The Ellsworth City Council met in special session at 5:00 p.m. April 23rd, 2024 at City Hall with Mayor Yager presiding and the following council present: Funk, Gelder, King and Laube. Absent: Sogard.

**AGENDA APPROVAL:** Motion by King, seconded by Gelder to approve the agenda. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC FORUM:** None.

**LIBRARY UPDATE:** Members of the Library Board were once again in attendance to consider affairs within the Library structure. The Board requested the previous April 8th council minutes be retracted due to what they believed to be an unfair portrayal of the occurrence regarding the Library Board meeting on April 4th, 2024. The Board would like it known that there was in fact no Board meeting, but instead, that members were meeting to conduct an interview. After discussing their concerns, it was determined the minutes did coincide with actual events of the meeting. The Library Board also informed the Council that a Library Director has been selected and is anticipated to start May 1st, 2024.

**FIRE/EMS DEPARTMENT UPDATE:** Due to the absence of Chief Evans, all matters will be discussed further at May’s council meeting.

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR FY24/25 BUDGET YEAR:** Council set this time for a public hearing on the FY24/25 Budget. Notification was published April 10th, 2024 in The South Hamilton Record News. An affidavit will be made available to the Hamilton County Auditor. Mayor Yager declared the hearing open. After giving all present an opportunity to be heard, Mayor Yager closed the hearing. Motion by Gelder, seconded by King to adopt Resolution #923 FY24/25 Budget and Certification of Taxes. The total tax levy will be 10.161, with revenues and transfers equaling $2,166,766 and expenditures and transfers equaling $2,259,749. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

**SETTING PUBLIC HEARING FOR FY23/24 BUDGET AMENDMENT:** Motion by Laube, seconded by Gelder to set Monday May 13th, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. for the FY23/24 Budget Amendment Public Hearing. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

**COPPER/LEAD SURVEY:** Due to Supervisor Vanlangens absence, no further discussion took place.

**SECOND READING AMENDING ORDINANCE #17.04 PERTAINING TO COUNCIL MEETINGS:** Motion by Gelder, seconded by King to pass the second reading of ordinance #17.04 amending the code to include a second monthly meeting to be held the fourth Tuesday of the month at 5:00 p.m. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

**UTILITY RATES:** The Council discussed both sewer and electric rates in surrounding areas verses what the City currently charges. In January, the City’s electric Wholesaler Midland Power raised their KW rates $.13 and the City has been covering that cost since. The sewer rates have remained unchanged since 2007. The Clerk stated that some Cities have chosen to just increase the base rates, while others have adjusted both base rates and usage cost. It was determined that separate time would need to be set aside to research and discuss different options before pursuing rate changes.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mayor Yager adjourned the meeting at 7:36 p.m.

/s/ Dolorus Yager, Mayor

/s/ Amy L. Zeman, City Clerk