

February 2024

CITY OF EARLY

City Information

Bill Cougill, Mayor

City Council

Brian Pickhinke

Tim Langner

Christine Madden

Brandon Scadden

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

Snail Mail:

107 Main Street

PO Box 411

Early, IA 50535-0411

Phone: 712-273-5283

Fax: 712-513-2411

Email: cityclerk@earlyia.com

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 special meeting of the City Council of the City of Early, Iowa was held on the 23rd day of January 2024. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor William Cougill called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM with roll call as follows: Present: Brian Pickhinke, Brandon Scadden, Becky Blackman, Christine Madden. Absent: Tim Langner. Resolution 24-02 Authorization for the purchase of one 2019 Dodge Ram 2500 pursuant to purchase agreement attached here too and authorization for the use of funds from the general fund and transfer from the equipment replacement fund to the general fund was offered by Councilor Pickhinke and seconded by Councilor Blackman. On a roll call vote. Ayes: Pickhinke, Scadden, Blackman, Madden. Absent: Langner. Whereupon the mayor declared said resolution duly adopted. Resolution 24-03 Setting the salaries for appointed officers and employees of the City of Early for the year 2024 was offered by Pickhinke and seconded by Scadden. On a roll call vote. Ayes: Pickhinke, Scadden, Blackman, Madden. Absent: Langner. Whereupon the mayor declared said resolution duly adopted. A motion was made by Councilor Blackman seconded by Councilor Pickhinke to adjourn the meeting at 6:11 PM. Meeting closed.

An emergency meeting of the City Council of the City of Early, Iowa was held on the 30th day of January 2024. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor William Cougill called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM with roll call as follows: Present: Brian Pickhinke, Tim Langner, Brandon Scadden, Becky Blackman. The Council discussed the updates with the water treatment plant and well conservation. Public Works, Kris Alesch stated that Well 2 has been operating the plant by itself for roughly two and a half months. Well 1 was still on the old treatment plant during the new plant start-up so when there were issues, we had a fallback option. The contractors were here roughly two weeks ago to switch Well 1 from the old treatment plant to the new and the pump failed. The contractors sat on this for the two weeks and ultimately waited until the final moments leading up to yesterday's emergency. At around 7 AM or a little after Kris stated he heard a very loud strange noise coming from the new plant, finding out that the new system was trying to suck air through the lines due to no water. He immediately shut the plant down to not overheat and cause havoc to the pumps/treatment system and immediately contacted the engineering firm and contractors. It wasn't until later that afternoon that the contractors showed up from Ames to get things figured out with Well 1. During this time different options were being discussed with DNR on what to do next. It was decided to do a widespread boil advisory and issue a water emergency. While the DNR prepared the documentation the City Clerk contacted the high-water usage customers and advised them of the situation at hand and had asked to cooperate with the City while we navigate through this. The paperwork from the DNR was received around 3:30 that afternoon and was distributed via email to local radio stations, tv stations, social media platform organizations, mailing lists, and several others to help spread word for this situation. This meeting was held to make all the council aware of what had happened to help explain to residents if there were questions. Kris stated he would keep the Mayor and City Clerk informed on when the advisory should be lifted. A motion was made by Councilor Langner seconded by Councilor Scadden to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 PM. Meeting closed.

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Early, Iowa was held on the 6th day of February 2024. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor William Cougill called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM with roll call as follows: Present: Brian Pickhinke, Becky Blackman, Brandon Scadden, Christine Madden. Absent: Tim Langner. A motion was made by Councilor Pickhinke and seconded by Councilor Blackman to approve the consent agenda including agenda, minutes, bills for payment, Pheasants Forever Liquor License March 22nd, 2024. On show of hands: Ayes: Pickhinke, Blackman, Scadden, Madden. Absent: Langner. Motion passed. The Township trustees discussed the fiscal year 2025 budget review with Fire Chief Keith Horan. The fire department will be flushing hydrants February 14th, 2024. Engineers with Bolton and Menk withdrew their change order and asked for an additional meeting later on in the month. It was agreed upon council to schedule a special council meeting set for February 15th, 2024, at 6:00 PM. Citizen Input- Gary Peterson CEO of Northwest Communications presented to council an opportunity to grow with wireless Internet he wants to make council aware that they want to continue to serve our community and have been around for a while. Gary reached out to the council to try their services out for free towards the City Hall, Library, and Fire Station, with no hidden fees or repercussions. Gary gave each council member paperwork to take home to review and left pamphlets with the Clerk if anyone would be interested in the community. Sheriff Ken McClure was present @ 6:40PM. Sheriff McClure gave his monthly report. A motion was made by Councilor Pickhinke and seconded by Councilor Scadden to approve the following building permit(s) with the approval of the Planning and Zoning Committee: Permit 821- John Livermore. On a show of hands. Ayes: Pickhinke, Blackman, Scadden, Madden. Absent: Langner. Motion passed. The City Attorney was not present. Kris, Public Works Supt, updated the council on the water treatment plant, currently Well 1 is in operation and running the plant to give Well 2 a chance to rest. A mass notice went out to residents that the boil advisory has since been lifted and the water emergency has decreased to a water warning Tier 2. Kris presented to the council the need for new overhead doors to the heated shop for the city building currently two of the doors are rotting away at the base and are unable to seal properly ultimately leading to heat loss to the building quotes were given to council for replacement for a total of \$6681.00. A motion was made by Councilor Blackman and seconded by Councilor Scadden to replace both overhead doors to the shop for the total amount of \$6681.00. On the show of hands. Ayes: Pickhinke, Blackman Scadden, Madden. Absent: Langner. Motion passed. Kris presented to the council the need to replace the City's pressure washer as he was washing equipment and the current unit caught fire. He was able to put the fire out without incident, but the machine was torched. It was believed to be 30 years old. A quote was given to the council for \$6,600.00 for a new unit. A motion was made by Councilor Pickhinke and seconded by Councilor Scadden to purchase a new pressure washer at \$6600. On a show of hands. Ayes: Pickhinke, Blackman, Scadden, Madden. Absent: Langner. Motion passed. Kris addressed the council that he had gone out for street repairs and had gotten a quote from Midwest Coating Company. The focus was on the North and South roads. Each roadway was individually priced out total cost for all repairs for patching and chip and seal is \$472,631.30. Lexi, the City Clerk addressed the council that we needed to go into a bond agreement for the DD-59 Culvert repair as the overall project did not cover this portion of the construction. The total cost for the culvert was quoted at \$89,000.00 not including engineering cost and other additional fees. It was suggested by bond council (Dorsey & Whitney) that if we go through a Bond that the City can add both the culvert and the street repairs together. A motion was made by Councilor Pickhinke and seconded by Councilor Scadden to move forward with necessary steps to enter a bond for a total of \$600,000.00 to cover the total quote for street repairs (\$472,631.30) and costs associated with the 2nd St Culvert, with an addition to a quote for Cross St repair (not included) and present them to the council at the Special Council Meeting February 15th, 2024. On a roll call vote. Ayes: Pickhinke, Blackman, Scadden, Madden. Absent: Langner. Motion passed. The Clerk briefly addressed the council about their feelings towards a partial rebranding of Early. Currently the City has a motto of "Crossroads of the Nation" but nothing to represent that motto. She had recently reached out to Blue Space in Denison, a marketing group that specializes in creating logos, and marketing strategies to refresh the community. Local government communities who have utilized their services would be Sac City and Storm Lake just to name a few. Council liked the idea of a partial rebrand to include a logo, and reach out to see what more they may have to offer the City, but would like quotes first before pressing forward with this project. A motion was made by Councilor Pickhinke seconded by Councilor Madden to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 PM. Meeting closed.

William Cougill, Mayor
Lexi Wallace, City Clerk

City Clerk's Office

Reminder: All pets are required to be licensed by FEBRUARY 29th to avoid a late penalty of an additional \$10.00/pet. If you are found in violation of a renewal after MARCH 31st, you will receive a fine starting at \$750.00 for 1st 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

To participate in our email listing for Newsletters, please email cityclerk@earlyia.com.

Early Public Library

Year-Round Scheduled Events

Story Time- Every Wednesday at 10:00am
(February 14th- Sac County Naturalist Visiting)

After School Program- Every Wednesday at 4:15pm

Koffee Klatch- Every 1st & 3rd Tuesday at 9:30am
(February 6th & February 20th)

Seasonal Events

Daddy/Daughter Dance- Saturday, February 10th 6pm-8pm
(Registration Required)

Sip & Paint- Saturday, February 24th at 5pm
(Registration Required)

Meetings

Friends- February 13th at 9am
Board Meeting- February 27th at 6pm

Announcements

Our 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 February 20th in observance of President's Day

Mayor's Notes

As of February 2nd, our Boil Advisory has been lifted and we have gone from a Water Emergency to a Water Warning- Tier 2 status until further notice. Thank you to our staff members for working so hard to get us back on track. If you would like to be more informed with City News we have available our email listing for Newsletters/Emergency situations. Please email cityclerk@earlyia.com with the address you wish to be most informed with.



Happy
Valentine's Day!