The Ellsworth City Council met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall on July 10th, 2023 with Mayor Yager presiding and the following council present: Norem, King, Sogard, and Gelder. Absent: Funk.

 June Receipts June Disbursements

General Fund 11490.61 15221.27

Road Use Fund 7842.45 1223.64

Employee Benefit Fund 457.00 1103.24

Emergency Fund 167.66

Local Option Sales Tax Fund 5850.35

Tax Increment Finance Area 1

Tax Increment Finance Area 2

Tax Increment Finance 1 Amend 31405.03

Bingo Fund 3804.09 1630.16

Debt Service Fund 660.75 16262.21

Capital Improv Reserve

Capital Project-Ind. Park Rd.

Capital Project-EL Util Impr

Capital Project-Well Project

Capital Project-Strm Water

Water Fund 27316.14 10619.65

Water Sinking Fund 95807.50

Sewer Fund 6737.81 7249.68

Electric Fund 64673.72 56548.07

Electric Sinking Fund

Storm Water Fund 3980.97 55.65

Storm Water Sinking Fund -10789.21

 $164386.58 $194931.86

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**: Motion by Norem, seconded by King to approve the following items listed on the consent agenda:

1. Motion to approve June 8th, and June 12th, 2023 council minutes.
2. Motion to approve June payment of claims.
3. Motion to approve Fire Truck Payment due August 1st, 2023 in the amount of $11,349.00, including principal of $8,811.10 and interest of $2,537.90.

Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried and claims hereby made a portion of these minutes.

**PUBLIC FORUM:** None.

**FARMERS MARKET:** There was a request by local community members to bring a small farmers market into the Ellsworth community. Currently vendors host markets in Jewell, Webster City and other surrounding towns and were seeking permission to host here, one evening a week. Vendors were looking at Wednesday evenings from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm on Mainstreet starting in June through September depending on the popularity. At this time, there would between 5 to 7 different vendors offering a variety of goods from jewelry, soaps, chips and salsa, to pasta sauce, bakery items and art. Motion by Sogard, seconded by Gelder to allow the vendors to set up on Mainstreet. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

**AMERICAN SANITATION:** Shawna Schmidt with American Sanitation was present to discuss with the council the offering of a recycling program being provided by American Sanitation. Currently, a $4.00 charge is automatically assessed to

each utility bill for recycling services and recycling is picked up on Fridays. The City in turn compensates the recycler each month for those services based on the number of utility bills with recycling charges. Adding American Sanitation as a second recycling option would establish a secondary recycling pick up date, as they would pick up on their garbage date of Thursdays and would also create a billing issue with the utility bills and billing software. The Clerk requested additional time to research what other cities have come up with as a solution for this scenario.

**VANWERT INC:** Due to the Representative not being able to attend the meeting, the conversation will be tabled until August’s meeting.

**CITIZEN COMPLAINT 548 DES MOINES:** A complaint was filed with the City Clerk regarding junk and junk vehicles at a neighboring property. The Clerk is already in the process of sending nuisance abatement letters in regards to junk/ junk vehicles/ mowing and weeds and will included the property in her list.

**CITIZEN COMPLAINT 1413 DELPHI:** The City Clerk received another complaint from the property owner of 1413 Delphi Street regarding usage of the south side of his property by other drivers. Due to the owner not being at the meeting, the council was unable to take any action at this time. The complaint will stay on file for 90 days.

**BALL DIAMOND USAGE AND VENDOR:** A group of local residents has formed a co-ed softball group that is looking to play games at the Ellsworth ball diamond Sunday evenings at 5:00 pm. At this time, the group consists of 2 teams and play is for fun, but they are hoping to add teams in the future. They also have a vendor that has inquired about the possibility of offering hot dogs at the game. Motion by Gelder, seconded by Norem to approve the diamond usage and allowing the vendor to bring the cart to the games with no cost incurred by the City. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

**METER CHANGE OUT FEES:** The Clerk updated the council on the number of meters yet to be changed out throughout the City and reaffirmed that those utility customers not complying with the numerous changeout requests would begin to incur the monthly fee beginning on their July bill.

**1520 DEWITT STREET:** Previously the council had discussed options pertaining to the property located at 1520 Dewitt Street. A local resident had also inquired about the possibility of purchasing the property and requested information from City Hall regarding ordinances and setbacks. Discussion took place regarding certain electrical upgrades that were not previously completed as requested and how that affected future decisions. Attorney Montag will look into details of property ownership by the city and report back to the City.

**CITY PROJECT FOLLOW UPS:** Robb’s Tree Service was back in Ellsworth over the last month to complete the removal of Emerald Ash trees and electrical line trimming. With minor stump grinding work to complete, the City will continue to utilize tree services on a yearly basis but look at having a longer-term contract set up, so that its not such a large undertaking all at once.

**FISCAL YEAR END:** The City Clerk reviewed revenues and expenditures with the council for the end of Fiscal year 2022/2023. In looking ahead, she also discussed several expenses already incurred for the 2024 fiscal year and the possibility of a Capital Improvement Plan moving forward in hopes of better plan for future upgrades and replacement of equipment and facilities.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mayor Yager adjourned the meeting at 9:13 pm.

