

## **REGULAR SESSION**

April 8, 2026

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, Naico. Absent: Ballinger. City Clerk Moore was also present.

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

Members of the public present, Sabrina Marriott, Kathy Silvestre, Mary Ohnmacht.

7:00 PM 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 by Franks, second by Eshelman. Ayes: All.

7:14 PM returned to open session. Interviews will be scheduled for Monday April 13, 2026.

Public hearing: proposed budget fiscal year ending June 30, 2027. There were no written or oral comments or objections. Hearing was closed.

Approval Resolution 2026 – 13: Adopting budget for fiscal year 2026 – 2027. Motion by Eshelman, second by Gresham. Ayes: All.

Second reading of utility rates. Motion to approve by Franks, second by Naico. Ayes: All.

Kathy Silvestre requested parking for overnight parking on main street 4/17/26 for an after-prom event, if approved by the Shenandoah school. Motion by Naico, second by Eshelman. Ayes: All

Marriott building update, Sabrina updated that things are moving along, got water leak fixed and will work on concrete once its settled. Once temperatures stabilize, they will turn water back on and plan to replace furnace before next winter. Working on upstairs Airbnb, Jessica working on middle office. Concrete guy will be starting again soon for the outside repairs to the building exterior. No dates for anything yet. Mayor stated he is worried about safety of pieces falling off the outside. Council would like a copy of the 3-year plan turned in last May to review the timeline and would like them to be back at next month's meeting for another update. Council is concerned that no progress is being made and there are no hard dates.

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

Acceptance of delinquent utilities report. Motion by Eshelman, second by Naico. Ayes: All.

Approval of change order 1. Motion by Franks, second by Gresham. Ayes: All.

Approval of Pay application No. 1. Motion by Naico, second by Eshelman. Ayes: All.

Approval of EYS equipment manager Bailey Isenhower. Motion by Franks, second by Gresham. Ayes: All.

Approval of library hiring Kayla Burns. Motion by Naico, second by Franks. Ayes: All.

Community Clean up day will be April 29, 2026. The students will be going around the community picking up garbage and doing spring cleaning. Casey's will be asked for a grant for donuts, and the city will provide water for the cleanup teams. Council would like weeds pulled in parks.

Resolution 2026 – 12: Transfer of Funds Perpetual to General. Motion by Franks, second by Eshelman. Ayes: All.

Approval of ECC request for a street dance Sept 4, 5, 2026. Motion by Eshelman, second by Gresham. Ayes: All.

Approval of ECC request for opening time capsule June 15<sup>th</sup> & display during LD. Motion by Franks, second by Gresham. Ayes: All.

Approval of NHS/junior class request to donate and install a full-length mirror in OH, council would like the option that is mounted to the door or wall so its safer and cannot be moved. Motion by Franks, second by Eshelman. Ayes: All.

Public comments on agenda items, Kathy is concerned that some people will speak up about issues and some don't and it's usually the same people. She thinks the building on Iowa is falling apart and no one is working on it no matter what they claim. Also mentioned multiple offers have been made to them to purchase properties they own in town that are vacant and they always refuse. She thinks action needs to be taken on this.

Approval of the consent agenda. Minutes: March 11, 2026, March 25, 2026, March 25, 2026; Treasurer's Report March 31, 2026; Abstract of Claims March 12, 2026 – April 8, 2026. Motion by Eshelman, second by Naico. Ayes: All.

City Clerk Moore updated the council on the budget amendment that will have a public hearing at the next regular meeting and a letter Tess wrote about vandalism at the park.

Council updates: Councilman Naico would like dates and a better timeline for the Iowa Ave property and for it to be enforced. Mayor Kinney would like the structural soundness of that building and others in town inspected with the owner's permission to better determine how sound they are. Still issues at the lift station dn pump 2 needs repaired and there is someone coming to look at it again. Getting quotes for the tear down of 303 Brooks. Library foundation should be purchasing food and drinks as it is not an allowed expense to be paid for with taxpayer money.

Good News:

- Dennis – Went to Walmart.
- Cathy – Found a baby fox but was able to locate its mother and reunite them.

- Betty – Had whole family over for Easter dinner.
- Jeff – Oil prices have started to come down.
- Calvin – Recognized Kathy for her business opening and granddaughter just celebrated her fourth birthday.
- Kevin – It rained finally.

Adjournment at 8:18 PM. Motion by Eshelman, second by Naico. Ayes: All.

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Mayor, Calvin L. Kinney

ATTEST:

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City Clerk, Catherine Moore