

City of Eldridge City Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

The City of Eldridge, Iowa, City Council met in an open Committee of the Whole session at the Eldridge Community Center at 6:00 pm on April 7, 2025.

Council Members Present: Adrian Blackwell, Scott Campbell, Dan Collins, Brian Dockery and Ryan Iossi.

Presiding: Mayor Frank King

Also Present: Nevada Lemke, Jeff Martens, Letty Goslowsky, Marty O'Boyle, Weslet Martinez, Tim Martinez, Keith Schneckloth, Eleza Miller, Rick Schaeffer, Jake Elkenberry, Zach Howell, Dave Lisa, Kelly Engler, Patrick Gainer and Erin Gentz

Motion by Iossi to approve the agenda. Second by Campbell. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

New Business

Assistant City Administrator Jeff Martens spoke about the drilling of private wells and requested guidance from the Council. A business reached out to Jeff regarding a potential move to Eldridge due to the need of additional space, as they have outgrown their current facility located in LeClaire, IA. The product they manufacture does not need the use of public water. They would like to see if Eldridge would approve of them drilling a private well on their property. City of Eldridge does not currently have a code to address this type of request. Discussion was had on the pros and cons. The City Council said they are not opposed to a private well for this project but there are some boxes they would need to check off before it would be allowed to proceed. They were interested in more information about this operation, like where would the dyeing take place? Does it soak into the ground? Does the dye travel in the wind? What type of buildings will be built and what work will be done inside vs. outside? Etc. Martens said that there were processes in place where questions like this could be asked including the Board of Adjustment Use on Review and Planning and Zoning platting processes. The Council gave Martens verbal consent to proceed with the next steps.

The next topic of discussion was the 5th Street Improvement Project. City Engineer Zach Howell provided Council with several options and costs estimates that are viable. The goal is for parking and congesting alleviated during drop-off and pick-up times for the nearby schools. Council had comments and questions regarding the three options amongst themselves and to Zach. Ultimately it was decided that further discussion with the school district needs to be had before a decision can be made.

The final topic of discussion was regarding the future of the Eldridge Volunteer Fire Department. Fire Chief Keith Schneckloth spoke for the volunteer fire body as directed on their behalf. The Fire Dept feels the City should create a City Fire Department and hire at least one full-time staff member, whether it would be a chief or administrator or something similar. Various questions were

asked by council members as well as comments and observations. A consensus was made that an additional meeting needs to take place with the council, Chief and other members of the fire department if desired, City Attorney and City Insurance Agent, along with questions gathered from all parties for the meeting.

Old Business

Due to new business discussions went longer than anticipated, no old business was discussed.

Motion by Dockery to adjourn at 7:03pm. Second by Collins. Motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted by Letty Goslowsky, Finance Manager/City Clerk