

December 2021

# CITY OF EARLY

## City Information

Sharon Irwin, Mayor

### City Council

Bill Cougill  
Brian Pickhinke  
Steven Mason  
Summer Schmitt  
Tim Langner

Council Meeting- 1st Tuesday

Lexi Bainbridge, Clerk  
Kris Alesch, Supt. D.P.W.  
Keith Horan, Fire Chief

Fire Meeting- 2nd Wednesday

### Library Board

Cory Faist  
Julie Carlson  
Julie Wadsley  
Sue Loggins  
Becki Petersen-Secretary

Library Board Meeting- 4th Tuesday

Kristine Luy, Library Director

### City of Early

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Email:  
[cityclerk@earlyia.com](mailto:cityclerk@earlyia.com)

## **City Office Hours**

**Monday thru  
Thursday**  
8AM - 12PM  
1PM - 3PM  
**Friday**  
8AM - 12 PM

## City Council News

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Early, Iowa was held on the 7th day of December 2021. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Sharon Ann Irwin called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM with roll call as follows: Present: Brian Pickhinke, Bill Cougill, Tim Langner, Steven Mason, Summer Schmitt. A motion was made by Councilor Pickhinke and seconded by Councilor Langner to approve the consent agenda including agenda, minutes, bills for payment. On show of hands: Ayes: Pickhinke, Cougill, Langner, Schmitt, Mason. Motion passed. Citizen Input- Resident wanting to scoop snow for the City Municipal Building. Resident would not be covered under City Insurance so there for the City declines action. A motion was made by Councilor Cougill and seconded by Councilor Pickhinke to approve building permit #792 pending Planning and Zoning Committees approval also that the homeowner stays 3ft off the lot lines. On a show of hands: Ayes: Cougill, Pickhinke, Langner, Mason, Schmitt. Motion passed. A motion was made by Councilor Cougill and seconded by Councilor Pickhinke to have City Attorney draft paperwork towards 202 E 2nd Street Tax Lien Forgiveness and develop a contract with the potential buyer. On a show of hands. Ayes: Schmitt, Langer, Pickhinke, Cougill, Mason. Motioned passed. Resolution 21-24 Accepting and Approving Option to Acquire Real Property was offered by Councilor Pickhinke and seconded by Councilor Mason. On a roll call vote. Ayes: Pickhinke, Cougill, Schmitt, Mason, Nays: Langner. Whereupon the mayor declared said resolution duly adopted. The Council was updated on several properties within City limits that were still in violation of the City Ordinances. The City Attorney took these properties to court again on November 9th, 2021. Parcel- 810604010098 will be going to court December 14th, 2021. The council was updated on the Coffee Shop Property that was supposed to be done by December 31st, 2021, to avoid tax assessments that were originally held against the property. Council nor anyone from the City has heard from the property owners regarding the building. Discussion will be held at the next meeting on Parcel- 810604010014. Parcel- 810604104009. Parcel- 810604102014 these owners were given time extensions on their projects and have failed to complete. Fire Chief Keith Horan present at 7:33PM. Resolution 21-23 Establishing the Use of the ARPA Special Fund was offered by Councilor Pickhinke and seconded by Councilor Langner. On a roll call vote. Ayes: Pickhinke, Cougill, Schmitt, Langner, Mason. Whereupon the mayor declared said resolution duly adopted. A motion was made by Councilor Mason and seconded by Councilor Schmitt to sign a contract with Simmering-Cory | Iowa Codification to update the City Code of Ordinances that was last fully updated in July 2016. On a show of hands. Ayes: Pickhinke, Cougill, Schmitt, Mason, Langner. Motion passed. A motion was made by Councilor Pickhinke and seconded by Councilor Schmitt to set a public hearing date for the maximum tax levy on January 4th, 2022. On a show of hands. Ayes: Pickhinke, Cougill, Mason, Schmitt, Langner. Motion passed. A motion was made by Councilor Pickhinke and seconded by Councilor Langner to purchase security cameras through Advanced Communication Services for the City buildings using ARPA funds due to increased criminal mischief and as precautionary measures. On a show of hands. Ayes: Pickhinke, Cougill, Mason, Schmitt, Langner. Nays: None. Motion passed. The Council discussed wage increases with cost of living for employees for the new year and discussed the increased insurance pricing as well. Monthly reports were given by the Mayor, Library, Fire Dept, and DPW. Fire Chief Keith Horan will present to the township trustees the new fire budget at the next council meeting on January 4th, 2022. Letters of invitation will be sent out to the trustees. Public Works Director Kris Alesch addressed the Council with concerns about the Lagoons Generator. The generator is no longer supported for parts and is very hard to keep maintained at this time. He has brought forwarded a quote from Echo for the purchase of a new generator for purchase. A motion was made by Councilor Pickhinke and seconded by Councilor Cougill to have Public Works Director Kris Alesch purchase a new generator pending on the determination of size needed for operation and to be pay out of the ARPA fund. On a roll call vote. Ayes: Schmitt, Langner, Mason, Cougill, Pickhinke. Motion passed. Councilor Steven Mason submitted his resignation from the City Council as he has been elected to the school board. Council will decide at the January meeting whether to appoint someone to finish his term of two years or whether to have a special election. A motion was made by Councilor Pickhinke and seconded by Councilor Cougill to close the meeting at 9:38 PM.

Sharon Ann Irwin, Mayor  
Lexi Bainbridge, City Clerk

### Mayor's Notes

A resolution was passed to establish general purposes for the use of American Recovery Plan Act funds. The City has received half of those funds and the other half will come sometime next year. The Second Street water project has stopped until work can begin again next spring. Work has begun on the new treatment plant facility. That contractor will continue to work as long as the weather allows and their supplies arrive as needed. Delays on parts and supplies are affecting all phases of life and work. An agreement was approved with Iowa Codification to review and update our Municipal Code. A contract was approved to have security cameras installed at the Municipal Building, Fire Station and City Shop, including the new water treatment plant. The generator at the sanitary sewer lagoon that runs the lift station there is outdated and parts are no longer available for it. Council asked Supt. Alesch to check on the size needed there and then approved the purchase of a new generator. Here again, delivery time is estimated to be 27-30 weeks. Do you know how strong the wind was on Sunday night December 5th? It broke off one of the ballfield light poles, smashing all the light fixtures on it and landing on the fence, doing damage to that. Councilman Steve Mason submitted his resignation from the City Council as he has been elected to the school board. Council will make a decision at the January meeting whether to appoint someone to finish his term of two years or whether to have a special election. We thank Steve for his service as a councilman to the community the past two years. May you and yours have a blessed Christmas and New Year!

## Early Public Library

Upcoming Library Events for December 2021

Story Time (Recommended ages 0-6)- Every Wednesday @ 10AM

Christmas Celebration- Saturday, December 4th @ 10AM-12PM

Sac County Naturalist- Wednesday, December 8th @ 10AM

Christmas Coloring Contest- Entries due Friday, December 17th

Meetings

Book Club - Monday, December 13th @ 6PM

\*No Friends of the Library Meeting or Board Meeting for December\*

Current Hours of Operation:

Monday: 12:30PM - 4:30PM

Tuesday: 12:30PM - 4:30PM

Wednesday: 9:00AM - 11:00AM, 12:30PM - 5:30PM

Thursday: 12:30PM - 4:30PM

Friday: 12:30PM - 4:30PM

\*CLOSED December 24th, December 27th, and December 31st\*

\*Or call for an appointment outside of regular scheduled hours\*

\*Stay in the loop about future events by following our Facebook page, our Early Public Library website, checking out our flyers that are posted at the library and the post office, or stop in!\*

## City Clerk's Office

You are invited to join the City of Early **online**! We are now accepting online payments for the Utility Billing as well as many other items. I am currently working to get the rest of the forms online such as Pet Registration, Building Permits, ATV/Golf Cart Permits and much more that you can fill out online and purchase. We also can alert you via text or email on emergency issues that may occur within our community when you sign up, such as a Water Main Break/Leak or a Burn Ban. This is very exciting for us to start migrating towards an online platform. ***No more lost or ripped post-cards in the mail!*** To create an account make sure you have your current utility account number handy and go to <https://earlyia.frontdeskworks.com/> \*\* and follow the instructions. This is all new for me as well so I am still eagerly learning the process, but we can learn as we go! If you have any questions please call the office and I can assist you getting set up!

\*\*Service fees are applied

**Snow Ordinance is in effect 11/1/21 to 3/31/22. No parking on streets from midnight to 7:00 am.**

## EARLY F.O.C.U.S .

### HOLIDAY HOME OF THE WEEK

1st week- Mike & Eve Luy- 312 N Main

2nd week- Brian & Kari Pickhinke-202 W. South Ave

3rd week- Brandon & Emily Scadden-207 E 1st



**Just a reminder with the New Year right around the corner to update your furry friends pet license and registration. We are doing something new this year and would request a small picture of your furry friends for identification purposes. The new registration forms are available on our website or contact City Hall to grab a copy. Please make sure you bring an updated copy of your rabies vaccinations. As a reminder Licenses for fixed animals are \$10.00 per pet and \$20.00 for non fixed animals.**



**Also stop in to renew or register your ATV and golf carts with the City. Please bring in an updated insurance card and a payment of \$25.00.**

