

June 2023

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 Houston, Clerk
Kris Alesch, D.P.W. Super.

Keith Horan, Fire Chief
Fire Meeting - 2nd Wednesday

Library Board

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

City of Early POP. 587

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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

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Early, Iowa was held on the 6th day of June 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 Cougill to approve the consent agenda including agenda, minutes, bills for payment, Alcohol Liquor License- Wine on Wheels and American Legion. On show of hands: Ayes: Blackman, Schmitt, Cougill, Pickhinke. Motion passed. Citizen Input- Robert Winchester was present to discuss speeding along South Ave west of town. Further discussion was made to possibly move the existing signs back to a proper distance and to either place a flashing Stop Sign or traffic LED radar sign at the 25MPH marker. Sheriff McClure stated the County has been looking to purchase a speed trailer for studying traffic. He also suggested talking with County Engineer as he and council are unaware who the signage belongs to. The City Clerk will talk with the County Engineer to determine what are next steps should be. Citizen Input- Stuart Sanders had a written request for review of the Region XII letter he had received. He was also present to the council. Items were discussed for the Hardware store and an extension was granted for the "junk items" to be picked up prior to July 24th, 2023. Another issue in the letter was a rear shed on the back of the property that needed the roof to be repaired. Stuart had mentioned once he had gone through the shed of its contents the building would be coming down. The council stated in the meantime to place a plywood board over the holes to avoid unwanted pests going into the building until then. Stuart will be in contact with the City for further progress. Citizen Input- Jake Belcher was present without a written request for review of the Region XII letter. The council heard his concerns about the letter and what he had done to improve the condition of the property. From hearing what he told the council everything seemed to be fine as he described it to be. He was informed that Region XII would still be around to canvas the town again on the date of the letters. Citizen Input- Karen Grebner was present to discuss the stray cats in town. She had asked the council when they were going to be trapping and euthanizing the strays, so she had enough time to trap and transport the strays to a safer place. The Council stated there has been no date set currently for trapping/euthanizing. A motion was made by Councilor Cougill and seconded by Councilor Blackman to approve the following building permit: Permit 810- Raymond Musselman. On a show of hands. Ayes: Blackman, Schmitt, Cougill, Pickhinke. Motion passed. Two properties were brought up asking if the Clerk had received a building permit or revised for the structure(s). The city has not received any for these constructed buildings. The council advised the city Attorney to send the residents letters for a violation of the City Code. The council was updated on the DD-59 Storm Water Project. The City Attorney had only received two easements back out of the six. Region XII is hopeful that the release of CDBG funding will be around the first part of July. This will kick the bidding process in motion and start the purchase agreement for the retention pond. The council and public are reminded that the next regular council meeting will be moved to Thursday July 6th, 2023, in observance of the holiday. City Attorney was present. The transfer of the motel property is still in motion, he has to go to the Treasurer's Office to file some paperwork with them and a few other items and the City should be granted control of the properties. Sheriff Ken McClure was present. He updated the council on the Radio project and that it is moving along, and the goal is to have it operable for RAGBRAI. The City Clerk brought up the idea of starting a social media site for the City to help residents keep updated with city related items and more. It was also presented a social media site policy be put in place for all of the City related social media sites, as well as an archival tool to help with recorded keeping in following the Iowa Open Records Act. Council tabled item until clerk comes back with different quotes on the archival tools to use. Mayor Sharon Irwin addressed the council in regard to Early's representative for Sac County Economic Tourism and Development (SETD). There hasn't been a response for the position thus far. Council member Becky Blackman stated that she would be the rep if we were unable to find someone else. The council is to bring back some names in the meantime for the search. Kris Alesch, Director of Public Works presented his monthly report. A motion was made by Councilor Pickhinke to adjourn the meeting but was disrupted by resident Elaine Gertes as she was not present during the Citizen Input portion of the meeting. She asked the council why we are not doing anything with the house on [108] 3rd Street that has been vacated for 15 years and they have raccoons and opossums in the area. The council's response was that the house is currently in the court system, and we are as far as we can go at this point in time. She also had stated that with it being vacated that there is a rodent issue along with stray feral cats running through the area and is a hazard for the children in the neighborhood. The council responded again that their hands are currently tied in this matter as everything is in the court system. The Mayor stated there was a motion in place by Councilor Pickhinke it was then seconded by Councilor Blackman to close the meeting at 7:55 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 FO-
CUS)

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 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

The City is going to be in contact with the County Engineer to discuss a traffic speedometer and/or the possibility of repositioning the speed signs coming into Early from the west on D27. The regular monthly city council meeting will be held on Thursday, July 6th due to the 4th of July falling on the regular council meeting night. If anyone would be interested in representing the Early Community on the Sac Economic and Tourism Department Board, please let City Clerk Lexi Houston know. You don't have to live within the city limits to represent the community on this board. The picnic table at Lions' Park is falling apart. It was decided to move the picnic table from the Municipal Building up to Lions' Park. With all the ash trees that are dying, if you are having a tree removed from your property, please have a skid loader move around on your property and not on the streets. This is really messing up our streets more than they already are. As a reminder that our Water Conservation is currently at a Water Watch. Our levels have not improved, and it is currently being considered to increase our conservation to a Water Warning Tier 1 possibly a Tier 2. Please limit your water usage. 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! All RAGBRAI activities this year are going to be in or by the City Park on the highway. For RAGBRAI, we will need volunteers to help set up the park on Sunday afternoon/maybe evening. We will need volunteers on Monday morning. We have been told to anticipate riders to start showing up by 5:30 a.m. There are 28,000 riders currently registered for this year's 50th ride. We also are in need of people to bake cinnamon rolls on Sunday afternoon and deliver them to the park shelter house between 4-6 PM. If you are willing to bake two dozen rolls, please let one of the Friends of Library or the librarian know. All you have to do is let them thaw and bake them.

RAGBRAI IS COMING!!!

**The Early RAGBRAI Committee is in
search of volunteers!**

**Volunteers are needed to work on July
23rd and July 24th.**

**July 23rd volunteers will help with setup
and will bake Cinnamon Rolls.**

July 24th volunteers will help with distri-

**bution of the rolls and perk coffee as well
as tear down.**

**If you would like to help, please contact
Robyn Padgett 712-660-9553
Tonye Merkwon 712-299-0378
Brian Pickhinke 712-660-1388**

**Proceeds will go towards the Friends of
the Library and the Churches of Early.**

Early Public Library

Events

Story Time- Every Wed. at 10:00AM (recommended for ages
0-6) Sac County Naturalist June 21st

Koffee Klatch- Every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at
9:30AM (June 6th & June 20th)

Meetings

Friends of the Library Meeting- June 13th at 9:00AM

Board Meeting- June 27th at 6:00PM

Book Club Meeting- June 24th at 10:00AM

Announcements

The library will be closed in observance of Juneteenth Sat
June 17th

The library is on Summer hours until Friday, August 18th.

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

SUMMER READING EVENTS

Kick off the Summer Party- June 1st @ 1PM

Toby Kid funny Farm- June 8th @ 1PM

Dance Camp with Brookelynn- June 15th @ 1PM

Sac County Naturalist- June 21st @ 10AM

Super Hero Party- June 29th at 1PM