

UNAPPROVED MINUTES
Earlham City Council Meeting
July 10, 2023

The Earlham City Council met in regular session on Monday, July 10, 2023, 7:00 p.m. at Earlham City Hall. Mayor Lillie called the meeting to order and the following answered roll: Frederickson, Mudge, Nelsen, Swalla. Absent: Baskin. Also present: Clerk Hibbs, Chief Stringham, Public Works Supervisor Coffman.

1. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Mudge, second by Nelsen, to approve agenda.

Roll: Ayes - unanimous. Motion passes.

2. Public Forum

Andrew & Denise Worsfold, 525 NE 6th, wanted to complain about the private fireworks which were held on July 1st. Ordinance says they should be done by 11:00 p.m. Chief Stringham was called out and he showed up at 11:35 p.m. to tell them to shut it down. Mr. Worsfold wanted to know what kind, if any, of penalty would be assessed. He felt it was gross violation of the ordinance. Mayor Lillie clarified that the fireworks ordinance had been amended to allow fireworks from July 1 thru July 7, but, yes, the fireworks need to be done by 11:00. He stated he and the Chief will discuss further course of action. He thanked them for coming to council to address their concerns.

Jackie Hansen, Earlham Christmas Share. Lori Zehr, fund-raising chairperson, addressed the Council. Earlham Christmas Share is a 501c3. They would like to have a fall event, including a 5K race, chili contest, bake-off and auction, on Saturday Sept 23rd at the city park. Request to block some streets, and have a police presence, as well as emergency personnel for the race. Would like this to become an annual event. Consensus of Council was agreeable to the event. Will be on the August agenda for official approval. Hibbs asked if they could provide a map showing where race will go and times.

3. Consent Agenda:

- a. Council meeting minutes for 6-12-23, 6-19-23 Special Session
- b. Treasurer's Report for 7-10-23
- c. Claims and Receipts Report for 7-10-23

Motion by Frederickson, second by Mudge, to approve consent agenda.

Roll: Ayes – unanimous. Motion passes.

4. Department Reports

a. Public Works - Gary Coffman, Public Works Supervisor

Normal mowing, trimming, spraying and street sweeping. Contract as signed today with Wiremann Electric for the additional light at the water tower. There will be no cost to city. From last month's discussion, he measured the distance of the light pole at 6th & Chestnut. Will talk to MidAmerican Energy about possibility of moving pole to help trucks turning west on 6th Street. DNR came to evaluate our trees. Several in the city park need to be removed, as well as 2 old trees at the school house museum. They also did a fish survey at the ponds in Gendler Park. Lagoon Project is moving along. There was a mistake made at one of the steps of the process. Engineers are discussing how to solve this. Coffman stated Freedom Fest seemed to go well. There are no issues with the new pool.

b. Police Department – Chief Matt Stringham

New full-time officer Gary Rasmussen was sworn in on June 22nd. Regarding drinking beer in the city park, Chief checked with the state, and it is legal to drink (beer only), except if city ordinance says otherwise. Our ordinance does not. No need to create ordinance on curfew for minors, as Chief found ordinance in our code. The Human Resources Committee had asked police department their opinion on holiday over-time pay. Currently they get paid time and a half. Chief said his officers would like time and a half, plus accrue 8 hours of PTO. Council agreed to this. Will add to personnel manual. Chief stated the city has sold 50 ATV, UTV, golf cart permits. He also mentioned Freedom Fest went smoothly.

5. Board, Commission, Committee Reports – None

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. 28E Agreement with ECSD for water tower property – no update.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Consider approval of Resolution No 23-24 Amending Resolution No 23-18 Setting Wages for FY24. Hibbs explained, at mayor’s discretion, Stringham, Amsden, and Rasmussen wages have been increased.

Motion by Frederickson, second by Swalla, to approve Resolution No 23-24 Amending Resolution No 23-18 Setting Wages for FY24.

Roll: Ayes – unanimous. Motion passes.

- b. Consider approval of Resolution No 23-25 Setting Wages for the 2023 Seasonal Part-Time Employees of the City of Earlham, Iowa, Effective April 1, 2023.

Motion by Swalla, second by Mudge, to approve Resolution No 23-25 Setting Wages for the 2023 Seasonal Part-Time Employees of the City of Earlham, Iowa, Effective April 1, 2023.

Roll: Ayes – unanimous. Motion passes.

- c. Consider approval of motion to rescind Resolution No 23-20 Transfer of Funds for FY24
Hibbs explained there was no need to transfer funds from water to debt service, as the 2020A bond is a revenue bond which is paid out of water-tower sinking fund; and transfer from general fund to employee benefits is not necessary as we received tax revenue to make Employee Benefit fund whole.

Motion by Swalla, second by Nelsen, to approve motion to rescind Resolution No 23-20 Transfer of Funds for FY24.

Roll: Ayes - unanimous. Motion passes.

- d. Consider motion to approve Pay Application #8 from Blue Ribbon Builders for the Lagoon Update Project in the amount of \$188,418.70.

Motion by Frederickson, second by Mudge, to approve Pay Application #8 from Blue Ribbon Builders for the Lagoon Update Project in the amount of \$188,418.70.

Roll: Ayes - unanimous. Motion passes.

8. Mayor’s Report

Mayor stated council will need to appoint a new member to replace Councilmember Swalla, who will be moving out of town. This will be done as soon as possible.

9. Clerk’s Report

Hibbs had listened to a webinar regarding HF 718 the property tax reform bill and explained how it will affect city finances. She encouraged council to complete the SICOG survey for the Comprehensive Plan.

10. Council comments/discussion

11. Adjourn

Motion by Frederickson, second by Mudge, to adjourn.

Roll: Ayes – unanimous. Motion passes.

Being there was no further business, meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Jeff Lillie, Mayor

Attest: Mary Sue Hibbs, Clerk/Treasurer