

August 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

Julie Carlson-President

Sue Loggins-Vice President

Becki Petersen - Secretary

Julie Wadsley

Corey Faist

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 regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Early, Iowa was held on the 6th day of August 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, Christine Madden, Becky Blackman, Tim Langner. A motion was made by Councilor Langner and seconded by Councilor Pickhinke to approve the consent agenda including agenda, minutes, bills for payment. On show of hands: Ayes: Pickhinke, Scadden, Madden, Blackman, Langner. Motion passed. T. Wolterman had verbally come to the City Clerk to ask if the council would be willing to add a "Children At Play" sign near his son-in-law's home on 1st Street. He stated that the high traffic in the area was cause for concern as the people who do drive on this stretch of roadway speed in excess of 30MPH. The council was not going to put up a sign in front of the property but will double check what type of sign is alongside the City Park and see if that needs to be updated. A motion was made by Councilor Langner and seconded by Councilor Blackman to approve building permit(s): Permit #826- N. Suhr, Permit #827- E. Schmitt, Permit #828- M. Luy, Permit #829- B. Pickhinke, Permit #830- S. Clark "Linden Ln". On a show of hands. Ayes: Scadden, Madden, Blackman, Langner. Abstain: Pickhinke due to conflict of permit. Motion passed. ISG Representative- Rachel Millage was present to discuss the progress and answer any concerns the council may have for her on the DD-59 Tiling Project. A motion was made by Councilor Pickhinke and seconded by Councilor Scadden to approve Empire Excavation Pay application #6 of \$55,109.50. On a show of hands. Ayes: Pickhinke, Scadden, Madden, Blackman, Langner. Motion passed. Sheriff Ken McClure was present and updated council on items going on within the Department.

The City Attorney, represented by his Paralegal due to an emergency, was present. A discussion was had on how some members of the Council reacted and voiced their opinions to a resident at the last regular meeting. A reminder to the council was given that they are to uphold the Code of Ordinances and State Laws that have been put in place. They cannot be biased on something that they may think looks nice but is considered "junk" per definition of the Code. The Council was given an update on the 2nd round of canvassing from Region XII. Those properties that have not abided by the first initial letter will be forwarded to the City Attorney's Office for further action. The Council was given a list of Ordinances from Iowa Codification to follow new State of Iowa legislative changes that were made for 2024. Some of the ordinances will not affect the City of Early code but the council wishes to run these changes by the City Attorney for verification if we need to have all of these changes made or just a few. The clerk advised the council that she had received only one application for the deputy clerk position and wishes to move forward with the applicant as the ad has been posted for 6weeks and training, interviewing, and the cost of running the ad furthermore will put the position further behind. The Council agreed collectively to proceed with the interview process of the applicant. The Council was updated on the status of the FY 2024 Audit. The City Clerk had a meeting with a representative from the Office of the Auditor of State to go over what the City needs. The representative highly suggests that the council have an annual examination, as that is what is required, rather than a full financial audit at this time. The time frame of the due date can't be changed, and the deadline is still marked for March 31st, 2025. The representative believes that there is not ample time to complete the City's full financial audit even if an extension was granted, which is one months' time. It would also cost the city, as a rough estimate, more than 3 times the amount if we still went the financial audit option. The council discussed that they would prefer to still maintain the full financial audit but if deadlines were approaching that an annual examination be done now and do the full financial audit at a later time when it is not mandated by the State. The clerk will reach back out to the State representative and let them know of the discussion. The City Clerk presented updated logo ideas from Heartland Marketing Group. The council agreed to move forward with the final design for implementation. Kris Alesch, Public Works Director, brought to the attention of the council some issues that happened with the Municipal Building HVAC system. During some of the peak hot days in late July the building had reached at some points a staggering 85 or more degrees in temperatures. It was determined that the Library holds the only HVAC AC unit within the building aside from the Clerk's window air unit. Both of which had failed. Since then, a new unit has been put in place for the Library as it was determined to be over 30 years old. The Clerk's unit was also replaced by another window air unit but had cause for concern as the opening has completely rotted away and needs to be repaired. Kris suggested that the council keep in mind that they would be able to add an additional unit that could help eliminate the overall load bearing on these units during the peak days of summer. The council took these suggestions into consideration but for now stated to fix the opening around the clerk's unit before winter. Kris Alesch also brought to the attention of the council that the South City sign grant project had to be moved further North as it was determined that the existing sign is sitting on the property of Sac County. The Council agreed with Kris to move it onto City Property. A motion was made by Councilor Pickhinke seconded by Councilor Blackman to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 PM. Meeting closed.

William Cougill, Mayor
Lexi Wallace, City Clerk

City Clerk's Office

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

A reminder that Utility Rates have increased for Garbage, Sewer, Water, and Water Improvement on July 1st, 2024. This is roughly a 2% increase for maintenance/future repairs. Increase for Garbage will be \$21.49 for Inside City and \$42.98 for Outside City. Sewer has increased to \$22.20 for the first 2,000 gallons and a rate of \$11.15 for each 1,000 gallons thereafter. Water has increased to \$31.30 for

the first 2,000 gallons and a rate of \$15.65 for each 1,000 gallons thereafter. The Water Improvement fee increased to \$33.25.

Early Public Library

Year Round Programs

Story Time-Every Wednesday at 10am

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

Meetings

Friends—August 13th at 9am

Board Meeting— August 27th at 6pm

Announcements

Closed August 1st

Regular Hours begin again Tuesday, August 27th.

Regular Hours:

Tuesdays: 9:00am-4:30pm

Wednesdays: 9:00am-6:00pm

Thursdays: 12:30pm-4:30pm

Fridays: 12:30pm-4:30pm

Saturdays: 10:00am-12:00pm

Closed Sundays and Mondays

Early Focus News

We are looking for people to donate baskets to light up the town so anyone willing to do so please drop to city hall 12-4 on Saturday, November 23 2024.



Sac County Solid Waste Agency

At City Hall you can pick up a brochure about recycling in Sac County.

The percentage of recycling is down and it would be good to encourage more recycling.

<https://saccounty.org/landfill>

