

The Eldon City Council met in regular session on April 11, 2023 at Eldon City Hall with Mayor Potts presiding. Council members answering roll call were Tom Bedford, Carl Culp, Stacey Doree, Brandon Potts, and David Showman. The meeting was called to order at 5:30pm.

Motion by Showman to authorize the agenda, second by Doree, all aye, motion carried.

Mayor Potts opened the public hearing on Budget FY24. No written or oral comments were heard. Mayor Potts closed the public hearing.

Motion by Showman to authorize regular meeting minutes March 14, 2023, second by Culp, all aye, motion carried.

Motion by Showman to authorize the bills, second by Potts, all aye, motion carried.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS – Motion by Doree to authorize the alley closure between 5<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Street every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday for Chommy's Bike Night, second by Potts, all aye, motion carried.

Motion by Potts to authorize the alcohol license for Wapello County Fair Inc, second by Showman, all aye, motion carried.

City Clerk – No report.

Public Works – Jerred Reed updated the council on projects the public works department is working on.

Cemetery – Jerred Reed and Brad Bengel are doing the prep work so mowing may begin.

Wapello County Law Enforcement – A written report was received. Marty Wonderlin was present to update the city council. Motion by Showman to authorize an updated 28E Agreement for police protection, second by Culp, all aye, motion carried.

Library – A written report was received.

Gothic Visitors Center – A written report was received. Cari Nicely was present to thank Jason Jones for his hard work.

Fire Department – Motion by Potts to authorize expenditures for Gothic Days and the fair booth, second by Doree, all aye, motion carried.

Motion by Bedford to authorize the renewal of the gambling permit for raffle fundraisers, second by Doree, all aye, motion carried.

Motion by Bedford to authorize a training fire at 202 Elm Street, second by Doree, all aye, motion carried. All required documentation must be submitted prior to the training fire.

Engineer – Carrie Teninty updated on the progress of the lagoon project.

Trails/Parks – Motion by Showman to allow the purchase of mulch for the playground, second by Culp, all aye, motion carried.

Eldon Athletics – No report.

Old Business – Motion by Showman to authorize Resolution 2023-6 - A resolution approving FY24 Budget, second by Culp, roll call vote taken Tom Bedford yes, Carl Culp yes, Brandon Potts yes, and David Showman yes, all aye, motion carried.

Motion by Doree to authorize the quote from LL Pelling in the amount of \$67,820.05, second by Culp, all aye, motion carried. Asphalt work will continue next year.

New Business – Motion by Showman to authorize the purchase of a new flag pole and flags, second by Potts, all aye, motion carried.

Motion by Potts to authorize Resolution 2023-7 - A resolution proposing the disposal by sale of the City of Eldon's interest in real property located at Lot number Sixteen (16) in Selma Caster's Third Addition to the City of Eldon, Wapello County, State of Iowa {207 Cornell}, second by Showman, roll call vote taken Tom Bedford yes, Carl Culp yes, Brandon Potts yes, and David Showman yes, all aye, motion carried.

Motion by Bedford to authorize Resolution 2023-8 – A resolution proposing the disposal by sale of the City of Eldon's interest in real property Lot number Fifty-nine (59) in Block Three (3) in Selma Caster's Second Addition to the City of Eldon, Wapello County, State of Iowa {210 Caster}, second by Doree, roll call vote taken Tom Bedford yes, Carl Culp yes, Brandon Potts yes, and David Showman yes, all aye, motion carried.

Motion by Culp to authorize a change order in the reduction of quote for city hall building from \$44,620.00 to \$43,901.00, second by Showman, all aye, motion carried.

Motion by Bedford to authorize \$539.00 for post repair on the south side of the public works department building, second by Doree, all aye, motion carried.

Discussion was held on 201 Selma Street and 502 Wood Street. Utilities will be capped off.

Public Forum – Donna Jeffery presented a petition to the city council asking the council to compare the cost of repairing city hall with the cost of a new building.

Jane Sapp discussed the way the quotes were obtained for a new city hall and the total cost of the project, including parking. She stated that the fire department moved out of the building because of the bad shape the building was in. She asked what the emergency was that city hall has to be moved and what the council intended to do with the building. She stated the building is on higher elevation but is in the flood zone and what flood insurance cost would be. A pole building life expectancy is fifteen to twenty years. She stated the council is spending tax payer dollars and would like answers to their questions.

Donna Jeffery stated she offered to research grants. Brandon Potts stated that Carrie Teninty writes grants for the city.

Cindy Johnson asked why they would not want city hall on main street.

Brandon Potts stated that this council was put in an unfortunate situation.

Sue Cole was present to speak on behalf of her mother Martha Bedford. She would be happy if city hall could be kept where it is. Sue would like for the council to reconsider moving city hall.

Jane Sapp stated that no improvements have been made to city hall.

Patti Durflinger asked if the council would consider doing a cost comparison.

Linda Durflinger stated that the council was elected by the citizens of Eldon to represent the citizens. She agrees with the choices they are making. She stated there is an existing parking lot that can be used for parking by the public works building.

Mayor Potts made the following statement:

In regards to social media posts, and public interests concerning the city's intent to construct a new city hall. The city council and mayor take this opportunity to provide some insight, and clarity around some of the points of concern. There have been many discussions in previous council meetings in open session addressing our aging city hall. The June 2021 flash flood event in which the area received 11 inches of overnight rainfall brought urgency to this issue. In that event city hall sustained significant damage and not for the first time. An engineering report was received in November of 2021. Discussions were held on it at that time and in subsequent council meetings. The decision to go out for quotes was made

in an open session. An update on the progress of those quotes was given in open session. The quotes were opened and discussed in open session. The quote to construct a new city hall was also approved in open session. In closing I am confident that the city is making decisions that are the best for the long-term financial sustainability of City Hall, especially given that our population and revenues continue to decline.

Council Discussion – None.

Motion by Bedford to adjourn, second by Doree, all aye, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:14pm.

Attest: Carrie Teninty