

July 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 July 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: Summer Schmitt, Bill Cougill, Brian Pickhinke, Tim Langner. Absent: Becky Blackman. A motion was made by Councilor Pickhinke and seconded by Councilor Cougill to approve the consent agenda including agenda, minutes, bills for payment. On show of hands: Ayes: Schmitt, Cougill, Pickhinke, Langner. Motion passed. Citizen Input- Dwight Davis had a written request for review of the Region XII letter he had received. He was not present. He had recently fired his contractor for the new siding and had just received the siding in May he requested an extension to finish the siding. The Council granted him an extension until the end of the year. Citizen Input- Charles Struchen had a written request for review of the Region XII letter he had received. He was not present. He had requested an extension of time for the metal steel being stacked outside of his building until he finishes his project on the inside. The Council granted him an extension until the end of next year. Citizen Input- Nahshon Platt had a written request for review of the Region XII letter he had received. He was not present. He had requested an extension of time to remove junk items until June 23rd. The Council was made aware that the items in the letter were not removed by this date. The Council denied the request for an extension and informed the City Attorney for proceedings. A motion was made by Councilor Pickhinke and seconded by Councilor Schmitt to approve the following building permit(s): Permit 810- Raymond Musselman. Permit 811- Kris Alesch. Permit 812- Aaron Wallace. Permit 813- Summit Locations. On a show of hands. Ayes: Langner, Schmitt, Cougill, Pickhinke. Motion passed. Region XII had recanvased the area and had a list of properties still in violation. The council agreed to have that list submitted to the City Attorney for further actions to take place. While canvassing the area, they had found new property violators, the council agreed for these properties to be sent a letter for action to clean up the nuisances. A motion was made by Councilor Cougill and seconded by Councilor Langner to approve Change Order #3- Water Treatment Facility for a decrease in contract price of \$14,023.00. On a show of hands. Ayes: Langner, Schmitt, Cougill, Pickhinke. Motion passed. The council was updated on the DD-59 Storm Water Project. The City has received four easements total. The CDBG funding has been released to the City of Early. Resolution 23-07 Approval of Certified Testing Services, INC. for geotechnical Exploration Services for 2nd Street Culvert was offered by Councilor Cougill and seconded by Councilor Schmitt. On a roll call vote. Ayes: Langner, Schmitt, Cougill, Pickhinke. Whereupon the mayor declared said resolution duly adopted. Resolution 23-08 Accepting and Approval Acquisition of Property was offered by Councilor Langner and seconded by Councilor Cougill. On a roll call vote. Ayes: Langner, Schmitt, Cougill, Pickhinke. Whereupon the mayor declared said resolution duly adopted. City Attorney was present. The City has requested sealed proposals for a court order demolition of a house and removal of junk at 110 Cross Street. Two sealed proposals were submitted and opened in front of the Council. The first proposal was submitted by Schmitt Construction denying the project as he is unable to assist due to his workload this year. The second proposal was from Brian Pickhinke Backhoe & Tiling for \$14,600.00 at the earliest start date of August 1st, 2023. A motion was made by Councilor Langner and seconded by Schmitt to accept the proposal of Brian Pickhinke for the \$14,600.00. On a show of hands. Ayes: Langner, Cougill, Schmitt. Abstain: Pickhinke. The City Clerk came back to the table with two quotes for an archival tool for the Social media site for the council's review. The City Attorney was questioning these businesses on whether or not we would actually need their services. The Attorney requested that the City Clerk send him all the information for review. This item was tabled. Mayor Sharon Irwin addressed the council in regard to Early's Fireworks Ordinance and had questions in regard to the timeframe and if the City should decrease the dates and times fireworks can be lit. The council also had input on this as well and requested the City Clerk reach out to other towns in the area to see what the time frame is for this. The Mayor also addressed the council that the Iowa League of Cities has endorsed a group for Homeowner insurance that will help property owners cover costs of water/sewer line breaks and repairs that can be costly for the property and suggested to council the City should endorse it as well. The council was in agreement, more information will be brought forward at the next meeting. Kris Alesch, Director of Public Works presented his monthly report. While checking well levels it has been determined that the City has lost roughly 4ft of water in both our wells since Jan 2023. The Mayor has declared a Water Warning Tier 1 for the City of Early in regard that the wells are being depleted at a serious rate. The Clerk will send out a mass letter to all residents asking to limit water usage as much as possible when utilizing water outside the home. The Clerk asked about Water Fights and the Library Foam Party. The Council agreed that if water could be sourced outside of our limits that it would be allowed to host these events this year. Bill Cougill stated he would reach out to Landus to see if they would be generous enough to sponsor both of these events. The City has planted 5 trees from the MidAmerican Tree Grant, and they are thriving. They also have installed the A/C at the Shelter house and the Clerk and Librarian have done a wonderful job of painting the interior as well. The volleyball net is up, and sand has been added as well as replaced all the timbers around the area. The tennis court net is also up. Last month it was discussed about traffic speeding on South Ave west of town. Since then, we have placed a larger 25MPH sign and the County installed a 35MPH sign and pushed back the 45MPH at a reasonable distance. We have also installed flashing lights on the 25MPH sign and the Stop Sign coming into town. Fire Chief Keith Horan was not present but submitted an email for updates. New ISICS radios have arrived and are installed in the trucks. No word has been heard on training or scheduling for putting these in service. The EFD will be doing a calendar fundraiser this year with the annual donation letter of support. The calendar can include all important dates for the upcoming year. A/C has been installed in the East building and waiting for electrical to be complete. Year to Date there have been 27 calls of service, which has been significantly lower than previous years. A motion was made by Councilor Pickhinke seconded by Councilor Schmitt to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 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 & Water Balloon Targets 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 under Community & Events/ Early Crossroad Days

MAYOR'S NOTES

Flashing lights have been added to a speed sign on D27 (West South Avenue) and to the stop sign at the corner of West South Avenue and Main Street. Speed limits apply not only to the incoming traffic but also to traffic headed west out of town.

Funding has been released for the CDBG grant to build the retention pond and have the drainage district tile replaced. The first step will be for the City to finally actually purchase the land needed for the retention pond.

Volunteers are still needed to help with hosting RAGBRAI on Monday, July 24th. People to bake cinnamon rolls and also to work that morning.

Because of the continued lack of adequate rain and a drop in the static level of both city wells, I have declared Water Warning, Tier I. There has been information posted on Facebook and around the community. No swimming pools, large or small are to be filled, no washing vehicles other than at the carwash, watering of lawns, gardens, flowers, etc. can still be done between 8 P.M. and 8:00 A.M. I have been using water from my dehumidifier to water my plants. Superintendent Alesch will now be checking the wells twice a month and if the static levels continue to drop, the City will probably be forced to go to the next level of water restrictions.

In conjunction with this, the Library will still have their scheduled foam party, but they will be getting water from outside the city and not from the city water supply. Also, the water fights on Crossroads Day will be getting water from outside the city for that.

On another note, in the latter part of August interested citizens can take out papers to run for a municipal office. Nominations papers can be obtained at that time at the City Clerk's Office. The election will be held on November 7th. In Early this year, the mayor position and two council seats currently held by Becky Blackman and Summer Schmitt are up for re-election. I have not spoken with either of them about their position, so do not know if they plan to run for re-election. I do NOT plan to run for re-election as mayor.

City Clerk's Office

A reminder that Utility Rates have increased for Garbage and Sewer on July 1st, 2023 this is at a 3% increase for maintenance/future repairs. Increase for Garbage will be \$20.86 for Inside City and 41.72 for Outside City. Sewer has increased to 21.55 for the first 2,000 gallons and a rate of 10.80 for each 1,000 thereafter.

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 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.

Early Public Library

Year Round Scheduled Events

Story Time- Every Wed. at 10:00AM (recommended for ages 0-6) Sac County Naturalist July 19th

Koffee Klatch- Every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 9:30AM (July 18th)

Meetings

Friends of the Library Meeting- July 6th at 9:00AM

Board Meeting- July 25th at 6:00PM

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

Announcements

The library will be closed July 4th, 8th, 14th and 15th.

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: 10:00am-12:00pm (NOTE TIME CHANGE)

Closed Sundays and Mondays

SUMMER READING EVENTS

Pint Size Polkas - July 6th at 1:00pm

Bloom with the Early Achievers- July 13th at 1:00pm

Sac County Naturalist- July 19th at 10:00am

Painting and Popsicles at the Park- July 27th at 1:00pm

Stop in the library to learn how you can win prizes this summer just by reading! Summer Reading Challenges are available for all age groups, even adults!

Join the Friends of the Library Saturday, July 15th from 11:00am-1:00pm at the Shelter House.

Join us for a Free Will Donation Lunch, Water Balloon Targets, Glitter Tattoos and Face Paintings, Cupcake Walk (Note changes in activities), Tractor Hay Rides, and yard games!