

April 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 Houston, Clerk

Kris Alesch, D.P.W. Super.

Keith Horan, Fire Chief

Fire Meeting - 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday

### Library Board

- Corey 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

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

Phone: 712-273-5283  
Fax: 712-273-5334  
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 Public Hearing was held at 6:00 PM on the 4th day of April 2023 in the council chambers at which time any citizen of Early, Iowa or any other person having interest in the proposed fiscal year 2023-2024 budget year as published in the Chronicle on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023, may appear, and be heard for or against the adoption of the proposed FY 2023-2024 Budget or any part thereof. No residents or taxpayers were for or against said budget. The hearing was closed at 6:01. A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Early, Iowa was held on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of April 2023. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Sharon Ann Irwin called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM with roll call as follows: Present: Becky Blackman, Summer Schmitt, Tim Langner, Bill Cougill, Brian Pickhinke. A motion was made by Councilor Schmitt and seconded by Councilor Pickhinke to approve the consent agenda including agenda, minutes, bills for payment. On show of hands: Ayes: Blackman, Schmitt, Langner, Cougill, Pickhinke. Motion passed. Citizen Input- Boyd Zimmer (not present) had recently come to the clerk asking who was responsible for his dumpster, as it was in need of repairs and was provided to the business by the City long ago. After further investigation it was concluded that the dumpster was purchased from the City for the businesses in town at that time. It is up to the owner of the dumpster to maintain it. Citizen Input- Brian Pickhinke received a phone call in regard to the Sacred Heart Shrine billing that they had received this past month. The bill was in regard to a past due bill dating back several years that the current clerk and current PW Superintendent had found. A motion was made by Councilor Cougill and seconded by Councilor Schmitt to charge from 2017 at inside limit rates or they can choose to bill for 3 years at outside city limit rates. (Rates were determined by what was charged for that time period.) On a show of hands. Ayes: Blackman, Schmitt, Langner, Cougill. Nays: None. Abstain: Pickhinke. Motion passed. Citizen Input- Brian Pickhinke would like to update the Council on RAGBRAI. The City clerk went to the official meeting held in Des Moines and presented to the council points from her notes some ideas of what could make us successful this year. The Fire Chief was asked by the Mayor if they wanted to fundraise for this event to help with the costs of new gear. Keith advised he would talk to the EFD at the next meeting but guessed that they will say "No" being part of this event. Sheriff McClure stated that they just need to know the times of when they arrive and when they depart. Times will be determined once RAGBRAI crew comes through in June. Ordinance 330 – Amending Section 5.34 in the Code of Ordinances of the City of Early and entitled "RAGBRAI-Miscellaneous Permits" 1<sup>st</sup> reading was offered by Councilor Blackman and seconded by Councilor Langner. On a roll call vote. Ayes: Blackman, Schmitt, Langner, Cougill, Pickhinke. A motion was made by Councilor Pickhinke and seconded by Councilor Langner to wave 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> final reading. On a show of hands. Ayes: Blackman, Schmitt, Langner, Cougill, Pickhinke. Whereupon the Mayor declared said ordinance duly adopted. A copy of said ordinance is attached hereto and by reference made a part thereof. Resolution 23-06 a resolution adopting the budget for FY 2023-2024 as published in the Chronicle March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 was offered by Councilor Pickhinke and seconded by Councilor Schmitt. On a roll call vote. Ayes: Blackman, Schmitt, Langner, Cougill, Pickhinke. Whereupon the mayor declared said resolution duly adopted. A motion was made by Councilor Cougill and seconded by Councilor Pickhinke to set the date for FY 2022-2023 budget amendment for May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023. On a show of hands. Ayes: Blackman, Schmitt, Langner, Cougill, Pickhinke. Motion passed. John T. Jones Construction Company submitted a change order to Bolton & Menk for the council's approval to extend the current completion date another 150 days, which would push the project back until sometime November 2023. The reason for extension is determined to be delays in equipment delivery related to global supply chain issues beyond the contractor's control. The council had already given a 95-day extension that will be ending in June 2023 prior to this request. The council tabled this order. Another issue had come to the table in regard to the new pumps not being able to pass the efficiency testing that was set within the contract but asked the City Attorney to send a letter to the Engineers and contractors about this issue as well. City Attorney was present. Discussed the details for the "Motel Property." He went down to the courthouse and stated there is roughly \$20k worth of assessments on the property, most of them are from Early when they tore down the building and misc. mowing. The Board of Supervisors will have to meet to see if they will want to get rid of the assessment fees in order for the City to obtain the property. It seemed there would be no issues for this to be approved. The City Clerk addressed the Council that the City had been awarded the Trees Please Grant from MidAmerican Co. for \$1,000 and the grant from Paint Iowa Beautiful Grant with Dimond Vogel for 8 gallons of paint. The plan is to plant trees along the ballfield or Lion's Cub Park and some out at the cemetery to help with ABD. The Paint Iowa Beautiful grant will be used for the Municipal Building main areas [after updates] and for the Shelter House. Sharon Irwin, Mayor updated the Council with the DD-59 project. Currently the district will potentially need temporary easements from homeowners along the swale path. The City Attorney will write an agreement for each property owner involved. Another portion of the project is the concern about the 2<sup>nd</sup> street bridge, estimates are best guess \$60-90k that would not be covered by the district. The City will take these numbers to the Bonding Attorney. Ken McClure was present. A few notes from his presentation, the County budget is not officially approved at this time but if approved as is Early law enforcement contract will be roughly \$32,500 this upcoming fiscal year. They had gone to the Board of Supervisors, and they are in the starting works of constructing a new jail facility. A bond vote will possibly be held come September 2024. The cost of the project is assumed to be around \$7-10million. He has updated with the Radio Project as well and things are still progressing, but they are also having some issues with products not being able to get in a timely fashion. Kris Alesch, Director of Public Works presented his monthly report. The City Sweeper is still down and has been working on getting it up and running before spring. The Lagoons are full, they have 2 cells left until needing to discharge we are hoping to hold off until May for release. We had more softener issues come up and had new parts put on to buy us some time until the new plant becomes live. We have talked previously about litigation, if more problems arise we will begin charging the contractor for the added costs. Kris addressed the council about a resident intentionally lighting the burn pile on fire and wants to remind them that it is a criminal offense if anyone other than City Officials light the brush pile, or dispose of items that are not meant to be taken or burned. Since then, the resident received a warning tag on their door for this violation. While looking at the City Park Kris noticed that the timbers are rotten, these will be replaced before RAGBRAI comes thru, he was also directed to see how many it will take to replace at the South City Sign as this will be a main feature during RAGBRAI as well. The last thing to note are the wells. The East well has not shown any recovery while the South well has seen some improvement but are still extremely low. A reminder that we are in a Water Watch to date. A motion was made by Councilor Cougill and seconded by Councilor Langner to close the meeting at 8:30 PM. Meeting closed.

Sharon Ann Irwin, Mayor  
Lexi Houston, City Clerk

## 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'z 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

If you haven't heard, RAGBRAI 50 will be coming through Early on Monday, July 24<sup>th</sup>. We will be a breakfast community. We can use all the volunteer help we can get. They are to be out of town by noon on that Monday. This time we are going to keep all the activities along the highway going through town. There are many details to work out. There has been a change in the recycling of plastics.

Right now only number 1 and number 2 plastics can be recycled. **Please** check the triangle on the bottom of plastics to verify what number a given container is. I do know that milk jugs and water bottles are a 1 or 2. Our City Clerk has gotten two grants for the City. One is from MidAmerican for the acquisition of trees for the City through the Trees Please program. The other grant is for paint in the Keep Iowa Beautiful through Diamond Vogel.

If you haven't noticed, lettering is now on the front of the new water treatment building on the highway. Now people will know what that building actually is. Because of supply chain issues, it is still going to be a while before the construction is complete and the plant is on line.

**Most importantly** Early is still on a Water Watch. Our wells have made little or no recovery.

All customers of the municipal water service are encouraged to limit or curtail all nonessential uses of water in order to conserve precious water resources during this time.

No watering of lawns, shrubs or gardens between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.

No water should be used to fill private swimming pools or children's wading pools.

No water used to wash parking lots, driveways, sidewalks or building exteriors.

## *City Clerk's Office*

CLEAN UP DAY SCHEDULED FOR MAY 17TH, 2023 DURING NORMAL GARBAGE/ RECYCLE PICKUP. PLEASE HAVE ALL ITEMS OUT BY 7:00 AM.

Reminder separate into three piles. METAL, WOOD, RUBBISH/ (RECYCLING)

NO appliances will be picked up this includes but not limited to TV's, microwaves, fridges, washer/dryers, etc.

ALL wood material can not have any nails, or be of construction wood, it will not be picked up by City Officials.

ALL rubbish must be placed in bags when able. NO throw, Tires, Electronics, Household Cleaners, Lead Base paint

**If you have questions on what you can/ cannot throw away please call City Hall or the Sac Co Waste Agency.**

## **Early Public Library**

### Events

Story Time- Every Wed. at 10:00AM (recommended for ages 0-6)

After School Program- Every Wed. at 4:15PM (elementary age)

Koffee Klatch- Every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 9:30AM

### Meetings

Friends of the Library Meeting- April 11th at 9:00AM

Board Meeting- April 25th at 6:00PM

Book Club Meeting- April 29th at 10:00AM

### Announcements

Reminder to sign up for City Wide Garage Sales by Friday April 28th. You can sign up at the Early Public Library. City Wide Garage Sales will be Saturday May 13th from 8AM-12PM.

**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! Recipes are due by May 1st.**