

August 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 regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Early, Iowa was held on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of August 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: Bill Cougill, Brian Pickhinke, Tim Langner, Becky Blackman. Absent: Summer Schmitt. A motion was made by Councilor Langner and seconded by Councilor Blackman to approve the consent agenda including agenda, minutes, bills for payment, and Casey's Liquor License. On show of hands: Ayes: Cougill, Pickhinke, Langner, Blackman. Motion passed.

Citizen Input- Manuel Lopez had a written request for review of the City Attorney/ Region XII letter(s) he had received. He was not present. He had requested an extension of time for the 413 Walnut Street home as they are completely remodeling the home. They have gutted the inside of the home and will complete that before moving forward with the outside. As of right now they are devoting their time to opening the restaurant and are hoping to move onto the home at the beginning of 2024. The Council granted him this extension but advised that he needs to board/plexiglass the windows that are out to make it look presentable.

Citizen Input- Barb Tielbur had a written request for review of the City Attorney/ Region XII letter(s) she had received. She was not present. She had requested an extension of time for the miscellaneous items around her garage that need to be dealt with. The Council granted her an extension of October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, to get the remaining items taken care of.

Permit 814- Saltsman, was discussed and tabled at this time due to the erection of the building and no approval by the Planning and Zoning Committee. A motion was made by Councilor Pickhinke and seconded by Councilor Cougill to hire Krueger Surveying for the properties around the Fire Station (as it is questioned that the building is built onto City Property). On a show of hands. Ayes: Cougill, Pickhinke, Blackman. Nays: Langner. Motion passed.

The council was updated on the DD-59 Storm Water Project, we had received a copy of the geotechnical engineering report performed by Certified Testing Services, Inc for the W 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Culvert Replacement. The City has received more easements and is waiting on one easement to complete and move forward with the next steps of the project.

The City Attorney was not present, but the City Clerk had updates for the Council.

The city attorney had reviewed the social media archival tools and made suggestion that the City would not have to accept these proposals and may proceed with the site as agreed upon. A motion was made by Councilor Blackman and seconded by Councilor Langner to have a City Facebook page but on the condition that the commenting is turned off unless a survey or questioner was provided the page is to be informational only. On a show of hands. Ayes: Cougill, Pickhinke, Langner, Blackman. Motion passed.

Nuisance Abatement letters were sent out by the attorney's office, but some discrepancies came up to wrong property locations. These properties will be addressed, and proper notification will be sent out to the originating owners.

The motel property is still not finalized.

The City Clerk addressed the council to consider purchasing new tables (11 total) for the basement and replacing the existing rectangle tables. Concerns were made that the tables are not easily moved by the older generation as they are very heavy, and some are falling apart and can cause injuries as the metal is breaking. The Clerk stated that the heavy-duty foldable plastic tables that the Library has are around \$55 for a 6ft table. The Council stated that they would want 8ft tables non-folding if they were to purchase more. A quick search came up with prices ranging around the \$200 dollar mark. Council stated that the City Clerk should try and search for grants to make this happen or ask for possible donations from residents of Early.

The Clerk also asked the council what grants the City should apply for as some grants require 50% to match, others are more extensive than that. She requested that they give her some guidelines on what they would like to see. The council started to apply for them all as she sees fit for the community. She brought up the South City Sign as an example that we needed to fix structurally as it is falling apart or additional City Park equipment for something new to attract the young families coming into the community. It was discussed to try for the Sac County Endowment grant for the South Sign and see what we can do from there.

Mayor Sharon Irwin addressed the council in regard to Early's Fireworks Ordinance. The city clerk came back with a listing of surrounding towns and their regulations on discharging fireworks. It was also mentioned that we had just updated our Ordinances and that this would be an additional cost to change and update the times. The council agreed to keep the Ordinance as is for the time being.

Kris Alesch, Director of Public Works presented his monthly report. Kris had brought up that the water treatment plant is starting to move forward with switching to the new system. This brought up the topic of training a dependable backup to help with operations if he were ever gone on vacation or sick leave. The question was to either bring in someone that would only be able to operate the water system or train internally such as one of our existing part-time guys. This item was tabled until the next meeting or when the system is up and operable. Kris mentioned that our 3-yr lead/copper sampling is due and he will draw 10 samples for that. The Lagoons have lost levels and are reaching the "sludge stage" meaning that they may start to stink if we do not get precipitation. Kris also brought up street repairs, as we all know this is the number one issue that we hear the most. He suggests that we get Midwest Coating (the contractor that did our streets in 2021) to come in and get a proposal for all the streets and decide by the amount of work/cost to see which ones are in poor condition and start with those. Funding being the City's number one issue with this, this is not easy to accomplish but it is understood that the city needs to start doing little bits at a time. A motion was made by Councilor Pickhinke seconded by Councilor Cougill to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 PM. Meeting closed.

Sharon Ann Irwin, Mayor

Lexi Houston, City Clerk

**EARLY RAGBRAI 2023 REPORT**

INCOME		EXPENSES	
5,000.00	RAGBRAI	100.00	IDPH LIC.
3,900.00	VENDORS	1,737.98	FOOD PRIDE
8,036.06	SALES 7/24	150.00	EARLY 4-H CLEAN UP
540.00	WATER SALES		
60.00	DONATIONS	3120.00	BOJI SANITATION
<u>250.00</u>	<u>LEGION DON.</u>	94.26	T. MERKWAN
17,786.06	TOTAL REVENUE	822.30	RUDD SANITATION
		120.00	LISA ALESCH, CLAM SHELLS
		<u>6,144.54</u>	TOTAL EXPENSE
17,786.06	TOTAL REVENUE	Lisa Alesch, Kari Franken, Kari Pickhinke, Methodist Church and Sacred Heart Church donated some supplies for the day.	
<u>-6,144.54</u>	TOTAL EXPENSE	Thank you to Landus Cooperative & the National Guard for their support.	
11,641.52			
<u>-4,500.00</u>	TO 3 Local Churches		
7,141.52			
<u>-7,141.52</u>	To Friends of the Library		
0.00			

**MAYOR'S NOTES**

First of all, I want to thank everyone who helped with and participated with Crossroads Day this year. It was a very nice day and celebration.

Second, I want to thank everyone who had anything to do with helping to host RAGBRAI 50 on Monday morning. It was quite a mass of humanity that descended on Early on July 24th. It went much better than two years ago. I won't mention any names because I don't want to leave anyone out that had anything to do with this undertaking, whether you were on the planning committee, baked cinnamon rolls, helped to finish them, worked on Monday morning, helped with setup or clean-up, you are greatly appreciated! It was read on Facebook that Early was one of the best small communities that hosted during the week. Well done, Early and surrounding area!

Good NEWS! We are getting close to having the new water treatment plant finally completed!

We are officially having Corn Belt Telephone coming into Early with Fiber Optics!

If you are considering running for a city office, nominations papers can be taken out starting on Monday, August 28th and they must be in the City Clerk's hands by Thursday, September 21st.

***City Clerk's Office***

**We are currently in a Water Warning Tier 1- please limit water usage. If you would like to see a full report of what you can and cannot use please see flyers at City Hall, Post Office, Bank or on our website at [earlyia.com](http://earlyia.com) and look for Important Notices on the Home Screen. If you have any concerns or questions please reach out to a council member or public employee.**

**A reminder that City Hall will be closed Sept 1- Sept 5th for the holiday and our**

**Council meeting has been moved to Sept 12th @ 6pm.**

**Early Public Library**

**Year Round Scheduled Events**

- Story Time- Every Wed. at 10:00AM (recommended for ages 0-6)
- Koffee Klatch- Every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 9:30AM (August 1st & August 15th)

**Meetings**

- Friends of the Library Meeting- Aug 8th at 9:00AM
- Board Meeting- August 22nd at 6:00PM
- Book Club Meeting- August 26th at 10:00AM

**Announcements**

- Tuesdays: 9:00am-11:00am, 12:30am-4:30pm
- Wednesdays: 9:00am-11:00am, 12:30pm-6:00pm
- Thursdays: 12:30pm-4:30pm
- Fridays: 12:30pm-4:30pm
- Saturdays: 10:00am-12:00pm
- Closed Sundays and Mondays
- The library is on our schedule for summer hours until Friday, August 18th.
- The library will begin our regular scheduled hours on Tuesday, August 22nd.

**SUMMER READING EVENTS**

- Painting & Popsicles at the Park- August 3rd at 1:00pm
- Foam Party- August 5th at 1:00pm-3:00pm