

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Early, Iowa was held on the 6th day of January, 2026. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor William Cougill called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with roll call as follows, Present: Brian Pickhinke, Xavier Delao, Cory Tiefenthaler, Brandon Scadden, Christine Madden. A motion was made by Brian and seconded by Christine to approve the consent agenda including the agenda and bills for payment. The minutes of the prior meeting were approved. All ayes: Pickhinke, Scadden, Tiefenthaler, Madden and Langner. Motion passed.

Public Hearing and Consideration of Ordinance Amending “Vicious Animal” Definition was opened at 6:01 p.m. Motion to approve Ordinance 337 was made by Brian and seconded by Christine. Roll call vote: All ayes: Pickhinke, Delao, Tiefenthaler, Scadden, Madden. Ordinance will be published and posted. Public Hearing was closed at 6:06 p.m.

Fire Department: Fire Chief, Keith Horan was in attendance. During 2025 the fire department went on 61 calls. Staff: 1 member retired, Doug Ries. A new member was added to the rolls, Zach Roling . The same officers remain active. Keith proposed that the fire budget for 2026 be \$43,500. 2025 budget was \$48,000 and during this budget year the fire department members are required to have physicals. This is done every 5 years. He also suggested that since the debt has been paid off that we move to a fixed amount that the city and the townships give to the fire budget. There will be more discussion on this and it will be brought to the council with budget information.

Sac County Sheriff’s Report: The sheriff was glad to hear the amendment to the “Vicious Animal” ordinance was passed.

City Attorney’s Report: The final audit report was received today. Dave went over some of the main points.

Mayor’s Report: We welcomed a guest, Nancy Janssen, from the Midwest Assistance Program. Nancy explained what her job entails and that it is a free service to municipalities. We can reach out to her if assistance in the form of education, projects or any other assistance is needed.

Bill brought up something to think about for the next meeting and will be put on the agenda: the 4-H kids worked very hard on the park update. Would a name change to the park to the 4-H Park be something the city would like to do?

The fire trucks have been having some issues with algae in the diesel. Can the fire department use the city diesel barrel or get another barrel to get diesel from another source? Discussion. This is something the fire department and city will proceed with.

Reminder that the League meeting is Thursday evening at 6:30 in Wall Lake. Please let Bill or Julia know asap if you plan to attend.

Water Department Report: Kris spoke with the County Assessor, Justin Barlow, regarding the alley where the city can't push snow. That alley is 100% privately owned and per our insurance company, we are not to push snow on private property. It was agreed to invite the owners of this alley to the next meeting to discuss a possible solution to this issue.

The water problem behind the Post Office wasn't a water line problem. Just setting water.

Citizens Forum: Carla Bainbridge asked questions regarding cement barriers on a property located near their property.

Cody Bales said that some kids had been harassing his dogs that were in his fenced yard. What can be done. He was directed to the Sheriff. There was discussion regarding his mailbox being hit by the plow.

General discussion about the number of animals allowed per household. **Ordinance 55.10 Number of Animals Kept.** It is unlawful to maintain more than five dogs and cats within the City on any one property. Each property is limited to a maximum of three dogs. The young produced by such dogs or cats may be maintained with the parent for a period of approximately eight weeks, but in no case longer than 12 weeks.

During this time it was also discussed that Pet Licensing is very important. Please register your pet with the city by the end of February. Forms are available online and in the city office. Vaccination records are required. Late penalty will be assessed March 1 and if you are found in violation of a renewal after March 31st, you will receive a fine.

Resolution 26-01 authorizing and directing the transfer of funds. Brian moved and Cory seconded to approve. Roll call vote: All ayes: Pickhinke, Delao, Tiefenthaler, Scadden and Madden. Resolution passed.

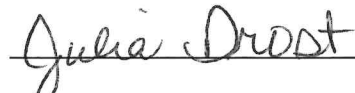
Resolution 26-02 authorizing the transfer of funds from Water & Sewer Utility to Water & Sewer Sinking to pay for FY 2026 SRF Loan. Cory moved and Christine seconded to approve. Roll call vote: All ayes: Pickhinke, Delao, Tiefenthaler, Scadden and Madden. Resolution passed.

Resolution 26-03 setting salaries for appointed officers and employees of the City of Early for 2026. Brian moved and Christine seconded to approve the resolution. Roll call vote: All ayes: Pickhinke, Delao, Tiefenthaler, Scadden and Madden. Resolution passed.

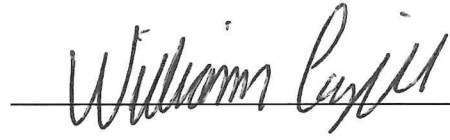
Wes Boyer from Bolten & Menk was present to give a well update. There was an online meeting on December 16th and we are waiting for some information from the DNR to be

able to proceed. Discussion regarding a second well site location so that the DNR can evaluate both sites at one time so as to not lose time if one or the other is not a usable site.

Brian moved to adjourn the meeting. Brandon seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.



City Clerk, Julia Drost



Mayor, William Coughill