

Eldora City Council
Regular Council Meeting
December 14, 2021 -- 6:00 pm

The council gave the option to meet via conference call, Zoom or in the council chambers.

Eldora City Council met in Regular Session with Mayor David Dunn presiding. Council members Blake Jones, Melody Hoy, Greg Priske, Cindy Johns, and Jerry Kramer were present at the council meeting along with and City Administrator Aaron Budweg, City Attorney Erika Allen, and Chandra Kyte. Also, present was Rick Petrie, Maile Carter, Andy Place, Carey Callaway Morton, Make May Jr, Owen Spencer, John Kelley, Matt Rezeb, Julie Duhn, iPhone and Call-in User 1 either by Zoom or in the council chamber.

The Mayor asked for a motion to open the public hearing on Eldora New Providence Community School District election to exercise option under lease of Eldora Children's Center. Council member Kramer so moved, seconded by Johns. Roll call vote: "ayes": Kramer, Johns, Johns, Hoy, and Priske; "nays": none; absent: none. Motion carried. The public hearing opened at 6:01 pm. The ENP School Board met and approved the purchase the Children Center from the City February 1, 2022, at the end of the lease. The Mayor asked for a motion to close the public hearing. Council member Priske so moved, seconded by Johns. Roll call vote: "ayes": Priske, Johns, Kramer, Jones, and Hoy; "nays": none; "absent": none. Motion carried. The public hearing closed at 6:03 pm.

The Mayor asked for a motion to accept the consent agenda. Council member Hoy motioned, seconded by Jones to approve the consent agenda. The consent agenda approved consisted of the approval of minutes for November 9, 22 & 30 and approval of Resolution 12-21-3010, Resolution authorizing transfers. Roll call vote: "ayes": Hoy, Jones, Johns, Priske, and Kramer; "nays": none; "absent": none. Motion carried.

The Mayor opened the citizen comment period and John Kelley spoke. He was concerned about the two flags in town that state "F#%@ Biden." He was concerned since it is close to a daycare and on a route to the high school. He thought it may could be offensive to visitors to town. He has also put political signs in his yard but none of his have vulgar language.

Mayor Dunn introduced Resolution 11-21-3000, Resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign agreement with Grundy Center Ambulance. The council would like Erika Allen to clean the agreement up before it is signed, and Council member Jones moved and seconded by Johns to table 11-21-3003 until Erika can revise it. Roll call vote: "ayes": Jones, Johns, Hoy, Priske, and Kramer; "nays": none; "absent": none. Motion carried.

Resolution 11-21-3001, Resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign agreement with Woodland Acres, Lot 31 & 32 Road Maintenance Association. Jenny Lane is a private road and not in the best condition. It does connect two of the City streets. The council would need to decide the cost to plow, when to plow based on snow inches and how long of a contract. The council would like Aaron and Street & Alley to meet Woodland Acres to final the agreement. The City will continue to remove the snow until an agreement could be reached. Council member Hoy moved and seconded by Jones to table 11-21-3001 until the parties can met. Roll call vote: "ayes": Hoy, Jones, Kramer, Priske, and Johns; "nays": none; "absent": none. Motion carried.

The new Council members and Mayor were sworn in. The Mayor will be David W. Dunn for another two years. Council member Jerry Kramer will be on for another four years and Carey Callaway Morton and Mike May Jr will be new to the council for four years.

Mayor recognized the retiring council members Greg Priske for 4 years of service and Melody Hoy for 12 years of service.

Andrew Place gave a review of 2021 on Pine Lake State Park. They made improvements to the campground, Circle Point Shelter, Cabins, and upper boat ramp & parking lot. They plan to renovate the tunnel next year and the entrance signage. They had 21,492 visitor/campers in 2021. They have had visitors from all but 13 state and if each person spent \$10.00 in town it would bring about a quarter of a million dollars to Eldora. 2021 was the highest cabin and campground usage so far for the park.

Next was the resolutions for monthly claims and financials. Jerry Kramer would like to see less use of the miscellaneous line and have the expense put into a category. Council member Hoy motioned, seconded by Priske, to approve Resolution 12-21-3011, Resolution to approve the monthly claims. Roll call vote: “ayes”: Hoy, Priske, Johns, and Jones; “nays”: Kramer; “absent”: none. Motion carried. Council member Jones motioned, seconded by Johns, to approve Resolution 12-21-3012, Resolution to approve the financials. Roll call vote: “ayes”: Jones, Johns, Hoy, and Priske; “nays”: Kramer; “absent”: none. Motion carried.

The Mayor asked for a motion to approve Resolution 12-21-3013, Resolution to re-appoint City Attorney. The rates will remain the same and will be for the 2022 year. Council member Kramer motioned, seconded by Jones, to approve Resolution 12-21-3013. Roll call vote: “ayes”: Kramer, Jones, Priske, Johns, and Hoy; “nays”: none; “absent”: none. Motion carried.

The Mayor asked for a motion to approve Resolution 12-21-3014, Resolution setting public hearing on vacation of 10th Street to Eldora New providence Community School District. The public hearing will be January 11, 2022. Council member Johns motioned, seconded by Jones, to approve Resolution 12-21-3014. Roll call vote: “ayes”: Johns, Jones, Hoy, Kramer, and Priske; “nays”: none; “absent”: none. Motion carried.

The Mayor asked for a motion to honor the option to purchase Eldora Children’s Center upon School Board approval. The School Board did meet December 13th and approve the option to purchase the Eldora Children’s Center and approved up to \$200.00 for the cost of this action. Council member Kramer motioned, seconded by Priske, to honor the option to purchase. Roll call vote: “ayes”: Kramer, Priske, Jones, Johns, and Hoy; “nays”: none; “absent”: none. Motion carried.

The EMS has two new volunteer employees, Tracy Weismann, and Zachary Pearce. Owen Spencer and Shawn Davis have completed training and are now certified as a Critical Care Paramedic. This resolution will approve the two new hires and the pay increase for the certification obtained. Council member Jones motioned, seconded by Johns, to approve Resolution 12-21-3015, Resolution approving the EMS personnel changes with the Ambulance Department. Roll call vote: “ayes”: Jones, Johns, Kramer, Hoy, and Priske; “nays”: none; “absent”: none. Motion carried.

Next was the Resolution 12-21-3016, Resolution approving the hiring of Aaron Swartz as a part-time Library employee. Aaron Swartz will be the new janitor for the library. Council member Johns motioned, seconded by Hoy, to approve Resolution 12-21-3016. Roll call vote: “ayes”: Johns, Hoy, Jones, Priske, and Kramer; “nays”: none; “absent”: none. Motion carried.

The City of Eldora will be sending Zackary Pearce to EMT classes, and he agrees to work for the City of Eldora after passing the classes. A contract was presented to the council. Council member Kramer motioned, seconded by Jones, to approve Resolution 12-21-3017, Resolution authorizing the mayor to sign agreement with Zackary Pearce. Roll call vote: “ayes”: Kramer, Jones, Priske, Hoy, and Johns; “nays”: none; “absent”: none. Motion carried.

The police presented to the council their recruitment issues and ask that the residence requirement for a police officer be lifted. It had been difficult to find an officer. They had five applicants set up for testing on a Saturday and none of them showed up. There are lots of people who live in Eldora and work out of town and vice versa. It would be up to the new officer on how far they would drive to a job. Council member Kramer motioned to eliminate the residence requirement for new patrol officers going forward, seconded by Jones. Roll call vote: “ayes”: Kramer, Jones, Johns, Priske, and Hoy; “nays”: none; “absent”: none. Motion carried.

Council member Kramer motioned to designate the Eldora Herald Ledger as the City’s official newspaper for year 2022, seconded by Jones. Roll call vote: “ayes”: Kramer, Jones, Johns, Hoy, and Priske; “nays”: none; “absent”: none. Motion carried.

The council members gave their communications at this time. Aaron said Habit for Humanity was interested in the empty lot the City owns. The Harrison building application has been filed and the committee did not think the project could be finish by 2023. Aaron and Marty will be working on this project to see if it can be passed. January the 11th Avenue assessments will be reviewed. Aaron is meeting with a developer on the hospital building. Valley View building sale should close 1-19-2022. The park committee is working on the Riverfront Park and Bike Trail. Carey Callaway Morton was inquiring about the money Steffen put in for the Harrison project. If they would get a refund. Aaron said the study did come under budget but will have to wait until the application process is finished.

Mayor Dunn asked for a motion to adjourn. Council member Hoy so moved; meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

David W. Dunn, Mayor

ATTEST:

Chandra Kyte, City Clerk