

Early City Council Meeting

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Early, Iowa was held on 9th day of September, 2025. Mayor William Cougill called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Citizen Input : Discussion of moving Playground and using some of the Basketball Court.

The Mayor asked the cost and they are hoping for volunteers. Councilman Pickhinke stated The company that does the pour and play charges \$10,000 to move the equipment. Discussed the liability if the City moved the equipment and the cost to the City. Mayor asked for Council input. Motion to move the equipment was made by Councilman Scadden and Seconded by Councilman Pickhinke. All in favor raise their hand. Motion made and carried.

Building Permits: none

Fire Chief Report: Not in attendance

Library Director Report:

Handed out two papers; the first is the annual report from the library board which shows that we have not received a financial report since September of 2024. So unable to report were we are at for the end of 2025.

Mayor stated that the wheels are in motion to correct this. You will receive your numbers that you need to have on your financial report.

Another issue the Library is having is securing funds to be ADA Compliant. The Chair lift is no longer functioning or serviceable. They are looking into getting a new chair lift.

Also looking into handicap parking. The library has secured \$5,000 in grant money which would be used toward the chair lift but the cost is \$7660.00. The library is looking into other ways to raise the balance. The funds need to be used prior to December and are hoping the City can see the need for the lift to benefit more than just the library.

The library has received quotes for the handicap parking but Kris can explain that better. Also on the library side, we are a tier 3 library which is the highest level of funding from the State and to maintain that tier 3 status we have to be ADA compliant.

Mayor stated that they were discussing the lift chair replacement also. The Librarian stated that the total cost includes installation also.

The second report that was handed out was a pie chart to show funding.

The Council discussed the handicap parking requirements for the City Building.

Packet Resolution 25-13 Designation of Person to Perform Election Nomination Duties. The City Attorney (Dave Jennett) looked into that and explained that since Lexi will not be available to report and deliver the election ballots to the County Auditor, spoke with Jim Dowling and he said that the council can designate someone in her place but there does have to be an official designation. So we need to designate someone and they need to be apprised of their responsibilities and be willing to be available to get the ballots over there by a certain date and time. The Deputy Clerk offered to perform this task and a roll call was taken: Brian: yes, Langner: absent, Scadden: yes, Madden: yes, Tiefenthaler: yes. Motion made and carried. That resolution should be taken down to the Auditor's office at the time the ballots are delivered.

Sac County Sheriff Report:

A report was sent and Deputy Stange is in attendance. There has been a decrease in dog calls. Feeding of Stray cats has been resolved.

City Attorney Report:

Sample Ordinance for Animal Protection and Control. Has the Council had a chance to review the Sample Ordinance? The idea is to get the City of Early's ordinance in conformance with other municipalities so the Sheriff has an idea as to what the ramifications are to any particular ordinance. There should be uniformity throughout the County so that the Officers know what to do in any given circumstance.

The goal would be to conform the City's ordinance with some of the other city ordinances. Also uniformity of ordinances prevents the dogs from moving from town to town. Need a motion to have the City Attorney to set that up, we will need a public hearing since we are amending the Ordinance. After the public hearing we can have a motion of the council to approve the ordinance and adopt it to replace the existing ordinance. Councilperson Pickhinke made a motion to start the process to update the Animal Ordinance. Councilperson Scadden seconded the motion. All in favor raise their right hand. Motion made and carried.

2025 Legislative Changes: A packet was sent out. Does anyone have any questions. One of the changes is any elected position/official have to complete Open Meeting on-line training, if not completed in the time frame given, the person will be fined. There may be changes to this rule.

Nuisance Abatement:

A list has been passed around. Kris with D.P.W. states that a lot of the nuisances have been brought to his attention by residents. The City attorney stated that the process is that someone from the City forwards these to our office and if it is obvious what the nuisance is then we will send out a notice to abate then require them to ask for a hearing with the City if they do not think it is a nuisance. Then if they do not abate it we

file a Nuisance Citation with the Court to get them into compliance with fines and Court Orders allowing the City to perform nuisance abatement. The City attorney will speak with Kris to get clarification and then send out the nuisance notices if they are clear violations. The City will mow the two properties that are not in compliance.

Drought Well Improvement Updates:

Katie from Bolton Mencke spoke about well site evaluations. The area around Well #2 was discussed and other areas of interest. Discussed the cost of investigating more areas for a new well. Councilperson Tiefenthaler asked for clarification on the depth of the well. Bolton Mencke explained the benefits and expense of Geo Probe vs drilling a test well. The Council and Bolton Mencke continued to discuss the various options for continuing to providing the City with water.

Water Supply Piping Connection s Project Change Order #1, Councilperson Pickhinke made a motion to approve the change order, Councilperson Tiefenthaler seconded the motion. Vote was taken and motion was made and carried.

Amended Ordinance 337 – Junk Vehicles on Industrial property. Councilperson Pickhinke made a motion to approve the amended Ordinance. Councilperson Scadden seconded the motion. Roll Call vote was taken: Pickhinke – yes Tiefenthaler – yes, Scadden – yes, Madden – yes. Motion made and carried.

City Clerk

Reviewed Utility report

Treasurer Report

Mayor states that they are working on corrections to the reports.

Mayor

Sac County Solid Waste – The audit for 2022 is complete now they are moving to 2023 audit starting in October.

Sac County League Meeting – We are hosting on October 1st. It is going to be at the Mexican Restaurant in Lake View, Mayor is working on getting a speaker lined up.

Please try to attend since we are the host city. I am looking into getting Ben R. the new director of Sac County Ambulance. I would like him to speak about the new plans for Sac County Ambulance.

City Clerk Position – The position has been posted, on the internet, word of mouth and the newspapers.

Discussed having Tammy Nuckols willing to work with the City to get things reorganized.

Discussed State Auditor's report should be available in approximately 3 weeks.

Discussed compensation for Tammy Nuckols of \$25.00 per hour. Motion made by Councilperson Tiefenthaler, Council person Pickhinke seconded the motion. Vote taken, motion made and carried.

Supt. D.P.W. – Discussed water tower maintenance has been postponed until Spring of 2026. Discussed moisture in the City Hall basement. Discussed issues with the straight truck. Update on water system.

Motion to adjourn made by Council person Scadden, Councilperson Maden seconded the motion.