

REGULAR SESSION

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

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

Members of the public present: Keegan Bell, Paul Kirchman, Mary Ohnmacht, Sarah Franks, Dawn Hadden, Brian Hadden.

Public comments: None

Franks building permit waiver, the letter was reviewed. Motion to approve by Ballinger, second by Naico. Ayes: Eshelman, Gresham, Ballinger, and Naico. Franks abstained from the vote due to a conflict of interest due to family.

Hadden requested the city approve their request to submit a building permit to add a garage next to their current one. Motion was made to approve with the contingency that the building inspector will still have to verify the setbacks but ok'd the request. Motion by Franks, second by Eshelman. Ayes: All.

901 South Ave sewer adjustment request was reviewed and reminded that this is a one-time adjustment and can only happen once every ten years. Motion to approve by Ballinger, second by Franks. Ayes: All

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

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

Approval of Change order 4. Motion by Ballinger, second by Eshelman. Ayes: All.

Approval of pay application 4 McCarthy trenching \$92,873.95. Motion by Franks, second by Naico. Ayes: All

Approval of JEO' wastewater facility plan agreement. Motion by Ballinger, second by Naico. Ayes: All

Acceptance of Heather Thornton library board resignation. Motion by Ballinger, second by Franks. Ayes: All

Acceptance of Ray Baker EYS board resignation. Motion by Franks, Second by Ballinger. Ayes: All

Acceptance of Rianne Juarez EYS board resignation. Motion by Franks, Second by Naico. Ayes: All

Discussed ideas for what to put in new time capsule and that the city would pay for the new one and storage for what comes out of the old one once dug up.

Approval of ECC request to close Denison and Iowa for Labor Day water fights/foam party. Motion by Eshelman, second by Ballinger. Ayes: All

Discussion to remove sand from Anderson Park and replace with rubber mulch as outlined in a request from the ECC they had a donation of \$13,000 from an anonymous donor. A motion was made for the city to cover the remaining balance of the project up to \$15,000. Motion by Eshelman, second by Ballinger. Ayes: Ballinger, Eshelman, Gresham, and Naico. Opposed: Franks.

Discussion on storm debris/yard waste pickup, agreed that a time limit needs to be placed after a storm on how long the city will pick up storm debris and anything after that or during none storms will be charged \$2 a bag and must be curbside and let city hall know as is our policy already it just needs to be enforced.

Discussion 501 Iowa deed release, there was an amendment to the agenda as the address was listed incorrectly, the address listed is not a property the city is on the deed. The correct address is 529 Iowa Ave, a motion was made to approve the release of the deed as the property has been started on development and it will assist them in obtaining grants and loans without the cities name on it. Motion by Ballinger, second by Gresham. Ayes: All.

Discussion tree removal 901 Omaha

Approval of bid to remove tree at 901 Omaha in the right of way that is rotten, Franks requested we get another bid as we only had one due to lack of response. Motion to approval the removal after receiving another bid but not to exceed \$1,000 which is the bid we have. Motion by Eshelman, second by Naico. Ayes: Ballinger, Eshelman, Franks, Naico. Gresham abstained from voting due to conflict of interest.

Discussion DOT request for city funding, council needs more information to proceed and would like him to come present it at a future meeting.

Public comments on agenda items, None

Approval of consent agenda. Minutes: June 10, 2026; Treasurer's Report June 30, 2026; Abstract of Claims June 11, 2026 – July 8, 2026. Motion by Ballinger, second by Franks. Ayes: All.

Clerk updates, nuisance letters have gone out and clean up days totaled \$4,964.50 for the dumpsters and landfill.

Attorney updates will now be a letter sent each month unless there is a pressing need for our attorney to attend the meeting. Attorney updated on the legal status of each nuisance property she is currently working on. That all matters are in the attorney's hands and will proceed as advised.

Council and Mayor updates, it was discussed about concerns of the pile of debris on Airport Rd. after we had to close the waste site due to flooding. It will be separated into smaller piles and burned once everything is caught up.

Good News:

- Jeff – Got his grandkids for a few days and is loving it and his new puppy
- Betty – Time with granddaughter and thinks Essex is looking good
- Cathy – Survived Fourth of July
- Dennis – Bought a ninja suit to steal Jeff's peaches
- Kevin – Moving sand for pool
- Patti – Enjoying having free time to herself
- Calvin – Living in Cooper's world

Adjournment at 8:54 PM. Motion by Eshelman, second by Franks. Ayes: All.

Mayor, Calvin L. Kinney

ATTEST:

City Clerk, Catherine Moore