

UNAPPROVED MINUTES
Earlham City Council Meeting
December 13, 2021

The Earlham City Council met in regular session on Monday, December 13, 2021, at Earlham City Hall. Mayor Lillie called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and the following answered roll: Baskin, Fredericksen, Payne, Petersen, and Swalla. Also present: Clerk Hibbs, Police Chief Heimdal, Public Works Superintendent Coffman, council members-elect Mudge and Nelsen.

Swearing in of re-elected and newly elected city officials:

Jeff Lillie, Mayor
Chris Swalla, Council Member
Deeanna Mudge, Council Member
Tim Nelsen, Council Member

1. Approval of Agenda
Motion by Baskin, second by Fredericksen, to approve agenda.
Roll: Ayes – unanimous. Motion passes.
2. Public Forum – None.
3. Consent Agenda:
 - a. Council meeting minutes for 11-8-21 meeting
 - b. Treasurer’s Report for 12-13-21
 - c. Claims and Receipts Report for 12-13-21
 - d. Consider approval of Class E liquor license #LE0002323 for Casey’s General Store #2644**Motion by Fredericksen, second by Payne, to approve consent agenda.**
Roll: Ayes – unanimous. Motion passes.
4. Department Reports
 - a. Public Works - Gary Coffman, Public Works Supervisor
Leaves cleaned up from streets; stumps ground; 16 smaller ash trees were taken down by city crew. Adel Tree Service will be here after the first of the year to remove more. Bed for the new plow truck should be in next week; new plow installed. Crack sealing is done; Christmas decorations are up; some of hydrants have been flushed. Lagoon project will not be going out for bid until April because of geological study. In conversation with engineer to try to “under engineer” some items. Conference call tomorrow with engineers and State finance Authority regarding SRF loan. No update on proposed Dollar General Store. They have been working with our engineer.
 - b. Police Department – Chief Heimdal
Stringham’s car had a leaking oil filter and has been fixed. Had street cameras adjusted so we see more ground and less sky. Participated in firearms qualifications. Chief expressed his concern over the large Christmas tree at 1st and Chestnut. States is it hard to see around. A skinnier tree would be better. Petersen asked about progress on house at 235 SE 2nd Street. Chief stated V&K is taking care of that.
5. OLD BUSINESS - None
6. NEW BUSINESS
 - a. Discussion on amending Urban Revitalization Plan to include commercial
Hibbs explained, in having conversations with Madison County Auditor’s Office and Ahlers Law Firm, she discovered we do not commercial properties included in our Urban Revitalization Plan, only residential. She asked Council if their intent was to include commercial, and they indicated it was. If they want to amend the UR Plan, she can contact Ahlers. Discussion if commercial should be a 100% tax abatement for five years, as the residential, or a scaled abatement over 5 years. To help stimulate growth, it was agreed it should be 100% as is the current plan.

Motion by Petersen, second by Baskin, to direct Clerk Hibbs to begin the process to amend the city's Urban Revitalization Plan.

Roll: Ayes – unanimous. Motion passes.

- b. Consider approval of Resolution No 21-49 Approving a Local Match for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for New Storm Siren.
Hibbs explained council agreed to a 50% match, per suggestion from Dio Ayala, in order to have a better chance at getting grant. However, the paperwork came from the state with a matching amount of \$3,825.00. Dio said to go ahead, sign the resolution and we'll see what happens

Motion by Payne, second by Swalla, to approve Resolution No 21-49 Approving a Local Match for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for New Storm Siren

Roll: Ayes – unanimous. Motion passes.

- c. Set date for Public Hearing on Max Levy Resolution for Thursday, January 13, 2022, 7:00 p.m.
Motion by Swalla, second by Baskin, to set Thursday, January 13, 2022, 7:00 p.m., as the date and time for the Max Levy Public Hearing.
Roll: Ayes – unanimous. Motion passes.
- d. Discussion on health insurance renewal
Hibbs distributed sheets showing the current policy information and the suggested renewal. The premium has increased 7.8%. Swalla stated he didn't feel this was bad, as it is lower than last year and lower than he expected. Hibbs will present at next meeting for approval.

7. Mayor's Report

Mayor Lillie stated he attended the normal meetings with nothing to report. He took this time to recognize outgoing council members **Brant Payne and Scott Petersen**. He stated Brant stepped up to fill a vacancy when we had trouble filling that position, which was greatly appreciated. It gave us someone we could rely on to fill that spot, and he served very well. He then went on to serve for another four years following that. He put the time in, was always prepared and did not take his position lightly. Scott Petersen has served since 2003. The fact that we could not find paperwork that old to verify the date, is in itself, a tribute to Scott. Mayor stated he himself has learned a lot from Scott over the years. Hibbs said she would miss the historical knowledge Scott brought to some issues, as well as always "keeping her on her toes".

8. Clerk's Report

Hibbs mentions either the Finance/Budget Committee or Human Resources Committee needs to discuss employee raises for FY 23. (CPI for the last 12 months 6.1% and COL is 5.9%). Mentioned she and Amsden attended the recent budget workshop. Stated she was contacted by Steve Willem from MidAmerican Energy regarding \$500 they will give us for a project. Mayor said we should continue to use the money to replace decorative light globes downtown.

9. Council comments/discussion

Petersen talked about placing solar panels on city property. Mayor said this might be something worth looking into.

10. Adjourn

Motion by Fredericksen, second by Payne, to adjourn.

Roll: Ayes – unanimous. Motion passes.

Being there was no further business, meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Jeff Lillie, Mayor

Attest: _____
Mary Sue Hibbs, Clerk/Treasurer