

December 2022

CITY OF EARLY

City Information

Sharon Irwin, Mayor

City Council

Bill Cougill
Brian Pickhinke
Summer Schmitt
Tim Langner
Becky Blackman

Council Meeting-1st Tuesday
Lexi Bainbridge, Clerk
Kris Alesch, P.W. Director

Keith Horan, Fire Chief

Fire Meeting - 2nd Wednesday

Library Board

Cory Faist - President
Julie Carlson
Julie Wadsley
Sue Loggins
Becki Petersen - Secretary
Board Meeting - 4th Tuesday
Kristine Luy, Library Director

City of Early POP. 587

Snail Mail:
107 Main Street
PO Box 411
Early, IA 50535-0411

Phone: 712-273-5283
Fax: 712-273-5334
Email: cityclerk@earlyia.com
Website: www.earlyia.com

Official Newspaper:
The Chronicle

Online Bill Pay:
earlyia.frontdeskworks.com

City Office Hours

**Monday thru
Thursday**
8AM - 3PM

(Closed during the noon
hour)

Friday
8AM - 12 PM

City Council News

On Dec 6th, 2022, at 6:18PM- A presentation was held by McGuire Iron representative Jake Dugger on water tower improvements. Currently as the tower sits it is recommended to plan for near future of interior repairs to the lining to protect the steel from rusting in the wet surface area. An estimate of \$66,400 to reline the interior of the tower and an additional \$67,000 if exterior was wanted redone as well. The City Clerk has put in a grant application with the Iowa Finance Authority and awards should be announced later on this month. If grant money is not awarded Jake advises that the City can set a payment plan with them with no interest, and American Rescue Funds may be used to lower costs. Jake also mentioned to Council that they could enter into a full-service maintenance plan that would cover these sorts of cost for an annual fee and regular maintenance would be kept up to date, annual cost would be locked in until 2028 at \$12,374.00. A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Early, Iowa was held on the 6th day of December 2022. 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, Becky Blackman, Bill Cougill, Summer Schmitt, Tim Langner. A motion was made by Councilor Pickhinke and seconded by Councilor Langner to approve the consent agenda including agenda, minutes, bills for payment, Casey's Alarm Permit. On show of hands: Ayes: Pickhinke, Blackman, Cougill, Schmitt, Langner. Motion passed. Citizen Input- New State law permitting fees towards ATVs have changed, a few residents were questioning how the City was to operate in regard to the legislation changes. The Council discussed that the City Clerk was to not collect applications or proof of insurance as they felt it is not necessary as long as the residents follow county and state laws. This also brought up discussion about golf cart permits. Council chose to follow the same as the ATV standards. The Early Achievers represented by Christy Horan and Melany Horan, came to the council with a decision for the new park benches. They chose to replace both benches with two new steel red benches upon council's agreement. The council is agreeable and extremely grateful for the Early Achievers coming forward and helping not only the City but the community as a whole. A motion was made by Councilor Pickhinke and seconded by Councilor Cougill to accept the Water Tower Contract with McGuire Iron. On a Roll call Vote. Ayes: Pickhinke, Blackman, Cougill, Schmitt, Langner. Spencer with ISG, Storm Lake updated the council that they were finishing up the final design and plans to get ready for bidding in Early 2023. They currently have been having a run around with MidAmerican on trying to get utility locates in. The engineering firm had to get creative and ended up having Councilor Brian Pickhinke calling in a dig locate and represented himself as Pickhinke Backhoe in order to get the month-long process in motion. A packet was given to council for a possible decision on culvert repairs that are not included on the Drainage District-59 contract. A motion was made by Council Cougill and seconded by Councilor Langner to chose Option 2 in the review worth \$93,000.00. On a roll call vote. Ayes: Cougill, Langner, Blackman, Schmitt. Abstain: Pickhinke. Motion passed. A motion was made by Councilor Pickhinke and seconded by Councilor Cougill to approved Change Order #1 Time frame extension by 95 days minimum. [This will put the completion date back until Late April 2023]. On a show of hands. Ayes: Pickhinke, Blackman, Cougill, Schmitt, Langner. Motion passed. The final draft of the Code of Ordinance update was presented to the Council. A suggestion was made by the City Clerk again to possibly save some money and to help expand our technology services, instead of printing off 12 copies of the book to have only 4-5 printed and the savings of a discount per book would go towards placing the entire code book online. Not only for the council/mayor to review but also the residents, potentially saving time and frustrations in the future as everyone would have immediate, searchable access. The Council decided against this and chose to have it remain the same. Another matter was to, instead of searching for possible penalties and fees within the chapters of the physical book to reword the chapters and add an appendix so they are easily found and will reference back toward that specific section. The Council agreed to add the Appendix to the Code. The Basement Rental Contracts and the City Dumpsters were tabled at this time. Will be discussed at a later date. Council discussed changing the time of the regular meetings. Council came to an agreement of 6pm. A resolution is needed for this change to happen according to the Early Code of Ordinances. The City Clerk will have a resolution available at a later date. Notice will be given according to our ordinance. Region XII has given the council several documents/ resolutions to renew to be in compliance with the CDBG: Resolution 22-14 Renewal of Adoption Code of Conduct Policy was offered by Councilor Pickhinke and seconded by Councilor Schmitt. On a roll call vote. Ayes: Pickhinke, Blackman, Cougill, Schmitt, Langner. Whereupon the mayor declared said resolution duly adopted. Resolution 22-15 Renewal of Policy on the Prohibition of the Use of Excessive Force was offered by Councilor Blackman and seconded by Langner On a roll call vote. Ayes: Pickhinke, Blackman, Cougill, Schmitt, Langner. Whereupon the mayor declared said resolution duly adopted. Resolution 22-16 Renewal Adopting Affirmation Fair Housing Policy was offered by Councilor Pickhinke and seconded by Langner On a roll call vote. Ayes: Pickhinke, Blackman, Cougill, Schmitt, Langner. Whereupon the mayor declared said resolution duly adopted. Resolution 22-17 Renewal Adopting Equal Opportunity Policy Statement was offered by Councilor Schmitt and seconded by Councilor Pickhinke On a roll call vote. Ayes: Pickhinke, Blackman, Cougill, Schmitt, Langner. Whereupon the mayor declared said resolution duly adopted. Resolution 22-18 Renewal Adopting Procurement Policy was offered by Councilor Blackman and seconded by Councilor Schmitt. On a roll call vote. Ayes: Pickhinke, Blackman, Cougill, Schmitt, Langner. Whereupon the mayor declared said resolution duly adopted. Resolution 22-19 Residential Anti-Displacement and Relocation Policy was offered by Councilor Blackman and seconded by Councilor Schmitt. On a roll call vote. Ayes: Pickhinke, Blackman, Cougill, Schmitt, Langner. Whereupon the mayor declared said resolution duly adopted. City Attorney was not present. The City Clerk reported that she talked with Schmitt Construction and Pickhinke Backhoe on a cost estimate(s) on tearing down the house per court order at parcel: 810604109009. Cost estimates were not in at this time, and some follow up was needed with Region XII on hazardous materials on the property. Council discussed the shut off valve for the Sacred Heart Shrine. No action was taken. The Council reviewed employee wages. Due to conflict, it has been tabled until next months' meeting. The Sheriff was present, a monthly report was given. Sheriff reported they are fully staffed and hired a deputy from Denison to fill the vacancy spot. They were now down a dispatcher and have been actively looking for one. Updates on the Radio Tower Project were also given. Fire Chief Keith Horan was present. Last month Kris Alesch, Director of Public Works had gotten a quote with Toffee Masonry-Webster City for the Tuck Point on the Fire Station. They stated they would take the job if accepted but work would not commence until sometime in the spring at the earliest. Kris has talked with Keith on a cost and how much the department wanted done which would be approximately \$2,500 - \$3,750. Next Council meeting will host the Township Trustees to go over FY2024 Fire Budget. The Clerk will send out information/invitations later on in the month to the Trustees. Kris Alesch, Director of Public Works presented his monthly report. A motion was made by Councilor Cougill and seconded by Councilor Pickhinke to close the meeting at 10:02 PM. Meeting closed.

Sharon Ann Irwin, Mayor
Lexi Bainbridge, City Clerk

**Snow Ordinance is in effect 11/1/22 to
3/31/23. No parking on streets from
midnight to 7:00 AM.**

EARLY FOCUS NEWS

HOLIDAY HOME OF THE WEEK

Mike & Eve Luy

Nathan & Becky Petersen

REMINDER

Early Crossroads Days- JULY 15, 2023

Be on the lookout for a schedule in the new year.

January we will be sending out our annual donation letters. Please consider donating as this is the only way we can keep crossroads days going. Donation can be sent to PO BOX 117 Early, IA 50535.

MAYOR'S NOTES

Prior to the council meeting the City met with a representative from McGuire Iron concerning the inspection this fall of the water tower. He explained maintenance needs on the interior of the tower at this time and the costs involved.

During the long council meeting a six-year contract was approved with McGuire Iron for a maintenance contract on the water tower. The interior of the tower will be repainted next summer.

An extension on the completion date for the new water treatment plant was extended another 95 days. New completion date hopefully will be the end of April. The completion problem is supply chain issues on delivery of some of the needed items.

The engineer from ISG met with the Council to give an update on work to be done on Drainage District 59. It is hoped that bids may be received in Mid-February.

Changing the start time for council meetings was discussed. A resolution will be drawn up by the City Attorney for an earlier start time.

Pay raises for City employees were discussed, but no decision was made at this time. These will be re-addressed in January.

May you and yours have a blessed Christmas and New Year. Many of us will have an empty place at our celebrations this year, may you feel the love and comfort of our heavenly Father.

City Clerk's Office

Just a reminder with the New Year right around the corner to update your furry friends pet license and registration. 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 and a small picture. As a reminder Licenses for fixed animals are \$10.00 per pet and \$20.00 for non fixed animals.



!!!ATTENTION!!!

Your photos could be featured on our new website!! I am reaching out to all public in your help to provide pictures of the City of Early and what we stand for!! You can submit pictures to cityclerk@earlyia.com or you may send them in the mail to PO BOX 411. Please no inappropriate pictures.

Early Public Library

Events

Story Time- Every Wednesday at 10AM (recommended for ages 0-6)

(Sac County Naturalist visiting story time on December 14th

Koffee Klatch- Every 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month

December 6th & December 20th at 9:30AM

Annual Christmas Event- Saturday December 3rd 11AM-1PM

Meetings

Friends of the Library Meeting- December 13th @ 9AM

Board Meeting- No board meeting for the month of December

Announcements

The Library will be closed Saturday December 24th- Tuesday December 27th in observance of Christmas. Happy Holidays!

Send us a picture of your Christmas tree for a chance to win a TBD gift from the Friends of the Library. You can send us a picture of your Christmas tree via Facebook or earlylibrary@gmail.com.

Our Koffee Klatch is looking to gather together favorite recipes and create a cookbook. If you'd like to have some of your recipes featured, come join us at our next coffee group or bring your recipes into the library!