

The Eldon City Council met in regular session on May 9, 2023 at Eldon City Hall with Mayor Potts presiding. Council members answering roll call were Tom Bedford, Carl Culp, Stacey Doree, Brandon Potts, and David Showman. The meeting was called to order at 5:30pm.

Motion by Doree to authorize the amended agenda by adding the fire department contract with the Wapello County Fair Board, second by Potts, all aye, motion carried.

Motion by Culp to authorize regular meeting minutes April 11, 2023 and special meeting minutes April 18, 2023, second by Doree, all aye, motion carried.

Motion by Bedford to authorize the bills, second by Potts, all aye, motion carried.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS –

Christy Bennett was present to discuss closing 4th Street from Elm Street to KD North and KD North from 1st Street to 4th Street June 3rd from 11:00pm to 3:00pm for a car show, motion by Showman, second by Potts, all aye, motion carried. The city will provide barricades.

Ryan Mitchell stated that the city knows that Wapello County Emergency Management, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, the Iowa Ombudsman's Office have been contacted by Donna Jeffrey regarding building a new city hall. The attorney's office, Ahlers & Cooney P.C., have been contacted by Donna Jeffrey, Jane Sapp, and Patti Durlinger regarding legal concerns and complaints against the city, which could lead to litigation. Ryan Mitchell stated that any further legal communications should come to him concerning any future litigation regarding building a new city hall.

Donna Jeffrey was present to ask the council to rethink moving city hall. She asked the council to get quotes for repairs to the present city hall from the recommendations of the engineer's report. Citizens are proud of city hall being on main street and would like to keep it here. The city council cannot take action due it not being on the agenda. Mayor Potts stated that it will be on the agenda for the next council meeting for council decision.

Jane Sapp was present to discuss the engineers report and the continued flooding of the building to which the city should be concerned and address. That is what other towns do. Eldon just sits back and waits for the next flood. Eldon needs to be proactive and fix the problems because there are solutions. City hall is the hub of our town and to be located where it is, is an asset. Moving city hall to the proposed site would not be a move in the right direction. Our town is full of history and historical places. These places bring visitors to town. Over the past few years, six buildings have been restored and that has not gone unnoticed. Eldon needs to take the tin off the windows and update the electrical wiring, do some foundation work and add support beams, dehumidifiers in the basement and upstairs. There are grants that should be applied for to restore city hall and help with flooding. We need to take advantage of grants instead of leaving our city with insufficient funds. Jane provided paperwork to Ryan Mitchell.

Mayor Potts opened the public hearing on the sale of Lot number Sixteen (16) in Selma Caster's Third Addition to the City of Eldon, Wapello County, State of Iowa {207 Cornell}. No written or oral comments were heard. Mayor Potts closed the public hearing.

Ryan Mitchell opened the public auction of Lot number Sixteen (16) in Selma Caster's Third Addition to the City of Eldon, Wapello County, State of Iowa {207 Cornell}. Rachael Bedford placed a bid in the amount of \$500.00. No other bids were received. Ryan Mitchell closed the public auction.

Motion by Potts to authorize Resolution 2023-9 – A resolution directing the disposal by sale of the City of Eldon's interest in real property located at Lot number Sixteen (16) in Selma Caster's Third Addition to the City of Eldon, Wapello County, State of Iowa {207 Cornell} to Rachel Bedford in the amount of \$500.00, second by Culp, roll call vote taken, Tom Bedford yes, Carl Culp yes, Stacey Doree yes, Brandon Potts, yes and David Showman yes.

Mayor Potts opened the public hearing on the sale of Lot number Fifty-nine (59) in Block Three (3) in Selma Caster's Second Addition to the City of Eldon, Wapello County, State of Iowa {210 Caster}. No written or oral comments were heard. Mayor Potts closed the public hearing.

Ryan Mitchell opened the public auction of Lot number Fifty-nine (59) in Block Three (3) in Selma Caster's Second Addition to the City of Eldon, Wapello County, State of Iowa {210 Caster}. One bid was received from Pearl Cloke in the amount of \$500.00, one bid was received from Jerry Potts in the amount of \$750.00, one bid was received from Pearl Cloke in the amount of \$800.00, one bid was received from Jerry Potts in the amount of \$1200.00. No other bids were received. Ryan Mitchell closed the public auction.

Motion by Doree to authorize Resolution 2023-10 – A resolution directing the disposal by sale of the City of Eldon's interest in real property Lot number Fifty-nine (59) in Block Three (3) in Selma Caster's Second Addition to the City of Eldon, Wapello County, State of Iowa {210 Caster} to Jerry Potts in the amount of \$1200.00, second by Bedford, roll call vote taken, Tom Bedford yes, Carl Culp yes, Stacey Doree yes, Brandon Potts yes, and David Showman yes.

Motion by Doree to authorize a deck permit for 704 High Street, second by Culp, all aye, motion carried.

Motion by Potts to authorize a fence permit for 111 KD North, second by Culp, all aye, motion carried.

Motion by Showman to authorize fence permit for 207 N. 9th Street, second by Potts, all aye, motion carried.

Motion by Bedford to authorize alcohol license for Chommy's Bar & Grill, second by Doree, all aye, motion carried.

Motion by Showman to authorize liquor license for Casey's General Store, second by Culp, all aye, motion carried.

Motion by Bedford to authorize capping water service at the curb stop at 512 W Walnut Street, second by Potts, all aye, motion carried.

Motion by Doree to authorize cigarette permit for Caseys, second by Showman, all aye, motion carried.

City Clerk – Motion by Showman to authorize the purchase a new copier from Bailey Office Outfitters in the amount of \$5499.45, second by Culp, motion carried. Carrie Teninty will contact Bailey's Office Outfitters to see if we can trade in the old copier.

Public Works – Jerred Reed updated the council on projects the public works department is working on. Motion by Bedford to authorize a quote from Electric Pump for lift station pump repair, second by Culp, all aye, motion carried.

Cemetery – No report.

Wapello County Law Enforcement – A written report was received. Don Phillips was present.

Library – A written report was received. Motion by Potts to authorize using unused budget money toward parking lot project, second by Doree, all aye, motion carried.

Gothic Visitors Center – A written report was received. Cari Nicely was present to update the council on events.

Fire Department – A written report was received. Motion by Culp to authorize a contract for EMS and fire protection at the Eldon races, second by Potts, all aye, motion carried.

Engineer – Motion by Potts to authorize notice of hearing for proposed drawings, specifications, form of contract, estimated costs and the taking of bids for the lagoon project to be held on June 13, 2023, second by Doree, all aye, motion carried.

Trails/Parks – Jerred Reed will obtain mulch for the parks.

Eldon Athletics – No report.

Old Business – Motion by Showman to authorize proceeding with rip rap project on Water Street, second by Potts, all aye, motion carried.

New Business – Discussion was held on the benches on Elm Street. The benches are owned by individuals. Motion by Doree to authorize repairs to benches on Elm Street to their original condition, second by Culp, all aye, motion carried. City employees will do the work.

Public Forum – Cari Nicely explained to the council that the Gothic House will remain open on the second Saturday each month but hours will be limited. Cari Nicely will work with Jerred Reed for use of the gator for Gothic Days 5K run.

Council Discussion – Mayor Potts stated that quite a bit of stuff has been accomplished as a team.

Brandon Potts asked about the library hall water leak. City employees will change out the old toilets.

Brandon Potts stated that the obtained properties from the nuisance abatement look good with the houses torn down. Mayor Potts stated two houses are down, water and sewer has been capped off, and a dumpster has been delivered to one of the properties.

Jane Sapp asked about the property located on Caster Street. Mayor Potts stated that mowing notices will go out this week. The ordinance states nine inches. Jane Sapp asked if we knew what their intention was for the property.

Ryan Mitchell will check on the status of the property located at 204 Cornell Street. People have been going in and out of the house.

Motion by Doree to adjourn, second by Culp, all aye, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:10pm.

Attest: Carrie Teninty