

## **REGULAR SESSION**

May 13, 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: Ballinger, Eshelman, Franks, Gresham, Naico. Absent: none. City Clerk Catherine Moore was also present.

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

Members of the public present: Zach Schultz, Keegan Bell, Kathy Silvestre, Dennis & Teresa Perry, Mark Marriott, Tom Ross, Sarah Franks, Marshall & Jacey Brown.

Public comments: Tom Ross asked about chip & seal on roads in town and about the old water tower and the plans for it. Also asked about a property on South Ave and what was happening with it and parking in yards and the ordinances.

Public hearing: Budget amendment FY2026. There were no written or oral comments or objections. Hearing was closed.

Approval of resolution 2026-15 Budget amendment. Motion by Ballinger. Second by Gresham. Ayes: All.

Approval of third reading of utility rates. Motion by Franks, second by Naico. Ayes: All.

Approval of adoption of Ordinance 2026 -02: An Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Essex, Iowa, by Amending Provisions Pertaining to Water Service Charges. Motion by Ballinger, second by Eshelman. Ayes: All.

Approval of adoption of Ordinance 2026 – 03: An Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Essex, Iowa, by Amending Provisions Pertaining to Sewer Service Charges. Motion by Franks, second by Eshelman. Ayes: All.

Approval of adoption of Ordinance 2026 – 04: An Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Essex, Iowa, by Amending Provisions Pertaining to Collection Fees for the Collection and Disposal of Solid Waste. Motion by Gresham, second by Ballinger. Ayes: All.

Discussion/approval of Multi State Investments building permit and waiver of fee request, Kathy Silvestre stated they are requesting the building permit fee of \$300 for new commercial be waived for their request. Motion by Eshelman. Second by Ballinger. Ayes: All.

ECC/Bill Horner request to host National ice cream day July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Motion by Franks. Second by Eshelman. Ayes All.

Discussion/possible action Marriott building update, Calvin asked Mark if John Johnson was still their attorney and he said yes. Mark then talked about the tuck point guy has not been back yet and no timeline on when. Stated there was progress made inside it just wasn't visible and that they

were advised by their tuck point guy to let the stucco fall on its own. He was asked if this was in writing to which he said no. Council was concerned that the business plan submitted a year ago has not been followed and is not at all on schedule. Calvin advised that this will all be turned over to the city attorney and we will follow and update at next month's meeting with the recommendations.

Approval of Hiring Street Superintendent James Haswell. Motion by Eshelman. Second by Ballinger. Ayes: All

Acceptance of monthly Page County Sheriff's report April 1, 2026 – April 30, 2026. Motion by Eshelman, second by Franks. Ayes: All.

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

Zach Schulz of JEO explained the change order was for more new valves and shut off to help minimize the shutdown area and that this will help with future projects and issues. Approval of Change order 2. Motion by Ballinger, second by Franks. Ayes: All.

Approval of pay application 2 McCarthy trenching \$392,069.65. Motion by Naico. Second by Eshelman. Ayes: All

Approval of new library trustee Judy Graham. Motion by Franks. Second by Gresham. Ayes: All.

Approval of new Essex Youth Sports board members: Logan Miller as concession stand chair. Motion by Ballinger, second by Eshelman. Ayes: All.

Approval Resolution 2026 – 14: Wage Resolution. Motion by Franks, second by Ballinger. Ayes: All.

Approval Casey's Marketing Company Class E Retail Alcohol License (LE) LE0003263, renewal. Motion by Eshelman, second by Ballinger. Ayes: All

Approval of Casey's Marketing Company Cigarette/Tobacco/Nicotine/Vaper Application, Motion by Ballinger, second by Franks. Ayes: All

Discussion on quotes for range in community room. Ballinger motioned to approve purchasing the cheapest option from Doval for \$692.99, seconded by Franks. Ayes: All.

Discussion of bid for 303 Brooks demo, explained we were approved for a grant to cover half the cost up to 15k, bids were reviewed and Franks motioned to approve Minors bid for 14k, seconded by Gresham. Ayes: All

Discussion of bid of tree trimming and possible removal at multiple locations, the bid received was reviewed and council agreed to move forward on the 3 properties of 701, 707 Illinois and 1111 Nebraska but would like to see more bids, Ballinger motioned to approve the lowest bidder not to exceed the current bid of \$3,600, seconded by Gresham. Ayes: All.

Discussion/approval of bid for dumpster roll offs for cleanup days, both bids were reviewed and Eshelman motioned to approve the lower bid of \$290 a dumpster from Shenandoah Sanitation, seconded by Franks. Ayes: All.

Discussion/Approval of bids for concrete work in multiple locations, bids were reviewed and Ballinger motioned to approve the lower bid from SW Elite for all sections, seconded by Naico. Ayes: All

Discussion on library financial support for FY 27-28, Calvin met with library board at their last meeting, and they told him with the rate it's going they will have exhausted their savings and cd's by FY 27-28. Calvin wanted to know if the council would like keep the library open when it comes down to the city fully funding them. Council expressed concerns about cost and that they are not the only service paid for out of the general fund but that, yes, if it made financial sense, they would like to see the library continue. Calvin will continue to attend their meetings, and council will discuss them in detail when budget time comes.

Public comments on agenda items, Silvestre thanked the council for their waiver of the building permit fee. She also stated she thinks the library abuses their budget and is overstaffed. Thought the Marriott building discussion was good but should be a council decision and that it looks worse than a year ago and was concerned they are not cleaning up messes. Everyone was advised if you have a complaint the process is to fill out an official complaint form, which you can get at city hall and turn it in signed and they will be addressed.

Approval of consent agenda. Minutes: April 8, 2026, April 13, 2026; Treasurer's Report April 30, 2026; Abstract of Claims April 09, 2026 – May 13, 2026. Motion by Gresham, second by Eshelman. Ayes: All.

Clerk updates, updated on IPERS audit which went very well and there were no issues found. Also, our FY 24-25 Audit/exam is happening in the next week or so.

Mayor Kinney updated the council on that he toured the city with tree service for bids, addressed a barking dog complaint. Is working with property owner on nuisance vehicles and getting them removed. If we bid any street work, we need to make sure raising the valves is included. Marshall is working on shut off and valve location and has been doing a great job. Wanted to recognize Craig Almquist for all his volunteer work and that he has been invaluable during the last few months and it's greatly appreciated. Park bathroom was not winterized properly and the shut off has been replaced but the toilet needs to be and should be completed by June 1. DNR wastewater plan is due by 2029 and must be completed by 2031, he wanted everyone to be aware. There have been lift station issues that have caused Marshall to be called in at all hours and multiple times. It is being worked on, and a pump company is coming out Friday to access. Had a meeting with new employees to discuss coaching and expectations and what would happen if they were not met. There was a dog bite incident, and the sheriff is handling it, but city will be issuing a civil ticket for dogs at large. Spoke with city attorney who was unable to attend due to prior commitment, they discussed multiple issues and she was sent all information and will be working on to address at next meeting. There was a grass complaint to which a letter was sent, and the yard has been mowed. Got a bid for chip and seal but they didn't get it turned in in time for the meeting. Went over Shenandoah and Red Oaks new process for ordinance complaints where they use a door knocker

before a letter to move things along quicker, he suggested we try something similar but send the letter still. We will mockup some ideas to present at the next regular meeting.

Good News:

- Jeff – Blessed
- Betty – Oldest graduated college and last grandchild also graduated
- Cathy – Found dog that got loose and ran off
- Dennis – Grandkids brought him 4 bags of mushrooms
- Kevin – Oldest granddaughter graduating this weekend
- Patti – Appreciates McCarthy trenching for the work they are doing and their diligence on putting things back the way they were and filling rock back in as it is moved
- Calvin – Granddaughter cruised up main street in her new jeep and didn't get pulled over.

Adjournment at 9:11 PM. Motion by Eshelman, second by Franks. Ayes: All.

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Mayor, Calvin L. Kinney

ATTEST:

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City Clerk, Catherine Moore