

REGULAR SESSION

February 11, 2026

The Essex City Council met in regular session at the Essex Community Room at 6:02 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, Naico. Absent: None. City Clerk Moore was also present.

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

Guests present: via phone Clint Fichter until 6:25pm. Rural Trustees @ 6:30pm: Clint Hascall, Chad McClintock, Steve Falk, Reggie Carlson, Randy Wenstrand, E. King, Lisa Holmes, Lyle Palmer, Joe Jardon, and Krista Huntsman, Matt Franks.

The Council met with potential attorney candidate and discussed the expectations and let them explain what they can bring to the city if chosen.

A review of the 2025 fire revenues, expenses and proposed 2026 – 2027 budget, 2025 township expenses and 2025 bank transactions were presented. The trustees then left with Chief Matt Franks to tour the fire department and left the meeting.

There were no members of the public present and no public comments.

Jake Johnson presented a request via e-mail as he was unable to attend to put a hose on city property for sap collection, same as last year's request. The Council approved this request.

Acceptance of monthly Page County Sheriff's report January 1, 2026 – January 31, 2026. Motion by Franks, second by Eshelman. Ayes: All

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

Acceptance of Don Olson resignation, Street superintendent. Motion by Naico, second by Eshelman. Ayes: All.

Acceptance of Christina Vega resignation, library. Motion by Ballinger, second by Franks. Ayes: All.

Acceptance of Preston Driskel resignation, EYS equipment manager. Motion by Franks, second by Ballinger. Ayes: All.

Acceptance of hiring part time temp help of Craig Almquist. Motion by Ballinger, second by Franks. Ayes: All.

Date was set for Property Tax Public Hearing. It will be March 25, 2026, at 6:00 PM. Motion by Ballinger, second by Franks. Ayes: All.

Discussion/approval of modifying or removing outside payment box, Clerk Moore explained to the council that the outside payment box can have payments blow out of it when the wind is bad

and when you go to take payments out and that it is not secure or safe and suggested it be removed and citizens then could use the inside box that is also accessible 24/7 and is only a few steps inside the door. Most of the council didn't have an opinion or care either way but one was concerned the public would be upset. Mayor Kinney then suggested the council take the month till the next regular meeting to talk to people and get feedback and reassess next month to decide if it should be removed or replaced.

Approval of one year lawn care bid with Turf Tek. Motion by Franks, second by Gresham. Ayes: All.

Approval of bid for mowing the cemetery. Accepted bid from Go Green Lawn Services LLC for \$490/mow. Motion by Gresham, second by Franks. Ayes: All.

Approval Resolution 2026 – 07: Amending Chapter 92 Water Service Charges. Motion by Naico, second by Franks. Ayes: All.

Approval Resolution 2026 – 08: Amending Chapter 99 Sewer Service Charges. Motion by Eshelman, second by Naico. Ayes: All.

Approval Resolution 2026 – 09: Amending Chapter 106 Collection fees for Collection and Disposal of Solid Waste. Motion by Franks, second by Ballinger. Ayes: All.

Approval Resolution 2026 – 10: Wage resolution for new temp hire. Motion by Franks, second by Eshelman. Ayes: All.

Public hearing: Resolution 2026 – 06: Golf cart ordinance 82.04 adding in bicycle safety flag to match Iowa code. Opened 7:08pm Closed 7:09pm There were no written or oral comments or objections. Hearing was closed.

Approval of First reading. Motion by Franks, second by Ballinger. Ayes: All.

Approval to waive second and third reading. Motion by Franks, second by Ballinger. Ayes: All.

Approval to adopt ordinance change. Motion by Franks, second by Gresham. Ayes: All.

Public Hearing for rate changes will be March 11, 2026, at 7:00 PM.

Approval to go ahead and contact the state for the cities 2024/2025 audit that is needed since there were no responses from accounting firms. Motion by Franks, second by Ballinger. Ayes: All.

Approval of bid for signs/no parking and road closed for new ordinance and road outside of town. Motion by Franks, second by Eshelman. Ayes: All.

City wide garage sales are scheduled for May 29-30 and city wide clean up will be June 5-6 8am-4pm both days.

Approval of quote to purchase flags for main street and parks. Motion by Franks, second by Naico. Ayes: All. The council also narrowed down the flag poles to one option and asked the clerk to get an official quote for next month's meeting.

There were no public comments on agenda items.

Approval of consent agenda: Minutes: January 14, 2026, January 21, 2026, January 28, 2026, February 4, 2026; Treasurer's Report January 31, 2026; Abstract of Claims: January 15, 2026 – February 11, 2026. Motion by Eshelman, second by Naico. Ayes: All.

City Clerk Moore advised the council that one of the delinquent accounts is a property the city should be taking possession of on March 1st and therefore may need to be written off. Also told the council that the budget is complete and uploaded.

Mayor went over complaints received and advised the council on a letter that will be sent out. The council then discussed the attorney candidates that had been interviewed and advised the clerk to have the resolution ready for the next meeting to appoint said attorney. The mayor will let all the applicants know.

Good News:

- Jeff – Had his 4th grandchild!
- Dennis – Cashed in a CD.
- Kevin – Neice had her first baby, and his daughter bought her first home.
- Patti – enjoying the weather
- Betty – Saw her great grandbaby and she has taught her to growl.
- Cathy – Loving the warm weather
- Calvin – Cooper is going to be 1 and life's good.

Adjournment at 8:03 PM. Motion by Eshelman, second by Franks. Ayes: All.

Mayor, Calvin L. Kinney

ATTEST:

City Clerk, Catherine Moore