

**UNAPPROVED MINUTES**  
**Earlham City Council Meeting**  
**December 11, 2023**

The Earlham City Council met in regular session on Monday, December 11, 2023, at Earlham City Hall. Mayor Lillie called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and the following answered roll: Fredericksen, Miller, Mudge, Nelsen. Absent: Baskin. Also present: Clerk Hibbs, Chief Stringham, Public Works Supervisor Coffman, Councilmember elect Visser.

Re-elected Mayor Jeff Lillie, re-elected Council Member Brock Fredericksen, and newly elected Council Member Joel Visser were sworn in.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Motion by Mudge, second by Nelsen, to approve agenda.**

**Roll: Ayes – unanimous. Motion passes.**

2. PUBLIC FORUM – None

3. CONSENT AGENDA:

a. Council meeting minutes for 11-13-23 and 11-21-23.

b. Treasurer’s Report for 12-11-23

c. Claims and Receipts Report for 12-11-23

d. Consider approval of Mike Hastie to fill vacancy on the Board of Adjustment, term ending 6-3-26.

e. Consider approval of Paulette Horner to fill vacancy on the Community Center Board, fulfilling seat vacated by Colleen Petersen, term ending 6-30-25.

**Motion by Fredericksen, second by Mudge, to approve consent agenda.**

**Roll: Ayes – Unanimous. Motion passes.**

4. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

a. Public Works - Gary Coffman, Public Works Supervisor

Pool has been refilled and ready for winter. Flushed water mains and in the process broke 2 water mains, which were repaired. Pot holes patched. Stop sign fixed at 6<sup>th</sup> & Chestnut after someone it. Water tower land was surveyed and School will approve at their January meeting. New street lights have arrived. Christmas decorations are up. Coffman reported Boyle smashed his big toe while taking off snow blade guard. Work Comp claim has been submitted. Lagoon should be up and running by the end of the week.

b. Police Department – Chief Matt Stringham

Did traffic control when Christmas Tree was erected at 1<sup>st</sup> & Chestnut – and again when it blew down. New brakes on the 2017 Ford. Received Governor’s Traffic Safety Bureau for grant speed sign as well as speed enforcement. Received COPS grant and the paperwork continues.

5. BOARD, COMMISSION, COMMITTEE REPORTS - None

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Discussion and possible action on amending noise ordinance or amending Community Building rental agreement regarding noise/music – No update.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. Consider approval of Resolution No. 23-31 Approving Application for Tax Abatement for 340 NW 2<sup>nd</sup> Street.  
**Motion by Fredericksen, second by Nelsen, to approve Resolution No. 23-31 Approving Application for Tax Abatement for 340 NW 2<sup>nd</sup> Street.**

**Roll: Ayes – Unanimous. Motion passes.**

b. Consider approval of motion to approve Pay Application #12 from Blue Ribbon Builders for the Lagoon Update Project in the amount of \$580,889.79.

**Motion by Mudge, second by Miller, to approve Pay Application #12 from Blue Ribbon Builders for the Lagoon Update Project in the amount of \$580,889.79.**

**Roll: Ayes – Unanimous. Motion passes.**

- c. Presentation by MidAmerican Energy on Electric and Gas Franchises. Possibly set date for public hearing on Ordinance No. 449 Natural Gas Franchise and Ordinance No. 450 Electric Franchise.

Tyler Gartenberg with MidAmerican Energy spoke about the gas and electric franchise renewals. Also present from MidAmerican Energy were Steve Willem and Scott Enger. Council discussion on whether or not to initiate franchise fees. Mayor asked council to think about this before the public hearing.

**Motion by Miller, second by Mudge, to set the date and time for Public Hearings for Gas Franchise and the Electric Franchise renewals for January 8, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.**

**Roll: Ayes – unanimous. Motion passes.**

- d. Discussion and consider approval of 2024 Employee Health Insurance Renewal with United Health Care. Hibbs stated the rates for United HealthCare will go up 4.77%. Insurance broker, Holmes Murphy, provided us with an alternate plan from Wellmark with similar benefit. Hibbs said she contacted all full-time employees to see if they had any dis-favorable comments on United HealthCare, and she received none. Wellmark plan was a little cheaper, but both Hibbs and Mayor stated experience has taught us that after the first year, the new carrier typically increase their rates. Both felt it was better to renew the UHC.

**Motion by Mudge, second by Fredericksen, to approve renewing United HealthCare health insurance coverage for 2024 (effective 4-1-23).**

**Roll: Ayes – unanimous. Motion passes.**

8. MAYOR’S REPORT – no report

9. CLERK’S REPORT

Hibbs stated we’ve received the bill for the street lights and asked council opinion on where these should be paid from – ARPA, LOST or General Fund. Budgeted under General Fund but Hibbs said she didn’t want to stress the General Fund. Discussion on dividing it amongst the three. Since not on agenda, will be discussed further at next meeting and decision will be made.

10. COUNCIL COMMENTS/DISCUSSION. None

11. ADJOURN

**Motion by Mudge, second by Fredericksen, to adjourn.**

**Roll: Ayes – unanimous. Motion passes.**

Being there was not further business, meeting was adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

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Jeff Lillie, Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mary Sue Hibbs, Clerk/Treasurer