

January 2023

# 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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107 Main Street  
PO Box 411  
Early, IA 50535-0411

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Email: [cityclerk@earlyia.com](mailto:cityclerk@earlyia.com)  
Website: [www.earlyia.com](http://www.earlyia.com)

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 presentation from Corn Belt Telephone represented by Lee Wuebker was held at 6:30 PM on the 10th day of January 2023. It was discussed that Corn Belt would like to bring in fiber optic cable and other services to the community but are needing the community support to help push the project into motion. The Council was in acceptance of supporting the project and would help as much as they could to spread the message to the public. It was suggested to host a social gathering to have community members ask questions and learn what could be possible for our community in regard to broadband. Further announcements will be made once a date is set. The public is asked that if they wish to be in support of bringing fiber into Early to contact the City Clerk for further information. A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Early, Iowa was held on the 10th day of January 2023. 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: Becky Blackman, Summer Schmitt, Tim Langner. Absent: Bill Cougill, Brian Pickhinke. A motion was made by Councilor Langner and seconded by Councilor Blackman to approve the consent agenda including agenda, minutes, bills for payment. On show of hands: Ayes: Blackman, Schmitt, Langner. Motion passed. Fire Chief Keith Horan gave his annual fire report to the City Council and The Township Trustees. Representatives from Eden and Clinton Townships were present. Overall Early Fire and Rescue responded to 84 calls which was an 11% increase from the 2021 year, they have also maintained a full staff of 26 members. The Officers are as follows: Fire Chief- Keith Horan, Assistant-Bill Cougill, Safety Officer- Mike Brinkman, Secretary/Treasurer- Chris Domino, Training Officer- Tim Langner, EMS Director- Nancy Suhr. Citizen Input- Mitch Lyons (not present) has requested the support from the City for a Community Catalyst Remediation Grant to help with the cost of repairs to the "old Willoughby Bar". The Community Catalyst Building Remediation Program assists communities with the redevelopment or rehabilitation of buildings to stimulate economic growth or reinvestment in the community. Funding availability is a maximum of \$100,000.00. In the grant process the City must be the applicant and provide financial and/or in-kind resources. The Council discussed briefly that they are supportive of the new business and would help with some in-kind resources. They would not be able to help with any funding to this project but advised that we do offer tax abatements to projects over a certain dollar amount which would help with some of the extended costs. In regard to Drainage District-59 a proposal from Bear Creek Archeology for Phase I Cultural Resources Investigation was given to the members of the Council. This survey is needed to be in compliance with the CDBG program for the funding that is needed for the project. The area to be surveyed will be the approximate 4 acres on the North side of Early (Future Retention Pond location). If agreed by council, they will conduct fieldwork as soon as weather conditions allow. A motion was made by Councilor Langner and seconded by Councilor Schmitt to proceed with this proposal as it is needed for the funding availability. On a show of hands. Ayes: Blackman, Schmitt, Langer. Motion passed. The Basement Rental Contracts and the City Dumpsters were discussed. Committee Members Blackman and Schmitt for the Municipal Building suggested to hold the organizations accountable for cleaning for the use of the basement. It was suggested that organizations pay a deposit of \$50 for a cleaning fee and will be returned once inspection was done by the janitor. It was further suggested that the City have a dumpster placed behind the building to help with nuisance animals rummaging through the daily trash and to help with overflow on some of the town events. Concerns were made on how to keep "others" from utilizing the dumpster out back. The Public Works Superintendent stated they could make a bar and lock the dumpster and have keys made for those who needed it. Council agreed to these changes. Resolution 23-01 Setting the Salaries for Appointed Officers and Employees of the City of Early for the Year 2023 and backdate the pay to January 1st, 2023, was offered by Councilor Langner and seconded by Councilor Blackman. On a roll call vote. Ayes: Blackman, Schmitt, Langner. Whereupon the mayor declared said resolution duly adopted. Resolution 23-02 Setting the Date and Time for Regular Monthly Meetings to First Tuesday of each month at 6:00 PM was offered by Councilor Langner and seconded by Schmitt. On a roll call vote. Ayes: Blackman, Schmitt, Langner. Whereupon the mayor declared said resolution duly adopted. Resolution 23-03 Directing the Clerk to Publish Notice of Hearing on the Adoption of the Proposed "Code of Ordinances of the City of Early, IA" was offered by Councilor Blackman and seconded by Langner. On a roll call vote. Ayes: Blackman, Schmitt, Langner. Whereupon the mayor declared said resolution duly adopted. A motion was made by Councilor Blackman and seconded by Councilor Schmitt to set a Public Hearing date of February 7th, 2023, for the Property Tax Levy FY2023-2024. On a show of hands. Ayes: Blackman, Schmitt, Langner. Motion passed. 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. A letter will be sent to St. Mary's Church in regard to the metered services. The Library Director Kristine Luy and the City Clerk Lexi Bainbridge had requested funds from the Sac County Endowment Program to help with building repairs to the Municipal Building. The City/Library was awarded a match of \$18,710.00. This grant will help with repairing all rotting opening to the building, new windows/doors and hopefully close all access points for insect and water damages. Kris Alesch, Director of Public Works presented his monthly report. A motion was made by Councilor Schmitt and seconded by Councilor Langner to close the meeting at 9:41 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

Early Crossroads Days JULY 15, 2023

**ALL DAY**- Softball Tourney- Dana Morris 712-346-8918  
**10AM**- BIG PARADE Registration @ 830AM Abu Bekr  
Rat Patrol - Ridge View Middle School line up  
**11AM- 1PM** Noon Meal- Shelter House- (Friends of the Library)  
**11AM- 1PM** Hayrides & Special K's Balloon Artist- Shelter House- (Friends of the Library)  
**11AM-4PM** Bingo- City Hall Basement (Schaller Crestland Rec)  
**12:30PM** Kid's Water Fights (Early Fire)  
**2PM** Water fights- (Early Fire)  
**5PM - 7PM** Evening Meal - City Hall Basement (Early FOCUS)  
**5PM** Cow Pie Bingo- Winner Wait & Watch- (Early Fire)  
**8PM-12AM**- Beer Garden (Merton V Hair Legion)  
Entertainment: Cotton Creek Entertainment DJ

Registration Forms found at [www.earlyia.com](http://www.earlyia.com) under Community & Events/ Early Crossroad Days

We are still needing Donations to help fund our annual events. Donations 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 Cornbelt Telephone Company to discuss their interest in running fiber optics to Early. With the Council's interest is seeing something like this for the community, Cornbelt will set up a community meeting sometime in the next two months. This meeting will be to answer questions and to gauge citizens' interest in having high speed internet, cable TV and phone service in Early. This would not be a cheap undertaking for them to bring fiber optics to Early. Cornbelt is a locally-owned company out of Wall Lake. You can look them up on the internet at [www.cornbelttelephone.com](http://www.cornbelttelephone.com).

This council meeting was also the annual meeting with Township Trustees concerning the operations of the fire department.

A resolution was passed setting wages for City employees for the year. A resolution was passed changing the start time for City Council meetings. Council meeting will be starting at 6:00 PM starting in February.

Prior to the February Council Meeting there will be a hearing on the adoption of the revised Code of Ordinances and then a hearing on the property tax levy for fiscal year 23-24.

The big news is the award of a Sac County Endowment Grant to help put in new windows and doors on the Municipal Building. It is hoped that getting these repairs made will help to eliminate the wasp problem that has been occurring in the library and the city clerk's office and to improve the integrity of the building.

## *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.

**NO ATV REGISTRATIONS**



**!!!ATTENTION!!!**

**CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE! THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SUBMITTED PHOTOS AND UPDATED INFORMATION. IF YOU WISH TO HAVE YOUR PHOTOS FEATURED ON OUR PAGE OR WOULD LIKE YOUR BUSINESS ADDED AT NO CHARGE PLEASE REACH OUT.**

## **Early Public Library**

### Events

Story Time- Every Wednesday at 10AM (recommended for ages 0-6)  
(Sac County Naturalist visiting story time on January 11th)  
Koffee Klatch- Every 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month  
January 24th at 9:30AM

### Meetings

Friends of the Library Meeting- January 10th @ 9AM  
Board Meeting- Moved to January 26th @6PM

### Friends of the Library

Daddy Daughter Dance- February 11, 2023 6-8PM  
Register

### Announcements

If you're ever unable to not make it into the library during normal business hours, please reach out by phone 712-273-5334 or by email [earlylibrary@gmail.com](mailto:earlylibrary@gmail.com) and we will make arrangements to help get you a book or whatever else you may need.

**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!**