

City of Eldridge City Council Meeting Minutes

The City of Eldridge, Iowa, City Council met in open session at Eldridge Community Center at 7:11 pm on October 5, 2026.

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

Presiding: Mayor Scott Campbell

Also Present: Nevada Lemke, Jeff Martens, Tabitha Kramer, Chief Andrew Lellig, Sergeant Ryan Gale, Marty O'Boyle, Paula del Fabro, Caroline Eakins, JB Ruiz, Jackson Ruiz, Trevor M, Izzy M, Dennis Blake, Crista Ashcraft, Erin Gentz, Dale Grunwald, Tim Reimers, Marilyn Reimers, Conrad Miller, Chris Schweiner, Kelly Engler, Lisa Engler, Dave Engler, Dan Schmidt, Carol Clauss, Deanna Jensen-Valliere, Darlys Dickman, Scott Dickman, Theresa Stock, Jim Perkins, Adam Spainhower, Megan Matthaidess, Chris Lawrence, Peyton Waters, Keith Schneckloth, Melanie Schneckloth, Jared Mackie, Kathy Kilan, Lindsey Doyle, Dave Wakeland, Gwen Tombergs, Roy Leonard, Janelle Dickman, Judith Gilbert, Vicki Jaeger, Ryan Grunwald, Kate Grunwald, Margie Biddick, Mila Worthen, Shane Edge, Kevin Schneckloth, Jenn Shneckloth, Bryan Yanke, Scott Haycraft, Pat Gainer, Suzanne Gainer, Dan Belker, Logan Fluegel, Josh Haycraft, Kathy Kilan, Dave Sarafin, Ashley Atkins, Noah Glasgow.

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

Public Comment:

Resident Judith Gilbert expressed her concerns over the city creating a City Fire Department and a personal FOIA request.

Resident Ginny Zink expressed concern about the transition from a volunteer fire department to a city run department, FOIA requests, and current litigation.

Resident Kathy Kilan expressed her and her husband's support for the proposal set forth by the city to create a city-run fire department.

Resident Mindy Martinek strongly opposes the Ordinances to establish a fire department.

New resident Carol Clauss asked the Council to vote no on the Ordinances.

Resident Dave Sarafin voiced his support for the city to move forward with the fire department.

Resident Suzanne Gainer encouraged the city to vote down the ordinances.

Resident Sarah Nissen asked the Council to vote yes on Ordinance 2026-11 and 2026-12.

Resident Jeff VanDeCastele expressed his support for the city run department.

Resident Karen VanDeCastele expressed her support for the city run department and thanked the city.

Mayor's Agenda

Motioned by Ashcraft approving the City Council Meeting Minutes from October 5, 2026. Seconded by Iossi. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Motion by Blackwell approving the bills payable in the amount of \$11,532.75. Seconded by Ashcraft. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Old Business

Motioned by lossi to approve second reading of Ordinance #2026-13 Amending Swimming Pools. Second by Ashcraft. Motion carried on the following roll call vote: LaPlante, Dockery, lossi, Blackwell, and Ashcraft.

Motioned by LaPlante to approve third and final reading of Ordinance 2026-11 Amendment adding Fire Chief and Title B Name to Public Safety with the amendment under section 4 to say “at-will employee.” Seconded by lossi. Motion carried on the following roll call vote: LaPlante, Dockery, lossi, Blackwell, and Ashcraft.

Mayor Campbell provided a summary of the events since the August 3rd meeting when the Council tabled the third reading of Ordinance 2026-12 and the September 9th joint meeting with the Fire Department. The attorneys representing both parties were asked to meet to discuss a path forward and a 28E Agreement. Mayor Campbell and Attorney Allison Wright summarized the discussion with the EVFD’s attorney and the fire department’s non-negotiable items: a three-year minimum transition period, the volunteers would hire the chief, the volunteers would have full operational control with no city oversight, and the same budget as discussed previously. The EVFD attorney did not request another joint meeting, which was confirmed in the conversation between the Mayor and EVFD representative Dave Engler. Attorney Wright reported that their “red lines” were not consistent with a required 28E Agreement and therefore, not a legally viable option.

Motioned by Ashcraft to approve the third and final reading of Ordinance 2026-12 Establishing Fire Department with the following amendments: include members of the current EVFD in the chief selection process if they commit to serving once the transition is complete; include budget assistance from the Finance Manager; any changes in policy are to be approved by city council; to read “the Department *shall* have full, complete, and exclusive authority to expend for and on behalf of the City all sums of money appropriated to it, and to use and expend all gifts, donations, or payments, whatsoever which are received by the City specifically designated for department purposes;” and removing the highlighted portion of the Ordinance. Seconded by LaPlante. Motion carried on the following roll call vote: LaPlante, Dockery, lossi, Blackwell, and Ashcraft.

New Business

Motioned by lossi to approve Offer & Purchase Agreement for Sale of the Eldridge Community Center by KGRD Green Bay LLC for \$1.325 million. Seconded by LaPlante. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Motioned by Dockery authorizing the mayor to sign the document once it has been approved and reviewed by the City attorney. Seconded by Ashcraft. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Board/Staff Activities

Mayor’s Report-Mayor Campbell thanked Chief Lellig and the entire Police Department for their hard work during Homecoming week.

City Administrator Report- none

Assistant City Administrator Report- none

Police Report- Chief Lellig reported that he and the School Superintendent had brainstormed some solutions for next year regarding Homecoming week. Chief Lellig announced that the Eldridge Police Department has been recently accredited through the Iowa Law Enforcement Accreditation Program and thanked School Resource officer Garrett Jahns, who he appointed as the accreditation manager, for his countless hours of work into the program.

He also thanked everyone who supported and attended the K9 Golf Outing, which he reported was a success. Lellig announced that with the retirement of K9 Officer Marty, Corporal Jacob Costas and the new K9, Esco, will begin their 5-week training on October 12. Lellig reported that Officer Schwertman completed

another FBI training as he works toward his FBI leader trilogy award and Officer Mahlan Sharf has begun his 2-week firearms instructor class.

Motion by Dockery to adjourn at 8:08 pm. Second by lossi. Motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Campbell
Mayor

Tabbitha Kramer
Deputy City Clerk

BILLS PAYABLE 10.5.26		
VENDOR	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
DELTA DENTAL	DELTA DENTAL PREMIUMS	\$ 133.06
FIRST CENTRAL STATE BANK	08 2026 BANK FEES	\$ 37.30
ALFIE PACKERS WEIGHING, LLC	SCALE AND WEIGHTS CALIBRATION	\$ 170.00
ALLIED SERVICES LLC	WASTE STICKERS	\$ 80.25
EASTERN IOWA TIRE	TRANSFER PUMP TRAILER-2 TIRES	\$ 220.88
GRAINGER	PAPER TOWELS	\$ 72.18
GRAINGER	UNIT 69 MTR GRADER ENGINE BAYDOOR LATCHES	\$ 110.94
LAWSON PRODUCTS INC.	FLEET HARDWARE	\$ 143.59
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MIDAMERICAN ENERGY CO.	MID AMERICAN CITY	\$ 15.33
MIDAMERICAN ENERGY CO.	MID AMERICAN CITY	\$ 47.78
MIDAMERICAN ENERGY CO.	MID AMERICAN CITY	\$ 45.38
MIDAMERICAN ENERGY CO.	MID AMERICAN CITY	\$ 11.05
MIDAMERICAN ENERGY CO.	MID AMERICAN CITY	\$ 526.77
MIDAMERICAN ENERGY CO.	MID AMERICAN CITY	\$ 19.52
MIDAMERICAN ENERGY CO.	MID AMERICAN CITY	\$ 15.33
MIDAMERICAN ENERGY CO.	MID AMERICAN CITY	\$ 15.33
MIDAMERICAN ENERGY CO.	MID AMERICAN CITY	\$ 74.60
MIDAMERICAN ENERGY CO.	MID AMERICAN CITY	\$ 9,004.81
MIDAMERICAN ENERGY CO.	MID AMERICAN CITY	\$ 45.38
NIEMANN FOODS INC.	DUCT TAPE	\$ 26.57
RNJS DISTRIBUTION, INC.	DRINKING WATER	\$ 24.62
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THEISEN SUPPLY, INC	HERBICIDES	\$ 269.97
TITAN MACHINERY	UNIT 50 CONTROL CABLE	\$ 253.90
	TOTAL:	\$ 11,532.75
	GENERAL FUND	\$ 1,773.52
	SEWER	\$ 9,713.85
	COMM CENTER	\$ 45.38
	TOTAL:	\$ 11,532.75