City of Eldridge City Council Meeting Minutes

The City of Eldridge, Iowa, City Council met in open session at Eldridge Community Center at 7:30 pm on July 20, 2026.

Council Members Present: Adrian Blackwell, Jeff Ashcraft, Scott La Plante (by phone), 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, Ofr. Travis Rountree, Ofr. Tony Cavanaugh, City Engineer Zach Howell, Kelly Engler, Lisa Engler, R. Scott Case, Janelle Dickman, Jaime Iossi, Patrick Gainer, Mark Herrington, Crista Ashcraft, Marcene Johnson, Tim Martinek, Dewayne L. Scott, Justin Walker, Andrew Doyle, Ben Leka, Judith Gilbert, Scott Haycraft, Jan Sebastian, John Bain, Dan Belk, Peggy Ohl, Marty O'Boyle, Roy Leonard, Ron Sebastian, Riley Webster, Ken Kerker, Melanie Schneckloth, Keith Schneckloth, Erin Gentz, Adam Spainhower, Theresa Stock, Darlys Dickman, Matt Eickert, Scott Dickman, Mike Martin, James Henderkott, Judy Kirby, Larry Howell, Pat Howell, Beth Campbell, Bryan Yanke, Jacob Harkey, Nancy Case

Motion by Ashcraft approving the agenda. Seconded by Dockery. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

<u>Public Comment:</u>
Eldridge resident Judith Gilbert urged support of EVFC's proposed independent model and associated funding. She stated that the cost of absorbing the department as a City department would result in higher costs in the future and we would suffer a loss of members if the City votes to absorb the department. She also stated that the City website lists the City Hall phone number for all but one of the Council members/Mayor and noted that the elected officials should provide individual contact information for their constituents to reach out to them.

Eldridge resident Scott Case stated that he was asked to provide an announcement on behalf of his Pastor at United Methodist Church, Jim Shrimplin. The United Methodist Church invites all first responders, Fire & Police, to the church on August 2nd at 9:00 am. He further invites all of the public to come to the church to thank the first responders and honor the sacrifices that they, and their families make, in serving their community.

Eldridge resident Jan Sebastian asked the Council to support the firefighters. She shared 2 stories of personal interactions with EVFC when they responded to calls at her home.

<u>Mayor's Agenda</u>
Motioned by Blackwell approving City Council Minutes from July 6th, 2026. Seconded by Iossi. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Motioned by LaPlante approving the Special Committee of the Whole Minutes from July 13th, 2026. Seconded by Ashcraft. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Motion by Ashcraft approving the bills payable in the amount of $268,254.39. Seconded by Iossi. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Motioned by Ashcraft approving Class "E" Liquor License Renewals for Big 10 Marts #25 & #27. Seconded by LaPlante. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

<u>Old Business</u>

Mayor Campbell addressed the Council and attendees and provided a recap of the July 13th, 2026 discussion with the EVFC at the Special COW meeting. He acknowledged that he heard several times from the EVFC representatives that they just wanted the City to make a decision. He went on to state that an agenda item was included on this agenda to do that and read the item: Discussion and possible action to determine the City's preferred organizational model for the provision of fire protection and EMS services, including either: (1) support of the proposed independent volunteer fire company model and associated 3-year funding requirement starting at $766,516 for FY27; or (2) directing staff to proceed with the transition of fire services to a City-operated fire department. He stated that before opening the discussion up to Council members there were 2 staff members that wanted to share statements as well as a clarification about information stated at the July 13th meeting related to Park expenditures.

Councilman Ashcraft provided clarification about the Park Board's operating and capital project budgets, including amounts spent in the prior FY26 as well as the various revenue sources that contributed to those projects and the Park Board's strategic approach to planning, saving for, and executing those projects.

Police Chief Andrew Lellig provided a statement regarding the EPD's annual budget and included comparable budgets and operations of other police departments in Iowa communities of similar populations. He stated that both the police departments and volunteer fire departments have very important roles in the community but that the operations and responsibilities are significantly different and as such any comparisons between annual budgets for the 2 departments would be fundamentally flawed.

Assistant City Administrator Jeff Martens provided a timeline dating back to early 2023 related to discussions with the EVFC and their proposal to transition to a City department.

The City Council discussed the options proposed by the EVFC and expressed that the City is not able to fully fund and sustain a full-time fire department and agreed that a hybrid model that includes a combination of a City established department and a Volunteer base is the most effective, sustainable, and beneficial option for the residents of Eldridge. They agreed that the City needs to have some management and oversight of the funds and Capital Improvements and assets.

The City Attorney answered questions about the legalities and challenges associated with different hybrid organizational models.

Motioned by Ashcraft to create a City Fire Department and begin the transition to include a Chief to be hired by the City and a volunteer base that would be managed by the new Chief and to include the buildout of the sleeping quarters at the EVFC in the motion. Seconded by Iossi. Motion carried on the following roll call vote: Aye – Ashcraft, Blackwell, Dockery, Iossi and La Plante. Nay – None.

<u>New Business</u>

Motioned by Dockery to approve Resolution 2026-30 Approving property sale to Delbert Shaw. Seconded by LaPlante. Motion carried on the following roll call vote: Aye – Ashcraft, Blackwell, Dockery, Iossi and La Plante. Nay – None.

Motioned by LaPlante to approve a street closure request from the North Scott Lancer Football Committee for the alley behind Al & Gerry's on August 22nd, 2026 from 5:00 pm to 10:00 pm for their annual tailgating fundraiser event. Seconded by Dockery. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Motioned by Iossi to approve Resolution 2026-31 Approval Final Acceptance of Public Improvements for the South 1st Street Cold-In-Place project. Seconded by Ashcraft. Motion carried on the following roll call vote: Aye – Ashcraft, Blackwell, Dockery, Iossi and La Plante. Nay – None.

Motioned by Blackwell to approve Resolution 2026-32 Authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding among the Cities of Eldridge, Bettendorf, LeClaire, & Princeton for contractual services related to public transit funding including submission of an application for FY27 STA Special Project grant funds in the amount of $25,000 from the Iowa DOT. Seconded by LaPlante. Motion carried on the following roll call vote: Aye – Ashcraft, Blackwell, Iossi and La Plante. Nay – Dockery.

Board/Staff Activities
Mayor's Report – none.

City Administrator – Nevada Lemke reported that the Iowa League of Cities Annual Conference is in Bettendorf this year from September 23-25 and if any Council members or the Mayor want to attend any of the sessions she can register them. She also stated that the Utility Board would like to schedule a joint meeting to discuss the utilities growth and expansion plan with the City Council both for the wastewater treatment system and the water treatment and distribution system to provide them with some guidance in their next step for the water utility discussions.

Assistant City Administrator Report -- none.

Police Report--Police Chief Andrew Lellig reported that the EPD is working through the accreditation process and is about ½ way through. The process includes gathering and providing of data related to polices, procedures, and operations of the EPD to be used for determination of accreditation status.

Motion by Dockery to adjourn at 9:16 pm. Second by Blackwell. Motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Campbell	Nevada Lemke
Mayor	City Administrator