

November 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 Public Hearing was held at 6:00 PM on the 7 th day of November 2023 in the council chambers at which time any citizen of Early, Iowa or any other person having interest in the approval of plans, specifications, form of contact, and engineer’s estimate of cost (Drainage District- 59) as published in the Chronicle on October 5th, 2023, may appear, and be heard for or against the approval of plans, specifications, form of contact, and engineer’s estimate of cost (Drainage District- 59) or any part thereof. No residents or taxpayers were for or against said budget. The hearing closed at 6:03. A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Early, Iowa was held on the 7 th day of November 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, Becky Blackman, Bill Cougill, Tim Langner. Absent: Summer Schmitt. A motion was made by Councilor Cougill and seconded by Councilor Pickhinke to approve the consent agenda including agenda, minutes, and bills for payment, approval of Regina Wolf for Early Fire Dept- EMT, mileage reimbursement. On show of hands: Ayes: Pickhinke, Blackman, Cougill, Langner. Motion passed. Citizen Input- M. Druivenga was present to discuss a letter he had received from Region XII. Council stated that the Semi-trailer is okay to stay put as long as it was kept up, such as no fat tires and easily able to move if needed. The Chevy Trailblazer needed to be visibly moved every 30days and be licensed or placed inside the building. The council came to the conclusion that the White Semi-Truck on the East side of the building was not his property and disregarded this part of the letter. Citizen Input- M. Bendixen had a written statement for the council’s review. She had received a letter from Region XII in regard to a junk vehicle. The Council’s decision is to grant a 6-month extension to add rock or a respectable accessory parking spot and to make sure the vehicle is visibly moved every 30days. Citizen Input- C. Platt had a written statement for the council’s review. He had received a letter from Region XII about a few different ordinance violations. The letter requested a 1-month extension to finish cleaning up the property. The Council’s decision granted the 1-month extension to finish cleaning. Citizen Input- E. Scadden had a complaint form filed with the Clerk. She had some owner concerns in regard to her trees in the right of way and her sidewalk. It was discussed that the trees are the owner’s responsibility to maintain and remove if they so wish. The sidewalk is required by ordinance but is also her responsibility to maintain. If the wish is to remove the sidewalk, written permission from the City Council is needed prior to removal. Citizen Input- M. Lopez. had brought to the attention of Council the lot lines between the Shelter House Park and his restaurant/store (E 1 st St/ Karr Ave). He is gracious enough to let residents utilize the gravel parking lot area but would like to come to an agreement or solution to keep residents from driving onto the grass portion between the two lots. Mr. Lopez owns the North Tree Line and the renters of the shelter house park underneath those trees. It is very difficult to maintain the grass in that area. The Council will start by addressing it in the user contract when renters are filling out the forms to make people more aware. A motion was made by Councilor Pickhinke and seconded by Councilor Blackman to approve building Permit 818- Lopez/Summit Locations. On a show of hands. Ayes: Langner, Cougill, Pickhinke, Blackman. Motion passed. A motion was made by Councilor Pickhinke and seconded by Councilor Langner to approve building Permit 819- Godinez. On a show of hands. Ayes: Langner, Cougill, Pickhinke, Blackman. Motion passed. A motion was made by Councilor Langner and seconded by Councilor Pickhinke to approve building Permit 820- VandenBurg. On a show of hands. Ayes: Langner, Cougill, Pickhinke, Blackman. Motion passed. A motion was made by Councilor Pickhinke and seconded by Councilor Blackman to approve building Permit 799- Carbis (Time Extension). On a show of hands. Ayes: Langner, Cougill, Pickhinke, Blackman. Motion passed. Resolution 23-11 Approving plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for the construction of the Drainage District No. 59 and City of Early stormwater repairs was offered by Councilor Pickhinke and seconded by Langner. On a roll call vote. Ayes: Pickhinke, Blackman, Cougill, Langner. Whereupon the mayor declared said resolution duly adopted. Resolution 23-12 Accepting bid and authorizing the award of contract for the construction of the Drainage District No. 59 and the City of Early stormwater repairs was offered by Councilor Langner and seconded by Cougill. On a roll call vote. Ayes: Pickhinke, Blackman, Cougill, Langner. Whereupon the mayor declared said resolution duly adopted. The City Attorney was not present. Region XII had several properties that did not comply with their respective letters and will be forwarded to the City Attorney for further action. A motion was made by Councilor Pickhinke and seconded by Councilor Langner to update the current restrictions against limiting no commenting on the city social media page. On a show of hands. Ayes: Pickhinke, Blackman, Cougill, Langner. Motion passed. Recent changes have been made by the State limiting cities on some funding. The City Clerk mentioned that one way to cut costs was to discontinue our newsletters. Within the past few months, she has taken note of how many newsletters were thrown away. Over 10% of our residential area does not read the newsletters. A motion was made by Councilor Blackman and seconded by Councilor Langner to discontinue the distribution of the newsletters but to have some still printed off and placed at the post office, those who wish to read the newsletter can search it on our website or be added to the email listing as well. Kris Alesch, Director of Public Works presented his monthly report. The Public Library submitted their November news and announcements as well as their fiscal year 2023 Annual Statistics report. Sheriff Ken McClure was not present. A motion was made by Councilor Pickhinke seconded by Councilor Langner to adjourn the meeting at 9:16 PM. Meeting closed. Sharon Ann Irwin, Mayor Lexi Wallace, City Clerk

EARLY FOCUS

COMMUNITY FOOD DRIVE

Wednesday, November 15, 7-8pm

Members of the Early United Methodist Youth Group will be going door to door to collect food and non-perishable items for our food pantries.

If you are willing to help please leave your porch light on during those hours and put your items on the porch or in front of your door.

PLEASE NO OUTDATED ITEMS – THEY CAN NOT BE USED!

Please help replenish the community food pantry at Sacred Heart with your generous response to this need.

CASH DONATIONS are also needed to help fund our purchases from the Food Bank of Iowa.

Make checks payable to Schaller-Crestland Ministerial Association

MAYOR'S NOTES

A hearing was held on the plans, specifications, for of contract and engineer's estimate of cost for Drainage District 59. During the meeting the resolution was adopted approving all of this. The next resolution awarded the contract for the work to Empire Excavation out of Odebolt at a total bid of \$583,999. This was actually below the engineer's original cost estimate.

Discussed several properties that had received nuisance abatement letters and their written requests. Also discussed properties that will be sent to the city attorney for follow-up.

City Clerk is going to establish a business Facebook page. This will dedicated to notices and advisories. There are going to be changes made to the Newsletter. After this month it will be available at the City website, www.earlyia.com or copies will be left at the Post Office for pick up, if you are interested. This is hopefully going to be a way to cut some costs and waste, as many just throw them away.

We are excited that the City received a grant from the Sac County Foundation toward the development of a new city sign on the south edge of town.

The new water plant is going to be started up. As the transition to this new system take place, you will most likely notice a difference in the taste of the water. This is be expected with the new treatment system.

Congratulations to Bill Cougill being elected mayor for the coming term and also to Becky Blackman and Brandon Scadden on their election.

City Clerk's Office

Reminder: All pets are required to be licensed by the end of FEBRUARY to avoid a late penalty of an additional \$10.00/pet. If you are found in violation of a renewal after MARCH 31 st , you will receive a fine starting at \$750.00 for 1 st offense violations. If you no longer have your pet, please let the City Office know with proof by vet. Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter. There are NEW Registration forms. They are available to print off at www.earlyia.com , City Hall, or you can register online at earlyia.frontdeskworks.com .

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) (November 8th-Sac County Naturalist visits)

Koffee Klatch– Due to Election Day and Thanksgiving week, we will use the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays (11/14 & 11/28 at 9:30am)

After School Program– Every Wednesday at 4:15pm (Will not be hosting on November 22nd)

Meetings

Friends of the Library Meeting– November 14 @ 9am

Board Meeting– November 28th @ 6pm

Book Club Meeting– November 18th @ 10am

Seasonal Events

Annual Christmas Event– Saturday, December 9th 11am-1pm

Regular hours:

Tuesdays: 9:00am-4:30pm

Wednesdays: 9:00am-6:00pm

Thursdays: 1:30pm-4:30pm

Fridays: 1:30pm-4:30pm

Saturdays: 10:00am-12:00pm

Closed Sundays and Mondays

The library will be closed for Veteran's Day, November 11th and also closed for Thanksgiving Thursday, November 23rd- Saturday, November 25th.