

UNAPPROVED MINUTES
Earlham City Council Meeting
March 13, 2023

The Earlham City Council met in regular session on Monday, March 13, 2023, at Earlham City Hall, Mayor Lillie called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m., and the following answered roll: Baskin, Fredericksen, Mudge, Nelsen. Absent: Swalla. Also present: Clerk Hibbs, Police Chief Stringham.

1. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Baskin, second by Mudge, to approve agenda.

Roll: Ayes – unanimous. Motion passes.

2. Public Forum

Bric Nelson with the Nelson Insurance Agency presented the City's April 1, 2023 – April 1, 2024 business protection insurance policy with EMC Insurance. He explained there is a significant increase in the premium, which is common in the insurance industry this year. He hopes it will level off in the future. He wants to make sure city is fully insured. Would like to meet with individual departments to make sure they are insured correctly.

3. Consent Agenda:

a. Council meeting minutes for 2-13-23, 3-9-23

b. Treasurer's Report for 3-13-23

c. Claims and Receipts Report for 3-13-23

Motion by Fredericksen, second by Baskin, to approve consent agenda.

Roll: Ayes - unanimous. Motion passes.

4. Department Reports

a. Public Works - Gary Coffman, Public Works Supervisor

Snow Removal, Meter and reader repairs, Pool numbers and parts, Verizon tower – 2024, Ash trees are done in ROW, Lagoon project meetings, Potholes, Paint at Community Building, CEU classes, Ice rink put away.

b. Police Department – Chief Matt Stringham

Part-time officers have been recertified in CPR. Purchased 3 new defibrillators for patrol cars. Will place one of the old ones in City Hall. Has received complaints about apartments above medical clinic. Chief stated he will send a notice to building owner about the broken windows, and to owner of dogs in apartments regarding dogs urinating in front of medical clinic. Discussion on safety of building and it probably needs a fire department inspection. Chief stated he received grant for 3 solar speed signs. Discussion on Food Truck permit request. Mayor said we need to look into this further and come up with an ordinance.

5. Board, Commission, Committee Reports - none

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Discussion and possible action on swimming pool renovation.

Hibbs stated Coffman has received bids for fencing, concrete, and pool shell, so we are ready to bring this with a council go ahead. Need to figure out where funding comes from. Hibbs suggested using the grant money (\$45,365.79), approximately \$50,000 from ARPA money, and approximately \$120,000 from LOST fund. Will continue to look for grants. Hibbs will come back to next meeting with a resolution stating such.

b. 28E rec park & water tower. Mayor stated this is still being worked on.

- c. Discussion and possible action on police holiday pay. Will re-set HR Committee meeting. Tabled until April 10th meeting

Motion by Frederickson, second by Mudge, to table discussion on police holiday pay until the April 10th council meeting.

Roll: Ayes – unanimous. Motion passes.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Consider approval of Ordinance No 442 Amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Earlham, Iowa, 2017, Chapter 92 Water Rates.

Hibbs explained she had a discussion with Travis Squires, with Piper Sandler, about the rate increase we received from Warren Water and how this affects the increases we need to put into place. The price of the water we purchase increased approximately 20%. He gave us several options for rate increases we need to put into place. It was decided to increase the minimum water bill by 8% and each tier after at a 12% raise

Motion by Frederickson, second by Mudge, to approve the First Reading of Ordinance No 442 Amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Earlham, Iowa, 2017, Chapter 92 Water Rates.

Roll: Ayes – unanimous. Motion passes

Motion by Frederickson, second by Mudge, to waive the Second and Third Readings of Ordinance No. 442.

Roll: Ayes unanimous. Motion passes.

- b. Consider approval of Resolution No. 23-09, Authorizing the Issuance of \$2,400,000 General Obligation Capital Loan Notes, Series 2023, and Levying a tax for the Payment Thereof. (*Sewer Lagoon Update*)

Motion by Frederickson, second by Nelsen, to approval Resolution No. 23-09, Authorizing the Issuance of \$2,400,000 General Obligation Capital Loan Notes, Series 2023, and Levying a Tax for the Payment Thereof. (*Sewer Lagoon Update*)

Roll: Ayes – unanimous. Motion passes

- c. Lisa Weber - protesting dog-at-loose tickets. Not in attendance.

- d. Possible discussion and action on water tower maintenance plan.

Mayor briefly explained the options. He said we were in no rush to make the decision. Discussion tabled until Coffman can be in attendance.

- e. Approve motion to set time and date for Public Hearing on FY24 Budget for April 10, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

Motion by Mudge, second by Baskin, to set time and date for Public Hearing on FY24 Budget for April 10, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

Roll: Ayes – unanimous. Motion passes.

- f. Approve motion to set time and date for Public Hearing on FY23 Budget Amendment for April 10, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

Motion by Frederickson, second by Mudge, to set time and date for Public Hearing on FY23 Budget Amendment on April 10, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

Roll: Ayes – unanimous. Motion passes.

8. Mayor's Report – Mayor welcomed back Councilmember Nelsen.

9. Clerk's Report

Gave a brief description of SB356, which creates a link between taxable valuation and levy rates. When taxable valuations go up, levy rates will down. This will adversely affect city revenue. She also stated she

received our new valuations (following the passage of SF181). This results in a decrease of \$13,000 to our general fund revenue. Total levy will be \$14.99. She will look at FY24 expenses versus FY24 revenues to determine if any cuts need to be made in the upcoming budget.

10. Council comments/discussion

11. Adjourn

Motion by Baskin, second by Mudge, to adjourn.

Roll: Ayes – unanimous. Motion passes.

Being there was no further business, meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Jeff Lillie, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Mary Sue Hibbs, Clerk/Treasurer