

October 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 Wallace, 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 3rd day of October 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: Brian Pickhinke, Summer Schmitt, Becky Blackman, Bill Cougill Tim Langner. A motion was made by Councilor Pickhinke and seconded by Councilor Schmitt to approve the consent agenda including agenda, minutes, and bills for payment On show of hands: Ayes: Pickhinke, Schmitt, Blackman, Cougill, Langner. Motion passed. Citizen Input- Alivia and her mother Adriane McPhail were present, representing the Early Achievers 4-H Club. Alivia had presented to the council that the 4-H Club would like to purchase and donate an adaptive swing for Lion's Cub Park. An adaptive swing can help with inclusion to those in the area that can not utilize a normal swing. The 4-H Club had talked to Kris Alesch, DPW and asked if the adaptive swing would work where the small children swing set currently is. He believes that the structure will be suitable for this new swing and can replace one of the smaller children's swings easily. A motion was made by Councilor Pickhinke and seconded by Councilor Blackman to accept this donation and allow for the adaptive swing to replace one swing on the small children's swing set. On a show of hands. Ayes: Pickhinke, Schmitt, Blackman, Cougill, Langner. Motion passed. Citizen Input- Lee Wuebker with Corn Belt Telephone Co had updated the council that the groundwork for laying fiber optics was ahead of schedule and they would be in town by the end of the week (10-6). Plans are to start getting conduit into the ground before winter and start laying services this upcoming spring. There will be quite a lot of activity in town and locates going through the works but minimal disruptions should be seen. Mayor Sharon Irwin had mentioned to Lee that Corn Belt will need to reach out to the County for plans and specs with the Drainage District-59 project that there will be a lot of cross construction going on near the drainage ditch. Adam Bisenius, Superintendent for Schaller-Crestland School District was not present for Q&A with the council or public. A motion was made by Councilor Blackman and seconded by Councilor Langner to set the date for trick or treating for October 28th 5:00PM – 8:00PM. On a show of hands. Ayes: Pickhinke, Schmitt, Blackman, Cougill, Langner. Motion passed. The council was updated on the water treatment plant. It was discussed that there was an issue last month that the engineers had the wrong well pump specs and the existing well pumps were too small. It was then on order for larger pumps that could support the system. This error cost was an additional \$32,639.00 along with additional costs of delays. Bolton and Menk Engineering confirmed that this mistake was their doing and will take the existing small well pumps and credit the City \$25,176.70. The difference will be the cost to the City, had we purchased the larger well pumps in the first place. The field order was tabled until the next meeting as it was not available at this time. Resolution 23-10 Accepting and Approving Acquisition of Property was offered by Councilor Pickhinke and seconded by Langner. On a roll call vote. Ayes: Pickhinke, Schmitt, Blackman, Cougill, Langner. Whereupon the mayor declared said resolution duly adopted. The City Attorney was not present. It was discussed to the council that there are a few vacant properties in Early and that the City should acquire these vacancies to essentially reestablish them on tax roll. The properties that were discussed were Parcel- 81060401008, 810604107025, 810604500024, 810604010023. A motion was made by Councilor Pickhinke and seconded by Councilor Langner to have the City Attorney start the process to acquire these properties. On a show of hands. Ayes: Pickhinke, Schmitt, Blackman, Cougill, Langner. Motion passed. Mayor Sharon Irwin had stated she was wrong for how our SETD Representatives are appointed and informed the council that if the City wanted to, they could have an alternate representative join the meetings so the City may be more up to date on things for our community. There seemed to be no interest at this time in the position and the topic will be dropped. The City Clerk will start working more with our current Representative to keep in good faith for our community. Kris Alesch, Director of Public Works presented his monthly report. It was brought to the Councils attention the current condition of the city pickup truck. The Council asked Kris to pull different quotes for the truck and they will discuss then what the next steps should be for replacement. Kris had checked with Engle and was still awaiting quotes, but they no longer sell Woods mowers and are now selling Grasshopper mowers. The council discussed that it would still be beneficial to get quotes for the grasshopper mower. The topic for a long-term backup to operate new plant is still on hold since the new plant is not operational at this time. The Public Library submitted their October news and announcements. Sheriff Ken McClure was present and updated the council on the Radio Tower Project.

A motion was made by Councilor Langner seconded by Councilor Cougill to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 PM. Meeting closed.

Sharon Ann Irwin, Mayor
Lexi Wallace, City Clerk

City of Early Presents Trick or Treat
Saturday October 28th from 5PM- 8PM.
Remember to pay attention to those porch
lights. Have a safe Halloween!



EARLY FOCUS



Early FOCUS Is looking for baskets/goodies for light up the town.

If you are willing to help out could you please drop them at city hall 12-4 on November 18th. We are so grateful to all of you for helping us out and helping keep Early Crossroads Days afloat.

MAYOR'S NOTES

Lee Wuebker with Cornbelt Telephone Company gave the council an update on the approach of fiber optics to Early. Cable should be laid to the city limits by this Friday. Work will then proceed into Early in the coming weeks. Most of the work will be done in the alleys. There will be some disruption for this but it should be minimal.

The Early Achievers 4-H Club is going to purchase an Adaptive Swing for the Lion's Park. This will be for children with special needs who can't swing in a regular swing. Thank You 4-H for this thoughtfulness for those who need special helps to enjoy what we take for granted.

Halloween will take place on Saturday evening, October 28th from 5-8 p.m.

Council approved Resolution 23-10 approving the acquisition of property for the retention pond north of 4th Street. Bids will be opened for this, the Drainage District 59 rebuild and the replacement of the culvert on 2nd Street on Thursday morning, October 28th.

Work continues to move slowly along for the completion of the new water plant. I think we can see the light at the end of the tunnel.

Don't forget City/School elections will be on Tuesday, November 7th. Important issues on the ballot (new mayor, new council person, new school board member) and bond issue for the Schaller/Crestland School District.

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 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.

Reminder that our Snow Ordinance will be in effect from Nov 1st - March 31st. No Parking on City Streets/Alleyways from 12AM- 7AM

Early Public Library

Year Round Scheduled Events

Story Time- Every Wed. at 10:00AM (recommended for ages 0-6) (October 4th- time adjustment 10:30)
(October 11th- Early Fire Dept visiting)
(October 18th- Sac County Naturalist)
Koffee Klatch- Every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 9:30AM (October 3rd, October 17th)

Meetings

Friends of the Library Meeting- Sept 15th at 9:00AM
Board Meeting- Sept 20th at 6:00PM
Book Club Meeting- Sept 30th at 10:00AM

Announcements

Seasonal Events

Annual Halloween Party -- Saturday October 21st 2PM-4PM

** Dress up in your Halloween attire and enjoy games, crafts, and treats Fun for the whole Family!

Regular hours:

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

Sept 9th- Oct 14th The Library will be closed on Saturdays