

City of Eldridge City Council Meeting Minutes

The City of Eldridge, Iowa, City Council met in open session at Eldridge Community Center at 7:00 pm on August 3, 2026.

Council Members Present: Adrian Blackwell, Jeff Ashcraft (by phone), Scott La Plante, Brian Dockery and Ryan Iossi. Quorum was met. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Presiding: Mayor Scott Campbell

Also Present: Nevada Lemke, Jeff Martens, City Attorney Allison Wright, Chief Andrew Lellig, Cpl. Jack Schwertman, Tabitha Kramer, Judith Gilbert, Bryan Yanke, Justin Walker, Andrew Doyle, Scott Dickman, Dave Engler, Ben Leka, Logan Fluegel, Pat Gainer, Richard Coy, Keith Schneckloth, Roy Leonard, Kris Elmstraeuser, Jesse Dvorak, Chris Laurena, Erin Gentz, Michael Bristley, Marty O'Boyle, Kelly Johnson, Larry Schroeder, Tim Martinek, DeWayne L Scott, Ashley Atkins, Kyle Thiede, Adam Spainhower, Theresa Stock, Nancy Case, Scott Case, Caroline Eakins, Suzanne Gainer, Ken Kerker, Beth Campbell, Tim Reimers, Jeff VanDeCastele, Terry Jurisic, Kelly Engler, Lisa Engler, Scott Haycraft, Janelle Dickman, Daniel Schmidt, Ward Jones, Wesley Martinek, Mindy Martinek, Riley Webster, Margie Biddick, Emily Carolan, Jake Harkey, Matt Eickert, Jaime Iossi, Megan Matthaides, Ginny Zink, Dick Cole, Carol Clauss, Cheryl Meyer

Motioned by Blackwell approving the agenda. Seconded by Iossi. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Public Comment:

Eldridge resident Suzanne Gainer expressed her concern and a lack of trust in the Eldridge City Council. She outlined three occasions that she felt broke trust and questioned how the City Council was planning to move forward without the fire department's equipment. She expressed hope that the City could rebuild trust and change course.

Eldridge resident Roy Leonard stated that he felt \$20 per call for the volunteer firefighters was not enough. He suggested \$100 per call instead, in addition to having two councilmen and three City residents, who are not close with the council or mayor, participate in the hiring process of the new fire chief.

Eldridge resident Judith Gilbert urged the City to reconsider their decision to take over the Fire Department and to instead fully fund them. She stated that, at the last council meeting, there was no mention of the search committee for the fire chief or the buildout of the fire station's second floor. She was concerned that the city code amended to include a fire department does not mention providing EMS Services.

Eldridge resident, and secretary of the Eldridge Volunteer Fire Company, Brian Yanke, read a letter on behalf of the Fire Company. He summarized that 15 months ago the Company voted unanimously to allow the City to absorb it. However, over time, trust eroded, therefore, effective October 1, 2026, all 20 members of the Company are formally declining consideration of appointment as a member of the City of Eldridge Fire Department.

Eldridge resident Mindy Martinek stated her concern for Mayor Campbell's letter and the eight steps he outlined. She questioned the two months to prepare, the mutual aid, what a city-run department would look like, and what the budget is. She questioned what was egregious in the budget proposed by the fire department.

Eldridge resident Richard Coy expressed concern over the loss of the 20 members of the EVFD on October 1 and how that will impact primary emergency service coverage. Coy asked about future trained staff and how it will compare to current response times. He asked what the City was doing to retain current volunteers and if they are willing to negotiate with them to bridge the gap in protection.

Eldridge resident Scott Case spoke about the community's problems, citing the parks department, the soccer fields, and the community center. He expressed concern over the inexperience of the current council. He suggested the City get its goals together.

Eldridge resident Ashley Atkins expressed her frustration with Jeff Martens and his enforcement of municipal code and Iowa state code regarding her new home build and driveway. She made accusations against Martens and Inspector Ray Nees and warned the administration of jail time for administrative abuse or incompetency.

Eldridge resident Terry Jurisic acknowledged the EVFD's hard work but questioned their dedication if they are all just going to walk away. He implored them to help get the issue resolved instead of walking off the job.

Eldridge resident Jenny Zink questioned how the City will pay for equipment, buildings, and trucks, citing the limited amount of time. She proposed keeping the fire department as is, but because the budget seemed to be the problem, put the money in a City fund and require receipts or that the invoices be sent to the City.

Eldridge resident Ward Jones suggested a longer time-frame and an arbitrator for a smoother transition in integrating full-time with part-time firefighters.

Eldridge resident Marilyn Rolf reminded the City Council that any future fire fighters require training, and that the current volunteer firemen already have that training.

Proclamation

Mayor Campbell read the Proclamation for National Night Out. The Proclamation designates August 4 as National Night Out, a community building campaign to promote police community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhood safer, more caring places to live.

Chief Lellig spoke about the upcoming National Night Out event on August 4. He reported that there would be a hot air balloon, an Army Chinook, the Air Care helicopter, face painting, food trucks and more.

Mayor's Agenda

Motioned by Blackwell approving City Council Minutes from July 20th, 2026. Seconded by Iossi. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Motioned by Ashcraft approving the Special City Council Meeting Minutes from July 20th, 2026. Seconded by LaPlante. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Motion by Blackwell approving the bills payable in the amount of \$346,819.10. Seconded by Ashcraft. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Motioned by Iossi approving Ownership Amendment to Casey's Liquor License. Seconded by LaPlante. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Old Business

Mayor Campbell opened the discussion on Community Input Survey results and the next steps for the public facilities project. City Administrator Lemke reported that based on the results and with guidance from the survey administrator, it was decided a referendum would not likely pass at this time. The vendor recommended bringing the project forward in phases, with potential modifications, rather than putting it on a November 2026 ballot. Lemke stated the City should consider re-evaluating for a potential bond referendum in the Fall of 2027.

Ashcraft agreed that while it was great to see some support, there are also some challenges, so he supports Lemke's report. Dockery suggested scrapping the whole project, or only considering a new police station and warehouse, and retrofitting the current police station to expand City Hall. LaPlante reminded the Council that they should make a priority list and that this project should be on it. Iossi agreed that, while important, it is not the right time for it. Blackwell encouraged more community input to move forward.

New Business

Mayor Campbell opened the discussion to approve the recommendation for the Finance Manager/City Clerk role. Lemke explained that Sadie Wagner was recommended due to her extensive experience with so many roles in the City office. She detailed Wagner's background and current duties, as well as the duties she would take on. Wagner would keep her role as Utility Manager, so her current salary would be split between the City and Utility funds, pending Utility Board approval. This would allow staff to adjust workloads in their current roles and determine what role a new, entry-level position might look like in the future.

Motioned by Ashcraft to approve the recommendation for Finance Manager/City Clerk role. Seconded by Iossi. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Motioned by Blackwell to approve first reading of Ordinance 2026-10 Amending Permitted Uses for Domestic Animal Boarding. Seconded by Ashcraft. Motion carried on the following roll call vote: Aye – Ashcraft, Blackwell, Iossi, La Plante, and Dockery.

Mayor Campbell invited the council to comment on the Ordinance 2026-11 Amendment adding Fire Chief and Title B Name to Public Safety. Dockery discussed advertising for a chief but holding off on anything else. Mayor Campbell agreed that finding a candidate that both the City and the fire department were in favor of is ideal but reminded the council of the deadline ultimatum. He reported that he requested a one-on-one meeting with each volunteer, with no response for a private meeting. Dockery questioned the how the transition team was determined and how to best include the fire department. Ashcraft reminded the council that after weeks evaluating options and he worries a pause would not be beneficial. Iossi encouraged the Council to simply move forward as the fire department-imposed deadline approaches. City Attorney Allison Wright warned that there have been some surprises throughout this process and is concerned there may be more, and that voting to approve the first reading would not prevent further communication.

Motioned by LaPlante to approve first reading of Ordinance 2026-11 Amendment adding Fire Chief and Title B Name to Public Safety. Seconded by Iossi. Motion carried on the following roll call vote: Aye – Ashcraft, Blackwell, Iossi and La Plante. Nay – Dockery.

Motioned by Iossi to approve Ordinance 2026-12 Establishing Fire Department. Seconded by Ashcraft. Motion carried on the following roll call vote: Aye – Ashcraft, Blackwell, Iossi and La Plante. Nay – Dockery.

Motioned by Blackwell to approve and authorize Fire Chief Recruitment & Selection Process and job posting. Seconded by Ashcraft. Motion carried on the following roll call vote: Aye – Ashcraft, Blackwell, Iossi and La Plante, and Dockery.

Mayor Campbell requested four names from the fire department, and the council will choose two of those to serve on the committee.

Motioned by Iossi to approve Resolution 2026-33 Approving Ivy Acres Part 4 Final Plat. Seconded by Ashcraft. Motion carried on the following roll call vote: Aye – Ashcraft, Blackwell, Iossi and La Plante, and Dockery.

Chief Lellig reported that due to a training injury, K-9 Officer Marty will retire in September, so the EPD plans to purchase a new K-9. Motioned by Blackwell to approve purchase of K-9 program by EPD at an estimated cost of \$17,000 to be funded out of the 008 Community Policing K-9 Donation Fund. Seconded by Iossi. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Lemke notified the council of the Iowa DOT Project Ref #BRF-061-5(151, 153, 157) – 38-82 consisting of bridge deck overlays & replacement, HMA resurfacing, & HMA pavement replacements on US-61 north and south of I-80, proposed for construction during 2026/2027.

Board/Staff Activities

Mayor's Report – The City Administrator and Mayor met with Medic and the DeWitt Fire Chief and have an upcoming meet with the LeClaire Fire Chief. They will provide a written report from those meetings.

City Administrator – none.

Assistant City Administrator Report -- none.

Police Report- Chief Lellig reported that the K-9 golf outing was rescheduled for Sept. 26. The training for the new K-9 will begin Oct. 12 and will be operational by November 8th. Once two of the supervisors complete their FBI leadership trilogy training, the department will receive the agency Trilogy Award, highlighting their commitment to continuing leadership education and professional excellence across all departments.

Motion by Dockery to adjourn at 8:45 pm. Second by Blackwell. Motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Campbell
Mayor

Tabbitha Kramer
Deputy City Clerk

VENDOR	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
UMB BANK NA	AGENT FEE	\$ 600.00
FIRST CENTRAL STATE BANK	BANK MIANTENANCE ANALYSIS FEE	\$ 259.58
FIRST CENTRAL STATE BANK	BANK MAINT FEES	\$ 42.70
EBS	PSF CLAIM FUNDING 07/26	\$ 5,213.64
A & A AIR COND & REFRIGRTION INC	ICE MACHINE RENTAL CHARGE	\$ 62.50
ACCESS SYSTEMS LEASING	COPIER	\$ 331.65
ACCESS SYSTEMS LEASING	COPIER	\$ 93.85
ADVANTAGE ADVERTISING	SHARMA CLOTHING ALLOWANCE	\$ 137.92
ALWAYS CLEAN LLC	OFFICE AND COMMONS CLEANING	\$ 300.00
ALWAYS CLEAN LLC	OFFICE AND COMMONS CLEANING	\$ 300.00
ALWAYS CLEAN LLC	OFFICE AND COMMONS CLEANING	\$ 300.00
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	CLOTHING ALLOWANCE-LELLIG	\$ 30.00
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	CLOTHING ALLOWANCE-LELLIG	\$ 30.00
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	CLOTHING ALLOWANCE-LELLIG	\$ 188.00
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	CLOTHING ALLOWANCE ERIK JOHNSON	\$ 33.45
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	ROD CLAMP	\$ 36.80
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	PARADE CANDY	\$ 134.81
BURT ACQUISITIONS, LLC	EPD CAR WASHES	\$ 120.00
COMPASS MINERALS AMERICA	ROAD SALT	\$ 2,052.03

EASTERN IOWA TIRE	UNITS 105, 110 TIRE REPLACEMENT	\$ 1,000.96
EASTERN IOWA TIRE	UNIT 19 FRONT END ALIGNMENT AFTER REPAIRS	\$ 104.95
GRAINGER	GRIT WASHER VALVE	\$ 635.85
IHRIG WORKS, LLC	S. 25TH AND 26TH ROADWAY RECONSTRUCTION	\$145,127.07
JK INDUSTRIES	CITY LOGO ON SHIRTS	\$ 12.00
MANATTS, INC	ASPHALT CENTRAL DRIVE	\$ 1,435.60
MARTHA NIETO	FINANCIAL CONSULTING	\$ 1,000.00
MENARDS	CLEANING SUPPLIES	\$ 44.02
MENARDS	GRIT WASHER PLUMBING	\$ 9.37
MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY	MID AMERICAN CITY	\$ 33.66
MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY	MID AMERICAN CITY	\$ 14.66
MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY	MID AMERICAN CITY	\$ 40.85
MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY	MID AMERICAN CITY	\$ 526.78
MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY	MID AMERICAN CITY	\$ 10.98
MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY	MID AMERICAN CITY	\$ 19.69
MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY	MID AMERICAN CITY	\$ 14.66
MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY	MID AMERICAN CITY	\$ 14.66
MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY	MID AMERICAN CITY	\$ 8,365.54
MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY	MID AMERICAN CITY	\$ 66.82
MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY	MID AMERICAN CITY	\$ 33.66
MOBILE TEAM TRAINING UNIT IV	FY27 IOWA DUES	\$ 990.00
MRA	ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP 9/1/2026-8/31/2026	\$ 187.50
MRA	ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP 9/1/2026-8/31/2026	\$ 187.50
MSTS RECIEVABLES LLC	TUBE BRUSHES AND R134A TAP	\$ 16.98
MTI DISTRIBUTING INC.	LAWN MOWER	\$ 44,894.42
NAPA AUTO PARTS	UNIT 102 ALTERNATOR	\$ 370.53
NAPA AUTO PARTS	UNIT 101 AXLE SHAFT	\$ 132.85
NAPA AUTO PARTS	COMPACTOR VBELT	\$ 9.72
NAPA AUTO PARTS	UNIT 23 OIL FILTER FOR SERVICE	\$ 5.09
NAPA AUTO PARTS	SHOP SUPPLIES-BATTERIES	\$ 25.84
NIEMANN FOODS INC.	AA BATTERIES	\$ 17.99
NIEMANN FOODS INC.	WHEEL BARROW WHEEL	\$ 54.99
NIEMANN FOODS INC.	LINE CHALK	\$ 19.99
NIEMANN FOODS INC.	MOMAG PLATE COMPACTOR BELT	\$ 0.40
NIEMANN FOODS INC.	UNIT-DISC HARROW COUPLER BUSHINGS	\$ 15.54
NIEMANN FOODS INC.	EXTENSION CORD	\$ 19.99
P & K MIDWEST, INC	UNIT 9 MOWER DECK BELT/WHEELS	\$ 376.88
QUAD CITIES TAS	ANSWERING SERVICE	\$ 32.13
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RUSSO	UNIT 10-MOWER DECK PIN REPLACEMENT	\$ 27.98
SAM, LLC	ANNUAL WEB MAINTENANCE	\$ 495.00
SAM, LLC	ANNUAL WEB MAINTENANCE	\$ 495.00
SCHOOL PERCEPTIONS LLC	COMMUNITY SURVEY	\$ 3,680.13
SCOTT COUNTY ANIMAL HOSPITAL	EXAMS AND PREDNISONE TABLETS	\$ 82.83
SHARED IT INC	IT SERVICES, BACKUP	\$ 1,202.80
SHARED IT INC	IT SERVICES, BACKUP	\$ 560.40
SHARED IT INC	IT SERVICES, BACKUP	\$ 733.80
SHARED IT INC	IT SERVICES, BACKUP	\$ 387.00
THEISEN SUPPLY, INC	TRUCK TOOLS	\$ 551.99
THEISEN SUPPLY, INC	TRUCK TOOLS	\$ 189.00
TRI STATE ENGINE SERVICE LLC	GRACO LINE STRIPER -HONDA ENGINE RPLCMNT	\$ 677.00
VERIZON WIRELESS	JUNE 11-JUL 10, 2026 CHARGES	\$ 743.36

VOGEL TRAFFIC SERVICES	BLKHWK TRL,BTTRMLK,VTRNS HWY LINE PNTNG	\$ 8,155.00
PAYROLL 7.30.26	PAYROLL 7.30.26	\$100,134.46
USPS	CERTIFIED MAIL FOR IRS	\$ 10.48
TRUPANION	K9 INSURANCE	\$ 140.80
ZAZZLE, INC	LIFE SAVING AWARD	\$ 38.45
WALMART	WATER FOR SAFE AT HOME EVENT	\$ 9.86
US SAFETY & SUPPLY	DRUNK GOGGLES	\$ 194.44
MAGPUL INDUSTRIES	CLOTHING ALLOWANCE-JACOB COSTAS	\$ 40.38
JK INDUSTRIES	POLICE TEES	\$ 154.00
SP NOTARYSTAMP.COM	TRAVIS NOTARY STAMP	\$ 29.26
SAMS CLUB	CANDY FOR PARADE	\$ 87.72
CASEYS	PIZZ FOR OFFICER FOR A DAY	\$ 30.79
5.11, INC	CLOTHING ALLOWANCE-CHAD HUETTMAN	\$ 251.02
FIRE HOSE DIRECT	NEW FIRE HOSE	\$ 503.86
EBAY	CENTER CONSOLE FOR UNIT #701	\$ 369.25
DK HARDWARE	LATCH GUARD FOR CITY HALL DOOR	\$ 198.18
DK HARDWARE	REFUND FOR TAX ON LATCH GUARD	\$ (12.39)
GRANDSTAY HOTEL	HOTEL DURING SRO CONFERENCE	\$ 433.44
SP SAFARILAND	CLOTHING ALLOWANCE-JACOB COSTAS	\$ 77.65
5.11, INC	CLOTHING ALLOWANCE-JACOB COSTAS	\$ 214.00
MACHINE SHED	FLOODPLAIN MGMNT TRAINING MEALS	\$ 33.88
HYVEE	FLOODPLAIN MGMNT TRAINING MEALS	\$ 12.85
TRIVAGO-REVELL HOTEL	HOTEL FOR FLOODPLAIN MGMNT TRAINING	\$ 507.00
HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS	10 TON PORTAPOWDER USED IN SHOP REPAIRS	\$ 369.98
HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS	1/4" DRIVE	\$ 23.98
JK INDUSTRIES	CITY LOGOD SHIRTS	\$ 86.40
APPLE.COM	MONTHLY FEE FOR EXTRA STRAGE-CELL PHONE	\$ 1.06
YMCA IOWA MISS VALLEY	Y AT WORK FEB - 6 PD	\$ 120.00
YMCA IOWA MISS VALLEY	Y AT WORK FEB - 2 ADMIN	\$ 40.00
YMCA IOWA MISS VALLEY	Y AT WORK FEB - 1 PW	\$ 20.00
IA SEC. OF STATE	NOTARY RENEWAL-LEMKE	\$ 30.00
NFPA NATL FIRE PROTECT ASSOC	2023 NATIONAL ELECTRIC CODE	\$ 186.19
GALLS	CLOTHING ALLOWANCE-GALE	\$ 274.48
SHERWIN WILLIAMS	GRACO LINE DRIVER HD	\$ 7,898.00
HOUSE OF SPORT	CLOTHING ALLOWANCE-CAVANAUGH	\$ 159.16
	TOTAL PAYABLES & PAYROLL	\$346,819.10
	GENERAL FUND	\$107,309.22
	COMMUNITY POLICING	\$ 118.51
	SELF-INSURANCE REIM	\$ 5,213.64
	ROAD USE FUND	\$156,512.70
	COMMUNITY CENTER	\$ 33.66
	SEWER EQPMNT REPLACEMENT	\$ 4,894.42
	DEBT SVC	\$ 600.00
	SEWER	\$ 7,611.91
	PARK BOARD	\$,525.04
	TOTAL PAYABLES & PAYROLL	\$346,819.10