

REGULAR SESSION

September 09, 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: Lori Racine, Sandy Correll, Parrish Ellis, Doug Tuck

Public Comments: None

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

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

Approval of final drawing of new water tower logo. Motion by Eshelman, second by Naico. Ayes: All.

Approval of Change order 5 McCarthy Trenching, \$8,750.00. Motion by Franks, second by Gresham. Ayes: All.

Approval of Pay app 5 McCarthy Trenching, \$127,422.41. Motion by Ballinger, second by Franks. Ayes: All.

Approval of Brenda Morehouse as library trustee. Motion by Ballinger, second by Franks. Ayes: All.

Approval of bid IAO \$400 from Baxter for library carpet cleaning. Motion by Gresham, second by Naico. Ayes: Ballinger, Franks, Gresham, Naico, Opposed: Eshelman.

Doug Tuck & Parrish Ellis' request to be on agenda pertaining to 805 Illinois, Mr. Ellis explained he wants to purchase the property but would like more time and more specifically on what needs cleaned up. It was explained that all information will be relayed to the city attorney and all communication will go through her.

Lori Racine presented the council with what she would like to see for improvements at Anderson Park and how the funds could be raised. She wants to see it done by end of the year and has found an anonymous donor. It was explained that unless it runs through a nonprofit charity and the council just approves the improvements, it will require a budget amendment and a public hearing which takes time and money, and all decisions will be made by the city and council. It was also explained that it will require at least 3 bids and they will be closed and lowest will be awarded. She decided to continue to look for a nonprofit to run it through to speed up the process and get back with council.

Tom Ross had requested at last month's meeting that the bandstand at Anderson Park be discussed. He was not present, but council agreed it needs repairs, but it was not budgeted for this year. They would like to see a scope of work and then get bids/quotes to be able to budget for it next fiscal year.

Discussion about 60" round tables at the Opera House, it had been brought up that the original rental paperwork said there 12 tables and there are 9. Clerk Moore explained that there were only 9 purchased to begin with and that the paperwork was never updated. We are not sure if 12 will even fit in the space but if council would like to purchase 3 more, we can either through Sam's club at \$130 per table or the school has some used ones they would sell at \$80 per table or would trade their rental of the Opera House for prom for this plus \$40 from the city and they would pay for the cleaning still. Motion by Franks to leave it at 9 tables and update paperwork, second by Naico. Ayes: All.

Public comment on agenda items : None.

Approval of consent agenda. Minutes: August 12, 2026; Treasurer's Report August 31, 2026; Abstract of Claims August 13, 2026 – September 9, 2026. Motion by Ballinger, second by Naico. Ayes: All.

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 and cases she is currently working on, all matters are in the attorney's hands and will proceed as previously advised. Mayor Kinney will attend court hearing.

Council updates: Ballinger requested the new water tower logo approved be posted to Facebook. Gresham would like council to consider getting quotes on contracting garbage to Shenandoah. Mayor Kinney updated on a water leak at a property and things getting ready for and during Labor Day. Gresham wanted to give Chris Moore a shout out for all his help throughout the month with repairing equipment and helping with cleanup as a volunteer. It was also wished to recognize all the volunteers that helped with Labor Day and with the tree branch that came down and getting it cleaned up. Thanked Don Olson for helping with garbage during Labor Day.

The City Clerk updated the council that the audit for FY25 was published and showed what had already been sent to them nothing additional. Also updated that the city received a thank you card from Roush Construction, who did the park landscaping, thanking the City and Tess for the opportunity to help improve the park.

Good News:

- Jeff – Go Hawks!
- Betty – Harry is getting a haircut!
- Cathy – Made it through another derby!
- Dennis – Had a good time this weekend
- Kevin – Labor Day is over!
- Patti – Sunset was amazing last night!
- Calvin – Has seen a lot of Labor Day's and loves how the community comes together and is thankful to live in such a great town!

Adjournment at 8:39PM. Motion by Franks, second by Gresham. Ayes: All.

Mayor, Calvin L. Kinney

ATTEST:

City Clerk, Catherine Moore