

May 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

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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 Public Hearing was held at 6:00 PM on the 2nd day of May 2023 in the council chambers at which time any citizen of Early, Iowa or any other person having interest in the proposed fiscal year 2022-2023 budget amendment as published in the Chronicle on April 20th, 2023, may appear, and be heard for or against the adoption of the proposed FY 2022-2023 Budget Amendment 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 2nd day of May 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, Bill Cougill, Brian Pickhinke. 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, Casey's General Store Tobacco License, Mileage reimbursement. On show of hands: Ayes: Blackman, Schmitt, Cougill, Pickhinke. Motion passed. Resolution 23-07 a resolution adopting the budget amendment for FY 2022-2023 as published in the Chronicle April 20th, 2023 was offered by Councilor Pickhinke and seconded by Councilor Schmitt. On a roll call vote. Ayes: Blackman, Schmitt, Cougill, Pickhinke. Absent: Langner. Whereupon the mayor declared said resolution duly adopted. A motion was made by Councilor Pickhinke and seconded by Councilor Blackman to accept the change order 2 to extend the completion date by 150 days. On a roll call vote. Ayes: Blackman, Schmitt, Cougill, Pickhinke. Absent: Langner. Motion passed. The manufacturer of the new water treatment pumps had come back with an offer to accept the current pumps as is for the efficiency rate but in return will give 20 years of estimated cost for electric usage along with the warranty that stays in place. A motion was made by Councilor Cougill and seconded by Councilor Pickhinke to accept this offer on conditions that the manufacturer submit payment in one lump sum, that the warranty stays the same, they add an addition \$1,500 (inconvenience fee) for the 20-year energy proposal. On a show of hands. Ayes: Blackman, Schmitt, Cougill, Pickhinke. Absent: Langner. Motion passed. Spencer Pech with ISG had sent an email in regard to the 2nd street culvert in correlation with the DD-59 project. He recommended that the council look at a precast reinforced concrete box (10'x3') or an aluminum box structure (13'x3'). The estimated bid cost with the quoted material cost for the precast reinforced concrete box is \$90-\$125k. The benefits of this would be pre-engineered, long-term solution, simple and well known by local contractors. Some considerations for this concrete box would be "least hydraulic capacity" and we would have to pave the road on top of the box. The estimated bid cost with material on the aluminum structure would be at \$85-\$120k. The benefits of this would also be pre-engineered, good hydraulic capacity, low rise structure and simple installation. Considerations for this structure would be that some additional engineering design is required, would also have to reinforce and pave the road above the structure also likely will have a shorter life cycle. Spencer went on to say that if we bid for both of these designs there would be some additional engineering cost, but the City would guarantee that we would get the most economical option. B. Pickhinke left the meeting at 6:46 PM. City Attorney was not present. A motion was made by Councilor Cougill and seconded by Councilor Blackman to approve the following building permit(s) with the approval of the Planning and Zoning Committee: Permit 807-Mark Berry and permit 809-Mike Brabec. On a show of hands. Ayes: Blackman, Schmitt, Cougill. Absent: Langner, Pickhinke. Motion passed. Permit 808-Adam Sollars was not approved until an updated application is submitted and brought back to the Planning and Zoning Committee for reconsideration. Citizen Input- Last year it was approved to add an A/C unit at the shelter house with finding a unit that would be around \$500. Pricing around it was deemed this limit cannot be reached. A recommendation to raise the limit to accommodate costs would be beneficial. A motion was made by Councilor Blackman and seconded by Councilor Schmitt to approve an increase in cost to purchase an A/C unit. On a show of hands. Ayes: Blackman, Schmitt, Cougill, Absent: Langner, Pickhinke. Motion passed. Citizen Input- Dwight and Lorri Davis had presented to the Council in regard to a sewer backup in their line on Tennis Court Road and asked for reimbursement from the City as the line was plugged underneath Tennis Court Road. After discussion it was determined that the City does not own the roadway and the group of houses pool into a sewage pit and then run to the City main. His particular line runs into what was thought to be the neighbor's line at a "T" connection and then runs to the sewage pit. The council made recommendations for the homeowners to possibly reconstruct the existing line for easier flow at said connection or to run a new line hooked up to the City Main. The reimbursement was denied All properties are to maintain their own lines up to the City Main as per Ordinance 96.09 Citizen Input- It came to the attention that the Handicap chair at the Municipal Building may not be suitable for those who are overweight and that it limits those wanting to utilize the upstairs part of the building. The Council discussed and questioned how old the current chair was and if parts were still readily available. As far as the clerk knew this particular model is no longer in service and parts are hard to find. The council agreed to have the clerk look for quotes on a new chairlift or equivalent and possible grants that could help cover costs. Mayor Sharon Irwin addressed the council in regard to Early's representative for Sac County Economic Tourism and Development (SETD) Our current representative is Chris Mason and from what she understands has not been in attendance for any meetings and no longer lives in the area. She recommends the council seek a new representative for Early that will be more proactive in supporting our community. The Council had given a few names for the City Clerk to call and see if these individuals would be interested in the position. Kris Alesch, Director of Public Works presented his monthly report. The City Sweeper is finally running and will start operating soon. There are concerns that the Lagoon/ Brush Pile Site is being misused by not only residents but also by out-of-town people. The Council discussed and the Lagoon/ Brush Pile Site will now be open during specific time frames and closed the remaining time unless other arrangements are made with the City Clerk and Public Works. New Hours will be Weekdays 7AM-3:00 PM and Weekends 7AM- 5:00PM.

A motion was made by Councilor Cougill and seconded by Councilor Blackman to close the meeting at 8:08 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

A budget amendment for the current fiscal year was approved in the council meeting. This was needed to reflect the costs of the new water treatment plant, the grant that the fire department received, and the grant that was received for the replacement of windows and doors in the Municipal Building.

Change order 2 for the water treatment project was approved after some explanations from the engineers. This will extend the completion date for the project another 150 days. This is due to supply chain issues for some of the subcontractors. Also discussed the efficiency problem with the high pressure pumps. A tentative agreement with the manufacture of those pumps is getting close.

Because of continued abuse of the open lagoon area, the lagoon gates will only be open from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays. It will be open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. This privilege is for Early residents ONLY!

There is still a need for volunteers to help with the upcoming Crossroads Day on July 15th and for RAGBRAI on the morning of July 24th. In conjunction with both of those, let's start cleaning up and sprucing up our community!

## *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) Sac County Naturalist May 10th

After School Program- Every Wed. at 4:15PM (elementary age) \*Ends May 24th for the Summer

Koffee Klatch- Every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 9:30AM (May 2nd & May 16th)

### Meetings

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

Board Meeting- May 23rd at 6:00PM

Book Club Meeting- May 30th at 10:00AM (note this is not the last Saturday of the month)

### Announcements

The library will be closed in observance of Memorial Day Saturday, May 27th.

The library will switch to summer hours beginning Tuesday, May 30th until Friday, August 18th.

A reminder of our summer hours:

Tuesdays: 9:00am-11:00am, 1:00pm-6:00pm

Wednesdays: 9:00am-2:00pm

Thursdays: 9:00am-2:00pm

Fridays: 9:00am-2:00pm

Saturdays: 9:00am-11:00am

Closed Sundays and Mondays

**Reminder: City Wide Garage Sales will be Saturday, May 13th from 8AM-12PM.**