Gary Bowman, Doris Gray.

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

Mayor Kinney explained that there was a water leak in front of Mr. Bowman's house on the other side of the water shut off and since he has galvanized pipes they cannot be repaired but must be replaced and per our city ordinance that is the homeowner's responsibility. He replaced the shut-off in August, but this is a new issue. Mayor Kinney met with Mr. Bowman on Monday and explained to him that he must have a working water service to live on the property and Gary told him he could not afford it. Mayor Kinney then explained that the city will contract out to have it replaced since we cannot have an active leak but Mr. Bowman will receive a bill for the work, once he receives the bill he will then have 30 days to pay it and if he is unable to pay by the end of 30 days a lien will then be placed on the property, he can stay at the property as long as he wants and there are proper services but if/when the property is sold, or goes to an estate the lien will need to be paid before the deed will be released or if he pays it off before such time. Mr. Bowman told the council he wanted out of the house and would like the city to buy it, to which Mayor Kinney told him the city is not in the real estate business but he is welcome to bring a proposal to a regular council meeting for the council to review but he was greatly encouraged if he wanted out of the house to try selling it himself. But it was again said to Mr. Bowman that the city will not force him out of his property, but the pipe must be replaced to make sure there are no leaks and that he has proper water services and he is responsible for the cost.

Adjournment at 6:17 PM. Motion by Franks, second by Eshelman. Ayes: All.

Mayor, Calvin L. Kinney

ATTEST:

City Clerk, Catherine Moore