

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The City of Eldridge, Iowa City Council met in an open session at Eldridge City Hall at 8:03 am on March 27, 2024.

Council Members Present: Adrian Blackwell (via phone) Scott Campbell, Dan Collins, Brian Dockery, and Ryan Iossi

Presiding Mayor Frank King

Others in Attendance: Administrator Nevada Lemke, Clerk Martha Nieto, Assistant City Administrator Jeff Martens, and City Attorney Allison Wright (Via phone) and Mark Ridolfi

SPECIAL MEETING:

GOOD CAUSE FOR DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL REQUIREMENTS:

It is with great concern for the City that we call this meeting to order today. Today's meeting was required to be called in a manner that departs from the normal requirements of Iowa Code Ch. 21 because compliance would be both impossible and impractical- and at this time – I would like to state on the record the good cause which warrants and justifies such a departure. Yesterday afternoon, the City's Utility Board released an agenda with several items that – if acted upon – would violate state law, City ordinances and the Utility Board's own established policies. The City has worked tirelessly to get the Utility Board members to act in compliance with these governing authorities – but they have continued to ignore them. I called a meeting with acting Utility Board Chairman, Jim Skadal, for yesterday March 26, 2024, at 10:00 AM. The meeting was to take place at City Hall. Jim showed up to City Hall at 10:00 AM but refused to meet with me as directed.

Several utility employees were placed on paid leave pending an investigation into their misconduct, which involves allegations involving financial improprieties and unauthorized use of utility funds. The Utility Board agenda released demonstrates that – despite there being financial improprieties under review – the Utility Board is looking to provide these individuals with access to these public funds once again – with no oversight or accountability.

Due to the severity of these issues and the Utility Board's efforts to compromise the integrity of the investigation and utility's funds, the City Council called this special meeting today for this morning as all such circumstances certainly warrant good cause for the departure from the 24-hour requirement.

Motion by Dockery to Approve the Agenda. Second by Campbell. Motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Motion by Collins to remove a Board Member from the Utility Board of Trustees immediately. Under Iowa Code Chapter 388, the Mayor may remove a Utility Board member for cause. Today, I am recommending the removal of Jim Skadal, acting chairman of the Utility Board, for his willful misconduct, willful maladministration, and refusal to perform the duties as a trustee. A notice will be provided to him and shall be filed with the City Clerk hereafter further stating the grounds for removal. Second by Iossi. Roll call vote indicated Blackwell (aye), Campbell (Aye), Collins (Aye), Dockery (Aye), and Iossi (Aye)

Motion by Dockery to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 am. Second by Blackwell. Motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Frank King, Mayor

Martha Nieto, City Clerk