

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 17, 2026.

Council Members Present: Adrian Blackwell, Jeff Ashcraft, 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, Cpl. Jack Schwertman, Tabbitha Kramer, Jim Perkins, Kathy Clasen, Jim Clasen, Mickey Blake, Dennis Blake, Dave Marshall, Joyce Kemp, William Kemp, Marilyn Reimers, Tim Reimers, Ben Leka, Dave Ergh, Ginny Zink, Kelly Engler, Lisa Engler, Beth Campbell, Saree Hahn, Justin Hahn, Roy Leonard, Marilee Leonard, Linda Voros, Dave Sarafin, Mike Rotch, Scott Dickman, Nancy Case, Scott Case, Diane Hermann, Terry Jurisic, Darlys Dickman, Ken Kerker, DeWayne L. Scott, Eleza Miller, April Wiggins, Paula del Fabro, Becky Esbaum, Scott Haycraft, Theresa, Stock, Adam Spainhower, Jacob Harkey, Logan Fluegel, Anita Hardcox, Crista Ashcraft, Dale Grunwald, Caroline Eakins, JB Ruiz, Barb Paustian, Megan Matthaides, Jenn Schneckloth, Kevin Schneckloth, Linda Shaw, Lindsey Doyle, Peggy Wakeland, Liz Hanger, Erin Gentz, Nate Gainer, Cassie Gainer, Marty O'Boyle, Chris Lawrence, Diane Davis, Mindy Martinek, Melanie Schneckloth, Keith Schneckloth, Britney Hittenmiller, Janelle Dickman, Patrick Gainer, Suzanne Gainer, Cheryl Meyer, Conrad Miller, Dan Belk, Shelie Kirby, Josh Haycraft, Rhonda Beadle, Judith Gilbert, James Fitzjarrell, Michelle Fitzjarrell

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

Public Comment:

Eldridge resident and Fire Department representative Dave Engler stated that he, Andrew Doyle, Brian Dockery, and Ryan Iossi met on Aug. 15 and as a result, the Fire Department voted to extend their deadline to Dec. 31. He stated that another meeting was planned for August 22, so he is requesting that the council postpone the third reading of the Ordinances.

Eldridge resident Kathy Clasen asked that the council delay the third reading, or if they must vote, vote no, and formulate a new plan.

Eldridge resident Diane Davis expressed her concern about emergency response if the City were to take over the Fire Department. She felt the issue should be put to a public vote.

Eldridge resident Judith Gilbert asked that the council pause the reading and return to the negotiating table.

Eldridge resident Suzanne Gainer urged the council to pause the Ordinance or to vote no now that the Fire Department has agreed to try to work together.

Eldridge resident Jay Fitzjarrell asked the council and fire department to use this extended time to reach a durable agreement and to show residents the priorities, estimated costs, funding sources, and a schedule of the plan.

Eldridge resident Ginny Zink cited some 2023-2025 audit concerns as well as the potential for insurance premiums to increase and suggested the council to renegotiate with the fire department, develop a plan, secure the assets, hire employees, and fix the city's financial control.

Eldridge resident Mindy Martinek urged the council to vote no. She asked questions about the budget, personnel, assets, training, and what will happen when she calls 911.

Eldridge resident Carl Elmshaeuser asked the council to pass the third reading and cited several concerns with the fire department's financials and the FEMA grant. He stated the purpose of the grant was to improve the 9% call response compliance rate to 80%, meaning the fire department gets to a call in under 10 minutes only 9% of the time. He stated the Davenport Fire Department has estimated that they can respond in 10 minutes through mutual aid. He indicated the lack of financial management of the FEMA grant has led to a lost opportunity to effectively work on recruitment retention. He cited an October 2025 article quoting the Fire Chief saying the city has refused to move forward with the fire department's initial request, which would see the city take control of the department's assets and hire a full-time chief of the city employee. The issue quoted the fire chief saying the city of Eldridge needs to take financial control and management of the fire department.

Eldridge resident Ashley Atkins read a statement regarding a formal complaint against Assistant City Administrator Jeff Martens. She accused the City of wasting thousands of taxpayer dollars by involving an attorney and ignoring her complaint. After multiple warnings from the Mayor for disparaging a city employee, Cpl. Jack Schwertman escorted Atkins from the building.

Nathan Gainer refused to give his address as required and asked the Mayor when common sense would prevail.

Mayor's Agenda

Motioned by Blackwell approving City Council Minutes from August 3, 2026. Seconded by Iossi. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Dockery asked that the Minutes from the Special City Council Meeting on August 12, 2026 be amended to reflect that he said he still intended to vote "no" on Ordinance 2026-11 and 2026-12. Motioned by Ashcraft approving the Special City Council Meeting Minutes as amended from August 12, 2026. Seconded by LaPlante. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

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

Dockery inquired about the check in the amount of \$2,749.40 to Tri-Sports for the rescheduled K-9 golf event. He asked it to be removed from the Bills Payable until after reschedule date. Motion by Ashcraft approving the bills payable in the amended amount of \$354,134.69. Seconded by Dockery. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Motioned by Ashcraft approving Class "C" Retail Liquor License Renewal for Tasty Cafe. Seconded by LaPlante. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Old Business

Mayor Campbell asked for a motion to approve Amendment to Resolution 2026-35. Ashcraft inquired about removing Northwest/Time Bank and Dockery asked to add MidAmerica National Bank with a maximum deposit of \$1 million. Council asked City Administrator Lemke to research benefits of depositing funds in multiple depositories. Motion by Dockery to add MidAmerica National Bank and approve Amendment to Resolution 2026-35 Authorizing City Depositories, as amended to include MidAmerica National Bank. Second by LaPlante. Motion carried on the following roll call vote: Aye – Ashcraft, Blackwell, Iossi, La Plante, and Dockery.

Mayor Campbell asked Iossi to report on the meeting with the fire department representatives. Iossi read a statement indicating he felt the council should not move forward with the fire department but instead suggested scheduling one meeting with all the stakeholders involved-the city, fire department, Scott County and the Benefitted Fire District trustees to make faster, more meaningful progress. Dockery agreed, thanked

the fire department for extending their deadline and motioned to table the third readings of Ordinance 2026-11 and 2026-12. Blackwell agreed. LaPlante encouraged the City to focus on the residents and the need for reliable emergency services. Ashcraft recommends figuring out a pathway to come together for the common goal and agreed to a pause. He suggested postponing the third reading. Campbell emphasized the way to rebuilding trust is by having a meeting with the necessary parties, not as a committee of the whole. lossi agreed and said a date should be set. City Attorney Wright recommended getting all the parties involved to take part in the meeting to ensure legal compliance at the city and state level. Dockery suggested an October 5 deadline and said there must be an equal number of representatives from each party, so he amended his motion to table the third readings of Ordinance 2026-11 and 2026-12 to the October 5 city council meeting. Seconded by lossi. Motion carried on the following roll call vote: Aye – Ashcraft, Blackwell, lossi, La Plante, and Dockery. Mayor Campbell asked lossi to be a part of the meeting and said he would be a part as well. Dockery asked to be included in the meeting; Mayor Campbell indicated that there might be a conflict of interest.

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

New Business

Motioned by Ashcraft to approve Resolution #2026-34 Appointing City Clerk/Finance Manager. Seconded by LaPlante. Motion carried on the following roll call vote: Aye – Ashcraft, Blackwell, lossi, La Plante, and Dockery.

Motioned by Dockery to deny cost sharing with the Townsend Farms developer to improve recreational trail drainage in the amount of \$6,095.25. Seconded by lossi. Motion carried by voice vote.

Motioned by Dockery to deny the proposal from Little Red Barn Greenhouses, LLC in the amount of \$2,440 for the installation of seasonal greenery and solar string light displays in the 16 ground planters to enhance the Downtown Eldridge streetscape. Seconded by LaPlante. Motion carried by voice vote.

Mayor Campbell asked the council for advice on what to tell the fire chief applications. lossi said to tell them the process has been paused and suggested keeping the dialog open.

Board/Staff Activities

Mayor's Report – none.

City Administrator – none.

Assistant City Administrator Report -- none.

Police Report- none.

Motion by Blackwell to adjourn at 8:15 pm. Second by Ashcraft. Motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Campbell
Mayor

Tabbitha Kramer
Deputy City Clerk

BILLS PAYABLE		
VENDOR	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
A & A AIR COND & REFRIGERATION INC	ICE MACHINE	\$ 62.50
ACCESS SYSTEMS LEASING	COPIER	\$ 106.62
ACCESS SYSTEMS LEASING	COPIER	\$ 201.00
ADP, INC	ADP TIME AND ATTENDANCE	\$ 136.03
ALLIANT ENERGY CO.	ENERGY	\$ 792.71
ALLIANT ENERGY CO.	ENERGY	\$ 55.35
ALLIANT ENERGY CO.	ENERGY	\$ 544.01
ALLIANT ENERGY CO.	ENERGY	\$ 1,603.71
AXON ENTERPRISE, INC	TASER UPGRADE	\$ 1,788.72
BOHNSACK & FROMMELT LLP	ACCOUNTING SVCS	\$ 400.00
CENTRAL SCOTT TELEPHONE	JULY PHONE AND INTERNET	\$ 1,041.37
CENTRAL SCOTT TELEPHONE	AUGUST PHONE AND INTERNET	\$ 1,041.37
CENTRAL SCOTT TELEPHONE	JULY PHONE AND INTERNET	\$ 150.00
CENTRAL SCOTT TELEPHONE	AUGUST PHONE AND INTERNET	\$ 150.00
CENTRAL SCOTT TELEPHONE	JULY PHONE AND INTERNET	\$ 186.93
CENTRAL SCOTT TELEPHONE	AUGUST PHONE AND INTERNET	\$ 186.93
CINTAS CORPORATION	GRAY MATS	\$ 103.90
CINTAS CORPORATION	GRAY MATS	\$ 67.33
CINTAS FIRST AID & SAFETY D89	FIRST AID CABINET REFILL	\$ 4.01
DALBURG, ERICA	FACEPAINTING FOR NNO 2026	\$ 225.00
DELTA DENTAL	AUG COBRA DELTA/INS PREM	\$ 71.36
DULTMEIER SALES	CITY FLEET PRESOAK, CAR SOAP	\$ 117.00
EASTERN IOWA PUBLICATION LLC	MINUTES AND PBLC HRNG NOTICES	\$ 918.94
EBS	COBRA	\$ 131.43
EBS	COBRA	\$ 11.55
EBS	COBRA	\$ 66.01
EBS	COBRA	\$ 11.55
EBS	COBRA	\$ 15.93
EBS	COBRA	\$ 11.19
EBS	COBRA	\$ (7.61)
EBS	COBRA	\$ 45.22
EBS	COBRA	\$ 9.00
EBS	PSF CLAIM FUNDING	\$ 3,308.07
ELDRIDGE LUMBERYARD CO.	CONCRETE FORMS	\$ 94.23
ELDRIDGE VOL. FIRE DEPT.	PROPTAX-Q1 OF FY27 (Q3 OF CLNDR YR 2026)	\$ 76,101.50
ELDRIDGE VOL. FIRE DEPT.	GAS FRANCHISE FEES	\$ 10,653.43
ENGELBRECHT BROTHERS TILING, INC.	STAND PIPE TOP S 5TH ST RETENTION POND	\$ 127.12
FOUR WINDS PRODUCTS INC	UNIT 20 ST CVRS TO PRCT ST FOR MCHNC	\$ 355.00
FOUR WINDS PRODUCTS INC	UNIT 203 FLOOR MATS	\$ 109.00
HUMANE SOCIETY OF	BRD FEES FOR CATS	\$ 280.00
IOWA DEPT OF NATURAL RESOURCES	NPDES PERMIT RENEWAL	\$ 1,275.00
JULIE WALL	FACE PAINTING FOR NNO 2026	\$ 100.00
MANATTS, INC	CENTRAL DRIVE AND POTHOLE	\$ 2,707.66
MARTHA NIETO	FINANCIAL CONSULTING	\$ 1,000.00
MENARDS	CITY SHOP STOOL REPLACEMENT	\$ 242.47
MENARDS	CITY HALL DOOR REPR & RETURN INV 91289	\$ 22.98
MENARDS	SHOVEL AND TIEDOWN STRAPS	\$ 49.94
MENARDS	TOOLS OUTFIT NEW TRUCK 203	\$ 359.03
MOLO PETROLEUM, LLC	FLEET-DEF	\$ 55.41
MOLO PETROLEUM, LLC	FLEET DEF	\$ 55.41
MORSE, ROBERT	SOUNDSYSTEM FOR NNO 2026	\$ 200.00

NIEMANN FOODS INC.	GARDEN SPRAYER	\$ 22.99
NIEMANN FOODS INC.	STOOL REPAIR	\$ 18.98
NIEMANN FOODS INC.	FORK LIFT LP TANK REFILL	\$ 33.01
NIEMANN FOODS INC.	CONCRETE FOR CURB ON DONAHUE ST	\$ 37.95
NORTH CENTRAL LABORATORIES	QUARTERLY REQUIRED LAB TESTS	\$ 89.21
PANTHER UNIFORMS, INC.	CHIEF LELLIG CLOTHING ALLOWANCE	\$ 102.99
PAYROLL 8.13.26	PAYROLL 8.13.26	\$ 109,986.57
QC ANALYTICAL SERVICES LLC	ANNUAL SLUDGE TESTING	\$ 907.00
QC ANALYTICAL SERVICES LLC	AMONIA, COPPER AND E COLI TESTING	\$ 277.00
QUAD CITIES WINWATER CO	PINEHURST SUMP PUMP RPRS	\$ 237.64
RAYNOR DOORS OF THE QUAD CITIES	OVERHEAD DOOR REPAIR	\$ 187.50
REPUBLIC COMPANIES	RECYCLING AND RESIDENTIAL SERVICE	\$ 72,508.80
RNJS DISTRIBUTION, INC.	5 GALLON DRINKING DELIVERY CHARGE	\$ 31.87
RNJS DISTRIBUTION, INC.	5 GALLON DRINKING DELIVERY CHARGE	\$ 31.87
SCHWERTMAN, JACK	CLOTHING ALLOWANCE	\$ 190.00
SCOTT COUNTY ANIMAL HOSPITAL	RECHECK AND EXAM	\$ 31.58
SCOTT COUNTY SHERIFFS DEPT.	BOOKING FEES	\$ 175.00
SHARED IT INC	BACKUP, DUO, KNOWB4	\$ 545.40
SHARED IT INC	BACKUP, KNOW B4, DUO	\$ 205.14
SHARED IT INC	BACKUP, DUO, KNOW B4	\$ 267.69
SHARED IT INC	BACKUP, DUO, KNOW B4	\$ 142.59
SHIVE-HATTERY ENGINEERS	LANCER RUN SBDVSN	\$ 461.70
SHIVE-HATTERY ENGINEERS	PW, CITY HALL, AND PD BLD PLANNING	\$ 10,656.18
SHIVE-HATTERY ENGINEERS	TNSND FRMS,ELD IND PK,IVY ACRS,TRL DRNG	\$ 6,621.00
SHIVE-HATTERY ENGINEERS	1ST ST OVERLAY CONSTRCTN SRVCS	\$ 1,267.70
SHIVE-HATTERY ENGINEERS	FELLNERS ADD RD RECONSTRCTN	\$ 23,734.25
STAPLES	FILES, KLEENEX, PAPER TWLS, COPY PAPER	\$ 257.84
THEISEN SUPPLY, INC	NEW EMPLOYEE RAINGEAR/WNTR COATS	\$ 698.31
TYLER TECHNOLOGIES	ANNL TRNNG SVCS BILLING SOFTWARE	\$ 3,300.00
TYLER TECHNOLOGIES	ANNL TRNNG SVCS BILLING SOFTWARE	\$ 3,300.00
ULINE	PD SECURITY GATE FOR EVIDENCE LOCKER	\$ 1,571.82
UNIFORM DEN INC.	REV RAIN JACKETS	\$ 232.25
WASTE COMMISSION OF SCOTT CO.	STREET SWEEPING DISPOSAL	\$ 763.54
WASTE COMMISSION OF SCOTT CO.	STREET SWEEPING DISPOSAL	\$ 411.68
WASTE COMMISSION OF SCOTT CO.	TIRE DISPOSAL	\$ 161.20
WELLMARK BLUE CROSS	AUG COBRA HLTH INS PREM-SCHNECKLOTH	\$ 863.47
WEX BANK	FUEL	\$ 4,130.35
WEX BANK	FUEL	\$ 56.92
WEX BANK	FUEL	\$ 1,360.51
WEX BANK	FUEL	\$ 629.99
WHITE CAP, LP	ASPHALT TACK & CATCH BASIN REPAIR	\$ 279.89
	TOTAL BILLS PAYABLE:	\$ 354,134.69
	GENERAL FUND	\$ 284,411.69
	COMMUNITY POLICING	\$ 525.00
	SELF-INSURANCE REIM	\$ 4,251.90
	ROAD USE FUND	\$ 28,121.68
	COMMUNITY CENTER	\$ 1977.57
	SEWER	\$ 29,914.02
	PARK BOARD	\$ 4,932.83
	TOTAL PAYABLES & PAYROLL	\$ 354,134.69