

November 2022

# CITY OF EARLY

## City Information

Sharon Irwin, Mayor

### City Council

Bill Cougill  
Brian Pickhinke  
Summer Schmitt  
Tim Langner  
Becky Blackman

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

Keith Horan, Fire Chief  
Fire Meeting - 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday

### Library Board

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

### City of Early POP. 587

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Official Newspaper:  
The Chronicle

Online Bill Pay:  
[earlyia.frontdeskworks.com](http://earlyia.frontdeskworks.com)

## City Office Hours

**Monday thru Thursday**  
8AM - 3PM  
(Closed during the noon hour)

**Friday**  
8AM - 12 PM

## City Council News

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Early, Iowa was held on the 1st day of November 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. Absent: Tim Langner. A motion was made by Councilor Pickhinke and seconded by Councilor Blackman to approve the consent agenda including agenda, minutes, bills for payment. On show of hands: Ayes: Pickhinke, Blackman, Cougill, Schmitt. Motion passed. Citizen Input- Last month discussion was had on the City Municipal building in regard to the wasps. The Library Director and the City Clerk had put in an application for the Sac County Endowment Grant to help restore and maintain the current structure. The current structure has numerous spots of active water damages, broken windows, decaying concrete, and rotten wood, along with the pest's making entry to the building. The estimate for repairs is roughly \$37,500. This grant, if received will cover 50/50 match. Grant Awardment will be announced sometime in December. A motion was made by Councilor Cougill and seconded by Councilor Pickhinke to approve updated building permit(s) #791. On a show of hands. Ayes: Pickhinke, Blackman, Cougill, Schmitt. Motion passed. Resolution 22-13 FY2022 Street Finance Report (SFR) was offered by Councilor Pickhinke and seconded by Councilor Cougill. On a roll call vote. Ayes: Pickhinke, Blackman, Cougill, Schmitt. Absent: Langner. Whereupon the mayor declared said resolution duly adopted. The Annual Finance Report (AFR) for the 2022 year was reviewed by council and will be available to view by the public in the official Sac County Newspaper, The Chronicle or on our City website. Spencer with ISG, Storm Lake sent electronic updates to the council for the Drainage District-59. "We have completed the utility locate process as well as our survey for the final design. [I] spoke with Wes at Bolton and Menk Inc regarding the 2nd Street Water Main project, he provided information on the location of the new line. There will be a number of water and sanitary sewer crossings for the project. The primary conflicts that we have found so far are with MidAmerican underground gas lines, a map they provided shows a number of gas lines that we will cross just North of 2nd Street as well as a couple of others. They would not locate these but did provide us with maps. We plan to coordinate with them on these potential conflicts. We are actively working on our final design for the basin and new tile, we submitted the preliminary design information to IDALS for their review (required by funding) on 10/12/22 and we are continuing to proceed with development of the final plans. We have begun an evaluation of the culverts at the 2nd, 3rd & 4th Street crossings. Generally, all three of the culverts provide capacity for at least a 5-year storm and close to a 10-year storm. The existing culverts at 3rd & 4th Street appear to be in fairly good condition, but the existing box culvert & pipe at 2nd Street are in poor condition, as well as the road at this location. Also, the existing surface water channel/waterway through town appears to be functioning fairly well, except between 3rd Street and 4th Street. The channel needs to be cleaned out and reconstructed through this area as it has silted in and is restricting the flow of water as well as capacity in the culverts. I plan to provide a summary report and recommendations at your next council meeting (Dec 6th) regarding the culverts." An updated Nuisance Abatement Contract by Region XII was presented. A motion was made by Councilor Pickhinke to approve the Contract with changes to the ending date of June 30th, 2024 was seconded by Councilor Blackman. On a roll call vote. Ayes: Pickhinke, Blackman, Cougill, Schmitt. Absent: Langner. Motion passed. The 2nd Street Water Main Project Change Order #3 was reviewed for Schedule of Unit Prices which reflect actual work and quantities incorporated into the project. Also reviewed was the Notice of Acceptability of Work. The Final cost was roughly \$32,254 under the original bid. A motion was made by Councilor Pickhinke and seconded by Councilor Cougill to accept the Change Order #3 and also the Acceptability of Work. On a roll call vote. Ayes: Pickhinke, Blackman, Cougill, Schmitt. Absent: Langer. Motion passed. The Council reviewed employee wages and insurance. No decisions were made at this time in regard to wages, council stated to keep the same policy for the employees. The monthly Sheriff report was given. Last month the council discussed the brick Fire Station for repairs. Kris Alesch, Director of Public Works has gotten a quote with Toftee Masonry-Webster City. They stated they would take the job if accepted but work would not commence until some time in the spring at the earliest. Kris will talk with Keith and the department will need to decide how much work they are wanting to get done for the building. Kris Alesch, Director of Public Works presented his monthly report. A few things to note all concrete and asphalt patching throughout town has been completed for this year, all snow fence has been place. The ballpark and shelter house have been winterized. Kris has found a local farmer to take some more of the concrete at the lagoon for riff raff. Contact with the DNR with concerns of high concentration levels at the lagoons the City will not discharge this fall. They have been replacing Dead End and No Parking signs within the community. Crew has been constantly sweeping the streets, but leaves are falling faster, will continue to work on the streets. We were to have a Presentation from McGuire Iron in regard to the water tower, but they were unable to attend reschedule time would be Dec 6th starting at 6:15 PM before the regular council meeting. The City Clerk has submitted a grant with Iowa Finance Authority to potentially cover some cost for this project. A motion was made by Councilor Cougill and seconded by Councilor Schmitt to close the meeting at 9:14 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

Presents



### OUR ANNUAL LIGHT UP THE TOWN EVENT

TO BE HELD ON

**NOVEMBER 19, 2023 FROM 5:30 PM TO 7:30 PM**

**Craft Fair 5-8 in library**

**Basement of City Hall**

**Soup Supper TO GO Containers ARE Available**

**FREE WILL OFFERING**

**SILENT PIE/COOKIE AUCTION**

**AUCTION WILL CLOSE AT 7:15**

**Heartland Marketing Tree Will be Lit Up**

**LEGION OPEN**

**THIS WILL KICK OFF OUR HOLIDAY HOME OF THE WEEK JUDGING AS WELL. WE ASK THAT YOU TURN YOUR LIGHTS ON IN PREP FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON. WE WILL BE JUDGING ON NOVEMBER 27<sup>TH</sup>, DECEMBER 4, DECEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>, AND DECEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>. IF YOU WIN YOU WILL BE FEATURED IN THE NEWSLETTER AND ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE. THE SIGN WILL ALSO BE DISPLAYED IN YOUR YARD FOR THE WEEK. Thanks for supporting Early FOCUS!**

## MAYOR'S NOTES

It was reported in a written report by the engineer in charge of the Drainage District 59 that the survey work is basically done. There are still some issues that need to be addressed. A contract was approved with Region XII COG for Nuisance Abatement Work for the City. The water main project on W Second Street is complete and finished lower than the original estimate. The water treatment plant project is ongoing and it will be early spring before it is completed and online. The holdup for the completion is that materials are not able to be delivered in a timely fashion. Such are the times we live in. May you have a blessed Thanksgiving season!

## **COMMUNITY FOOD DRIVE**

**Wednesday, November 16, 7-8pm**

Members of the Early United Methodist Youth Group will be going door to door to collect food and non-perishable items for our food pantries.

If you are willing to help please leave your porch light on during those hours and put your items on the porch or in front of your door.

**PLEASE NO OUTDATED ITEMS - THEY CAN NOT BE USED!**

Please help replenish the community food pantry at Sacred Heart with your generous response to this need.

CASH DONATIONS are also needed to help fund our purchases from the Food Bank of Iowa.

Make checks payable to Schaller-Crestland Ministerial Association



## *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.

The Annual Finance Report (AFR) can be found in our official Sac County Newspaper, The Chronicle, or you may request a copy from the City Clerk's Office.



## **!!!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](mailto: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 November 9th)

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

November 1st & November 15th at 9:30AM

Light up the Town Craft & Vendor Fair- November 19th  
5PM-8PM

### Meetings

Friends of the Library Meeting- November 10th @ 9AM

Board Meeting- November 22nd @ 9AM

### Announcements

The Library will be closed Thursday November 24th-  
Saturday November 26th for Thanksgiving.

**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!**