

REGULAR SESSION

December 10, 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: Eshelman, Franks, Gresham, Wenstrand-Larson. Absent: Ballinger. City Clerk Catherine Moore and City Attorney Sorensen were also present.

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

Members of the public present: None

Public Comments: None

Approval of purchase of siren controller with grant. The city received a grant for 11,335.22 to purchase a siren controller from BVPS which covers the entire quote. Motion by Eshelman, second by Gresham. Ayes: All

Resolution 2025 - 33 Library transfer of funds. Motion by Wenstrand-Larson, second by Franks. Ayes: All

Discussion/resolution on minutes leading up to golf cart ordinance changes. Attorney Sorensen stated he had received a call from the attorney general regarding the city's August meeting minutes. They had received a complaint about the wording of removing the safety flag requirements and that it was up to council to enforce. The state guidelines say it must be a bicycle safety flag so at the next meeting we will have a resolution to update golf cart ordinance 82.04 to state a bicycle safety flag must be on all golf carts to correct this.

Discussion/approval of rate lock with Gworks software. It was explained that there was a 2-year option with a 7% cap on price increase or a 3 year with a 5% cap. The council agreed that the 3-year plan was more cost effective and this was Motion by Wenstrand-Larson, second by Franks. Ayes: All

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

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

EYS Approval of resignation for Cheyanne Johnson, Motion by Eshelman, second by Gresham. Ayes: All.

EYS Approval of Zach Bowers as Vice President. Motion by Wenstrand-Larson, second by Gresham. Ayes: All.

Public comments on agenda items, None

Approval of consent agenda. Minutes: November 12, 2025, November 14, 2025, November 21, 2025; Treasurer's Report November 30, 2025; Abstract of Claims November 13, 2025 – December 10, 2025. Motion by Eshelman, second by Wenstrand-Larson. Ayes: All.

City attorney updates, 710 Iowa on building Mr. Johnson told him he couldn't get anyone to come build and he will come to the January meeting to give an update. Roger Davis bought Butch Moore's old property, and he hadn't been able to get a hold of him but had health issues. 303 Brooks had hearing Monday, and the judge gave them 60 days to clean up main issues and there will be another inspection at the end of the 60 days to verify it has been done.

Council and mayor updates, it was asked about the Marriott building update and they are due to be on the January agenda for their 6-month update. Dennis would like an update of tools, miles, hours, and equipment for budget from the fire dept. and the city shop. He also said a chainsaw had broken and the quote to repair was \$326 but a new one would be \$303 and a smaller one for smaller projects is \$215, he suggests one of each. The council agreed to look at the budget and see if there are funds to purchase both new with a warranty. Mayor Kinney stated there is a press release tomorrow or Friday stating the School, ECC, daycare, and City are working together to build a new community center with a daycare, exercise center, etc. This will be built on school property, and they are only asking for the city's support. This will take the place of the east gym rehab project, and the school will decide what to do with that property. He also said there is a city employee that would like to cash out 20 hours of PTO and the handbook doesn't specify. It was discussed that while it doesn't specifically say that it is common knowledge that employers don't allow cashing out of PTO unless they have a policy allowing that and it's done at the end of the year or whenever they are about to lose it. This employee's PTO doesn't restart until summer so that is not the case. The city has always had a use it or lose it policy and the only time PTO is paid out is when you resign with 30 days' notice and good terms or retirement. None of these apply and council agreed they will not allow employees to cash out PTO. JEO had a meeting with the mayor and city clerk Tuesday regarding our NPDES permit for wastewater, they recommend starting a facility plan to send to the DMR to correct any violations and set up a plan for the future to make sure the city is in compliance. They will provide a letter to the DNR and a contract for this plan, to which they will work with Tess on grants to cover the \$30,000 charge for the facility plan. Budget paperwork has been sent to the departments and is due back soon. At the January meeting council will tour the fire department and city shop and will tour the library in February. He then thanked Nicole for her service on the council and in the community and wished her well in her future endeavors.

City clerk updates, received a building permit for a shed that was put up without one, but it does not meet the zoning guidelines so was denied and a letter will be sent with the requirements. There were 2 liens applied to properties for nonpayment and water line replacement. MAP also has advised they are certified for the new training required for newly elected officials and board members. We will coordinate to set up this training, and this includes new Fire department, EYS, library and council members. The city also received a \$200,000 grant from Iowa West for the water project.

Good News:

- Jeff – Amazing vacation in Florida and then went on a cruise which was amazing!
- Cathy – Going to be in the 40's next week. At least we are hoping.
- Dennis – Going to Texas in April to see grandkids and meet one he hasn't.
- Nicole – Got James healthy after 2 sicknesses, and leaving next week to go to St. Thomas!
- Patti – Absent
- Calvin – Cooper was groomed today and was not happy, so he was happy since he steals his stuff!
- Mahlon – Everyone is healthy
- Adjournment at 8:10pm. Motion by Eshelman, second by Wenstrand-Larson. Ayes: All.

Mayor, Calvin L. Kinney

ATTEST:

City Clerk, Catherine Moore