



ELLSWORTH COMMUNITY
ASSOCIATION
DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

Community Association
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Ellsworth

Christmas

Happenings

2025

Watch the Ellsworth Community Association Facebook page
For downtown tree lighting date

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Letters to Santa

Post your letters December 1st -15th

See Poster on page 10

Santa is Coming

December 13th
4:30-7:00

Ellsworth Fire Station

See Poster on page 10

Christmas Lighting Contest

Judging - **December 14th -20th**

Prizes - \$75.00, \$50.00, \$25-00

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Full Moon: 4 Last Quarter: 11 New Moon: 19 First Quarter: 27	1 	2 Comm. Assoc 6:00 Comm. Center	3 	4 Library board meet 5:30	5 	6 Bingo Community Center 5:00
7 Trinity Lutheran Church 9:00 Pearl Harbor Day, 1941 (USA)	8 City Council 6:00	9 	10 	11 	12 	13 Bingo Community Center 5:00
14 Trinity Lutheran Church 9:00	15 Hanukkah Begins	16 Comm. Assoc 6:00 Comm. Center	17 Firemen Meeting 7:00	18 	19 	20 Bingo Community Center 5:00
21 Trinity Lutheran Church 9:00 Winter Begins	22 	23 City Council 6:00	24 	25 Christmas Day	26 Boxing Day (Canada)	27 Bingo Community Center 5:00
28 Trinity Lutheran Church 9:00	29 	30 	31 	GUIDE TO BEST FISHING DAYS BEST GOOD POOR	NOVEMBER S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29	JANUARY S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 Good Value Calendars® Printed in U.S.A.
DECEMBER				2025		



Notices:

NEWSLETTER MATERIAL DUE: by the 25th of the month for the next month's edition. Send by email to ellsworthca@netins.net or Ellsworth Community Association, PO Box 272, Ellsworth, Ia 50075. Subscribe/unsubscribe by email: send your request to ellsworthca@netins.net.

Opinions expressed in the Ellsworth Newsletter are those of the writers and are not necessarily those of the Ellsworth Community Association or the editor.

Ellsworth Meals: Contact Linda Clark 515-297-3012 if you wish to have the noon meal delivered. Delivery Monday thru Friday, no holidays. Each meal \$5.00

Community Coffee - Tuesdays 9:30-?. Trinity Lutheran Church, Ellsworth. Everyone welcome.

Lord's Cupboard: Bethesda Lutheran Church, Jewell, 1st Monday 1:00-2:00, 5:00-6:30, other Mondays 5:00-6:30.

Birthdays This Month

Staci Thompson	1st
Laura Rollefson	7th
Holly Adix	15th
Tanner Thompson	30th

REMEMBERING THE PAST:

ELLSWORTH'S POST OFFICES/POSTMASTERS

Ellsworth has had several locations for its post offices over the years, primarily on Main Street. The first post office was situated where the current one stands. Initially, it was a general store. Later, it was relocated to a building further south on the same street.

Next, the post office moved to the site of the NE corner of Dubuque and DeWitt Sts but unfortunately, the building later burned down. In 1906, it operated in the south half of a building that previously housed Thompson's Turkey Hatchery on DeSota St. Subsequently, it returned to Main Street, occupying the back of the then-State Bank Building, NW corner of DeWitt and Dubuque. Later, the post office moved into the rooms vacated by the State Bank when the Bank closed.

In 1962, Wayne Brinton constructed a new building north of the Legion Hall. This building is currently leased by the government.

Postmasters over the years:

John Ringstad	1881-1881	Oliver Nelson	1907-1913
Abram Candle	1881-1882	Inez Hanson	1913-1925
Charles Dickey	1882-1883	O. A. Cragwick	1925-1929
Abram Candle	1883-1884	Clifford Dalbey (Acting PM)	1929
John Lenning	1884-1885	Abner Reynolds	1929-1935
John Digerness	1885-1889	Blanche Risetters	1935-1959
Arthur Larison	1889-1891	Leoan Coates (Acting PM)	1959-1961
Andrew Johnson	1891-1893	Wayne E. Brinton	1961-1984
John Digerness	1893-1897	Janet Adix	1985-1998
William Price	1897-1907	Lori Hill	1998-2012
		(the last employee named PM)	

Ellsworth Community Association (ECA)

Meeting Minutes

November 4th, 2025

Meeting called to order by Ashley Platte, President, at 6:15 PM.

Roll Call: Ashley Platte, Brittany Williams, Darlene Campbell and Linda Clark

Minutes and Treasure Report Approval: Motion to approve by Brittany, seconded by Darlene. Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried.

Public Forum: None present

2nd Annual Soup Supper: Event is this Sunday. Darlene, Brittany, Linda and Lori will be bringing the soups. Becca the rolls and some cookies. Ashley the cinnamon rolls and some treats along with Brittany and Darlene bringing some cookies/treats. Water will be served to drink. Delivery around town will be available.

Extravaganza: No update.

Christmas: After Halloween we talked with the fireman. We will be helping the fireman with whatever they need down for their Santa at the Fire station event and will be providing frosting for the cookies and Santa. Linda has been in contact with Santa and he has it on his schedule. As for letters for Santa. We have the letters made, they will be up at the post office for pick up. Our mail box does need a little work done to it. We will be making fliers to put up around town and on social media.

Bylaws: Kayla is working on them. When she is done, they will be brought to the table for discussion.

Comments:

Halloween: Halloween went well with serving 240 hot dogs and having parents and children coming and going all night. The fire department said we could use their grill next year for the hot dogs.

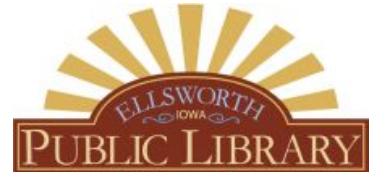
Santa Pay: Discussion to raise what we pay our Santa. Brittany made a motion to raise the pay from \$75 to \$100. Darlene seconded. Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried.

Trivia: Brittany proposed an idea for a trivia night in February. This has been tabled until our work meeting in 2 weeks.

Lori's concession stand pay: Discussion to raise what we pay Lori Clark to run our BINGO concession stand on Saturdays. Brittany made a motion to raise Lori's pay from \$100 a week to \$150 a week starting November 1st 2025 to be re-evaluated at Jan2027 meeting. Darlene seconded. Roll call 2-0 with Linda abstaining. Motion carried.

Adjournment: Motion by Brittany. Seconded by Darlene. The meeting adjourned at 6:51 P.M.

UPCOMING EVENTS - DECEMBER 2025



- . BASE Exercise Group – Meets 10:15 – 10:45am EVERY **FRIDAY**
- . Story Time for Children ages 0 to 5 is every **Thursday** at 10am till 11 am. We read stories, sing songs, create a craft and have a snack.
- . LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS: we will closed **DEC 24**, and 25, and reopen on **Dec 26**, 2025 at 10 am.
- . We will also be closed for the NEW YEARS HOLIDAY as follows, we close at 3 pm on **Dec 31**, 2025, - Closed JAN. 1, 2026. We will reopen on Jan. 2, 2026 at 10 a.m.

SANTA WILL BE COMING ON **SATURDAY** Dec. 13, 2025 so make sure you stop in the library and write your letter to Santa, create a **Christmas** Craft and get a special treat.

. LIBRARY BOARD MEETING WILL BE HELD DEC. 4, 2025 from 5:30pm to 6:30 pm. (open to the public).

. STOP into the library for a “CHRISTMAS TREE ORNAMENT CRAFT” CHILDREN OF ALL AGES CAN STOP IN TO THE LIBRARY AND PICK UP A FREE ORNAMENT CRAFT AND TAKE IT HOME TO DECORATE AND PUT ON THEIR CHRISTMAS TREE. PICK UP STARTS ON **DEC 1**, 2025. MAKE SURE YOU STOP IN!!!!

. Young(ish) ADULT BOOK CLUB WILL BE HELD ON **DEC 29**, 2025 at 6pm.
More details about programming will be available on our website ellsworth.lib.ia.us/events.

HOW TO GET A LIBRARY CARD:

Any person who resides with an Ellsworth address will be issued a library card without a fee. You must provide identification showing name and current Ellsworth address. Library Cards do expire after one year of inactivity. Proof of address is required to renew it. Patrons with unpaid fines over \$5.00 or overdue materials will not be permitted to check out additional materials. A person can continue to use library materials within the library. If an amount exceeds \$25 there is no reinstatement unless fine is paid in person.

NONRESIDENTS are welcome to attend library sponsored programs.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE ELLSWORTH PUBLIC LIBRARY!!!

Roxann Boyce
Director | Ellsworth Public Library
ellsworth.lib.ia.us

OCTOBER 28th CITY COUNCIL MEETING

COUNCIL MINUTES/CLAIMS CITY OF ELLSWORTH October 28, 2025

The Ellsworth City Council met in regular session at 6:09 p.m. at City Hall on October 28, 2025, with Mayor Yager presiding, and the following council members present: Phipps, Funk, Olson. Also in attendance were Darlene Campbell, Travis Anderson, Justin Thompson, Megan Thompson, and Brian Zimmerman

August Receipts August Disbursements

General Fund	917.38	50104.85
Road Use Fund	0.00	18963.84
Employee Benefit Fund	0.00	1836.33
Emergency Fund	0.00	0.00
Local Option Sales Tax Fund	0.00	0.00
Tax Increment Finance Area 1	0.00	0.00
Tax Increment Finance 1 Amend	0.00	0.00
Bingo Fund	0.00	49726.54
Debt Service Fund	0.00	0.00
Capital Project-Strm Water	0.00	0.00
Capital Project-Water Tower	0.00	20982.50
Water Fund	24604.77	14770.97
Water Sinking Fund	0.00	0.00
Sewer Fund	5929.44	6739.75
Electric Fund	84193.81	155128.73
Electric Sinking Fund	0.00	0.00
Storm Water Fund	5067.63	0.00
Storm Water Sinking	0.00	5473.00
	\$120713.03	\$323726.51

AGENDA APPROVAL: Motion by Olson, seconded by Phipps to approve the agenda. Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA: Motion by Olson, seconded by Funk to approve the following items listed on the consent agenda:

- a. Motion to approve October 13th, 2025 council minutes.
- b. Motion to approve October 28th, 2025 payment of claims.
- c. Motion to approve Audit transfer correction for Water Fund CD FY25 of \$150000.
- d. Motion to approve Audit transfer correction for Electric Fund CD FY25 of \$250000.
- e. Motion to approve Audit transfer FY25 correction for Debt Service from Storm Water Sinking of \$28980.

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f. Motion to approve Audit transfer correction to EMS/Ambulance savings in FY25 of \$10,073.85.

g. Motion to approve SMK Insurance audit/building replacement coverage increase of \$8863.

h. Motion to approve purchase of Bingo Thanksgiving and Christmas gift card prizes for \$500 total.

Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried and claims hereby made a portion of these minutes.

PUBLIC FORUM: Darlene Campbell was present to discuss concerns about the youth in Ellsworth not following safety or traffic rules when on electric bikes and scooters. Mayor Yager mentioned that this topic was on the agenda and that the Council would discuss it in depth. Travis Anderson was present to discuss the teardown and setup of tables and chairs in the Community Center gym. He shared that the four to five basketball teams using the gym over the winter months, each paying \$100, should offset any expense of hiring someone or a couple of people to tear down and set up the tables/chairs and take up the big floor mats.

SOUTH HIGH PRIDE ELLSWORTH GYM USE: Justin and Megan Thompson are spearheading the South High Pride Tournament on February 7th and asked for the use of the gym from 8 am to 6 pm. They said the Ellsworth Community Association could run the concession stand as a fundraiser. Motion by Olson and second by Phipps to allow the use of the gym free of charge and to cancel Bingo on February 7th. Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried.

MAVERIK SIGN PERMIT APPLICATION: Motion by Phipps and seconded by Olson to approve the sign permit. Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried.

THOMPSON CONSTRUCTION INVOICE FOR SCHOOL ROOF \$39,525.20: After balances in Bingo and Community Center were shared by Clerk Eckers, and discussion was had about Iowa Code usage of gambling funds, motion made by Phipps and seconded by Funk to approve the payment of the invoice for Thompson Construction to replace the roof on the historic school building for \$39,525.20 out of Bingo funds. Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried.

FUNK FUNNY FARM ANIMAL VARIANCE REQUEST: Tabled

PUBLIC HEARING CITY SALE OF PARCEL 40872330311008: Mayor Yager opened the public hearing at 6:56 pm. None present. Mayor Yager closed the public hearing at 6:57 pm.

RESOLUTION 10-28-2025 APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF REAL ESTATE TO LOGAN PRIME AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF DEED: Motion by Phipps and second by Olson to adopt Resolution 10-28-2025. Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried.

E-BIKE ORDINANCE DISCUSSION: Iowa Code 321.235A concerning electric personal devices was presented to the council after several citizen complaints about the use of these devices in town by young children. Ordinance No. 2025-06 from Humboldt, Iowa, was also presented as a potential example for Ellsworth to consider adopting. Council discussed definitions and types/classes of these electric vehicles. Council discussed the need for local governance that could be enforced by local law enforcement. Motion by Funk and second by Phipps that Clerk Eckers work with City Attorney Heeren on preparing an ordinance for the City of Ellsworth similar to Humboldt's 2025-06. Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried.

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BID FOR ANNUAL EXAMINATION SERVICES 2024, 2025, 2026 FROM CORNWELL, FRIDERES, MAHER AND ASSOCIATES: Motion by Funk and second by Phipps to accept the bid for annual examination services 2024, 2025, 2026 from Cornwell, Frideres, Maher and Associates. Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried.

EXAM REPORT FY24 FROM CORNWELL, FRIDERS, MAHER AND ASSOCIATES: Motion by Olson and second by Funk to accept the exam report from FY24. Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried.

ECA: NONE PRESENT

LIBRARY: NONE PRESENT

FIRE/EMS: NONE PRESENT

PUBLIC WORKS: A. Clerk Eckers updated the council that the old backhoe has one sealed bid submitted, with the deadline being Wednesday, November 5th, 2025, 8 am.

CITY HALL UPDATE: A. Clerk Eckers gave the Council a report on the data continuing to be collected and shared with the Iowa State University College of Design Comprehensive Planning project. The next community meeting is November 3rd at 6:30 pm at the Community Center in Ellsworth. All residents are encouraged and welcome to attend. B. Clerk Eckers updated the Council on the progress of the mural in the city park. They shared that there was to be a celebration/unveiling on Friday, November 14th at 4 pm at the City Park, with ribbon cutting, food truck, live music, and a dedication plaque presented. Clerk Eckers asked the Council if the Park Shelter house could be made available for the Ellsworth Community Association to serve hot chocolate to the community as well as a space for people to gather, keep warm, and eat supper if they choose. Motion by Phipps and second by Olson to allow the use of the Park Shelter house free of charge to the City for this celebration on November 14th. Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Yager called for adjournment. Motion by Olson and second by Funk to adjourn. Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm.

/s/ Dolorus Yager, Mayor

/s/ Heidi Eckers, City Clerks

NOVEMBER 10th CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The Ellsworth City Council met in regular session at 6:02 p.m. at City Hall on November 10, 2025, with Mayor Yager presiding, and the following council members present: Phipps, Funk, Olson, Sogard, and Holden. Also in attendance were Brian Zimmerman and Ashley Platte.

AGENDA APPROVAL: Motion by Olson, seconded by Sogard to approve the agenda. Roll call votes 5-0. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA: Motion by Funk, seconded by Olson to approve the following items listed on the consent agenda:

- a. Motion to approve October 28, 2025 council minutes.
- b. Motion to approve November 10, 2025 payment of claims.

Roll call votes 5-0. Motion carried and claims hereby made a portion of these minutes.

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PUBLIC FORUM: None Present

FUNKS FUNNY FARM ANIMAL VARIANCE REQUEST: Motion by Holden and seconded by Olson to increase the variance in fowl/animal from 5 goats to 10 goats, 2 horses, and 20 total fowl. Roll call votes 4-0, Funk abstaining.

PUBLIC WORKS:

a. Backhoe snow pusher: Motion to keep and purchase snow pusher for new backhoe of \$17,250, ordered by Public Works Supervisor Vanlangen to avoid shipping return of \$1000 and re-stock fee of \$4000 by Funk, and seconded by Phipps. Individual roll call votes: Funk Aye, Phipps Aye, Holden Nay, Olson Aye, and Sogard Nay. 3-2. Motion carried.

BACKHOE SEALED BID APPROVAL: Motion by Funk and second by Sogard to approve the backhoe sealed bid of \$16,789.00 and sealed bid of \$2500 for the Hiniker plows. Roll call votes 5-0. Motion carried.

ADDITIONAL BINGO EMPLOYEES: Motion by Funk and seconded by Sogard to offer table and chair tear-down and set-up contract to Ashley Platte and family, tear-down happening by Sunday at 3pm and set-up by Saturday noon, contract to last until March 1st, 2026. Roll call votes 5-0. Motion carried.

MIDAS CDBG CITY SURVEY: Motion by Funk and seconded by Holden to participate in a council and city staff-led survey with the help of MIDAS to pursue CDBG grant eligibility for Watertower funding. Roll call votes 5-0. Motion carried.

WATER TOWER DISCUSSION: No action taken

ELECTRIC RATE STUDY – MIDLAND/IAMU: Motion by Funk and second by Olson to approve up to \$3000 matching city contribution for electric rate study, prior to energy cost increases in January 2026. Roll call votes 5-0. Motion carried

E-BIKE ORDINANCE: Tabled

ECA: NONE PRESENT

LIBRARY: Mayer Yager and Clerk Eckers attended the November 6th Library Board meeting to discuss the historic Ellsworth Study Club quilt. Clerk Eckers presented the board with newspaper articles stating the quilt was donated to the City of Ellsworth originally. The library Board agreed to rebuild the frame with plexiglass and the quilt will be mounted in City Hall.

FIRE/EMS: NONE PRESENT

CITY HALL UPDATES: None

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Yager called for adjournment. Motion by Funk and seconded by Olson to adjourn. Roll call votes 5-0. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:21 pm.

/ Dolorus Yager, Mayor

/s/ Heidi Eckers, City Clerk

