

City of Eldridge City Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

The City of Eldridge, Iowa, City Council met in an open Committee of the Whole session at Eldridge City Hall at 5:30 pm on January 8, 2024.

Council Members Present: Adrian Blackwell, Dan Collins, Brian Dockery and Ryan Iossi. Scott Campbell was absent.

Presiding: Mayor Frank King

Also Present: Nevada Lemke, Jeff Martens, Martha Nieto, Brian Wessel, Tony Rupe, Marty O'Boyle & Mark Ridolfi

Motion by Dockery to approve the agenda. Second by Collins. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

No Public Comment

Old Business

A. Implementation of regular Committee of the Whole Meetings and continuance of Council Committees

The Council felt that Committee of the Whole meetings prior to the first Council Meeting of the month or as needed would be good and to continue with Council Committees.

B. Department Head reports to Mayor & Council and attendance at Council meetings

The council would like City Administrator, Assistant City Administrator & City Clerk attend all Council Meetings. Public Works, Sewer & Inspections attend Council Meetings on an as needed basis and have the Police Chief attend one meeting per month and a Police Officer be present when Chief does not attend.

C. Scheduling Joint Board Meetings with City Council

The council was interested in scheduling Joint Board Meetings one to two times per year if there were pertinent issues to discuss and to have School Board and Board of Supervisors annual meetings as was done in the past.

D. Annual training for Mayor & City Council members

Council thought it would be a good idea to budget for Council Members and Mayor to attend training on an annual basis.

E. New Employee Handbook

Lemke informed the Council that 2003 was the last update on the Employee Handbook and answered questions on the highlighted updates that have been made to the new 2023 version.

The council would like to bring this back to the Committee of the Whole for further discussion and set a goal to approve by the end of February.

F. Completing a wage & benefits study and reviewing Department Head wages.

Lemke presented the Council with several comparable city wage studies and answered Council member questions on these studies. Council member lossi would like more information regarding total wage package that would include benefits such as: personal, sick, holiday and vacation pay. Dockery and Collins asked for more time to review.

G. Timeline for Public Works Department Transition and Wage Adjustments

The council discussed adding this item to the next Council Meeting agenda for approval.

2. New Business

A. Allocating ARPA Funds to projects/expenditures in CY 2024

Lemke informed the Council that ARPA funds needed to be obligated by the end of calendar year 2024 and spent by the end calendar year 2026 or else funds would need to be returned to the Department of the Treasury. She also presented several ideas that have been brought up as on how to spend these funds. Such as: Purchasing property for future site for City Hall/Police Department or Public Works and Park Board Pond projects. It was proposed to discuss the options further in a upcoming Closed Session Council Meeting.

B. Discussion on City Engineering Service

The council would like the City Administrator to look into available/comparable options.

C. Discussion on Street & Sidewalk Waiver processes

Martens asked the Council for clarification on these processes.

Department Updates

A. City Administrator – None

B. Assistant City Administrator- Martens asked the council for their opinion on a zoning issue related to businesses at the northwest corner of 1st and LeClaire. Dockery let Martens know that the businesses on the lots in question were most likely legally non-conforming. Dockery suggested sending letters to the businesses asking them if they would like to voluntarily rezone to the proper zone. Martens agreed to follow that course of action.

C. City Clerk – None

Motion by Dockery to adjourn at 8:09 pm. Second by Collins. Motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Martha Nieto, City Clerk