

MEETING NOTICE

The regular monthly meeting of the Ellsworth City Council will be held on Monday, April 18, 2022 at 6:00 PM in the Ellsworth City Hall Council Chambers

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ellsworthme>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/CityofEllsworthMaine>

AGENDA

1. Call to Order.
2. Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Rules of Order.

Motion by Robert to add #16 as acceptance of grant funds, seconded by Marc, passed 6-0

4. Adoption of the Ellsworth City Council minutes from the following meetings:
 - March 21, 2022
5. City Manager's Report.
6. Committee Reports.
7. Citizens' Comments.
8. Presentation of Awards.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

CONSENT AGENDA

CONSENT AGENDA: All items with an asterisk (*) are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Council member so requests, in which event, the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in its normal sequence on the Agenda.

9. Council Order #041801, Request of the City Clerk for appointment of Wardens and Ward Clerks for the four voting districts within the City of Ellsworth for the June 14, 2022 City of Ellsworth School Budget Validation Special Municipal Referendum Election. * **
10. Council Order #041802, Request of the City Clerk for approval on setting the polling places opening time as 8 AM for the June 14, 2022 City of Ellsworth School Budget Validation Special Municipal Referendum Election. * **
11. Council Order #041803, Request of the Tax Collector to accept payments on Real Estate Purchase Installment Contract on property located at Map 143 Lot 050-000-000) and to authorize the City Manager to release said property through a Municipal Quit Claim Deed. * **

** Agenda items with backup material.

* ** Consent Agenda items with backup material.

Motion to approve Consent Agenda by Marc, seconded by Robert, passed 6-0

NEW BUSINESS

12. Public hearing and action on the issuance of Business License (s):
 - ❖ Ellsworth No. 1, LLC, d/b/a Hampton Inn – Ellsworth, 6 Downeast Highway, for renewal of a City Lodging License. **
Motion to approve by Marc, seconded by Robert, passed 6-0
13. Council Order #041804, Request of the Public Works Director to approve an excavator lease agreement for a term of up to 6 months. **
Motion to approve by Marc, seconded by Robert, passed 6-0
14. Council Order #041805, Request of the Public Works Director to accept the DEP grant funds for stream crossing **
Motion to approve by Marc, seconded by Robert, passed 6-0
15. Council Order #041806, Request of the Public Works Director to approve the Water Street pump station project **
Motion to approve by Casey, seconded by Gene, passed 5-1 (O'Halloran)
16. NEW ITEM ADDED: Request of the Public Works Director to accept DEP ARPA and OSG Grant funds
Motion to approve by Robert, seconded by Gene, passed 6-0
17. Council Order #041807, Request of the Finance Director for approval of the Annual Reports for Tax Year April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022 for Affordable Housing Tax Increment Financing Districts, Leonard Lake, Oriole Way and Oriole Way Senior in the City of Ellsworth
Motion to approve by Marc, seconded by Robert, passed 6-0
18. Executive Session to discuss labor negotiations between the City of Ellsworth and the Ellsworth Waste Water Treatment Plant Laborers 327 in accordance with MRSA Title 1, Chapter 13, Section 405, Paragraph 6D.
Motion to enter: Marc, seconded by Robert 5-1 (O'Halloran)
Motion to exit: Steve, seconded by Robert 6-0
Motion to accept the negotiations by Marc, seconded by Gene, passed 6-0
19. Executive Session to discuss labor negotiations between the City of Ellsworth and the Ellsworth City Hall Clerks Unit Massachusetts and Northern New England Laborers District Council 327 in accordance with MRSA Title 1, Chapter 13, Section 405, Paragraph 6D
Motion to enter: Robert, seconded by Casey 5-1 (O'Halloran)
Motion to exit: Robert, seconded by Casey, 6-0
Motion to approve negotiations by Robert, seconded by Gene, passed 6-0
20. Adjournment.
Motion by Robert, seconded by Marc, passed 6-0

** Agenda items with backup material.

* ** Consent Agenda items with backup material.

CITY COUNCIL APRIL 18, 2022

Dale Hamilton

I call to order this April 18, 2022 City council meeting. Pledge of Allegiance. So yes, Councilor Miller.

Robert Miller

Mr. Chairman, I'd like to make a motion to add item from the public works director regarding the DEP, ARPA and OSG Grant acceptance funds.

Marc Blanchette

Second

Dale Hamilton

Second, all in favor? Unanimous. I should also note that Councilor Kaplan is absent this evening. It's an excused absence.

Marc Blanchette

And you want to give the date for the record? The date of this meeting?

Dale Hamilton

Toni got it. So we will and we'll add that will make that item 16. And then move all the others from there. Okay, item three rules of order. We follow Robert's Rules of orders and any other rules that are adopted during the annual planning meeting. item for adoption Ellsworth City Council minutes from the following meetings March 21st, 2022.

Marc Blanchette

So moved.

Robert Miller

Second.

Dale Hamilton

Motion and a second, any discussion? All those in favor? Unanimous. Item five city manager's report manager.

Glenn Moshier

Thank you. Good evening Councilors. I actually have quite a lengthy report here for tonight, so I'll try to go as quickly as I can. But we have set a tentative schedule for the budget workshops. So I just wanted to kind of run down those real quickly for the citizens. So on Monday, April 25 so a week from today, we're going to start we'll do the introduction, review of revenue, Administrative Department Budgets, library and the general fund. And Monday, May 2, we have a switch, we're actually going to be doing the public safety so police and fire. Monday May 9 will be the school department. Monday, May 23, will

be maintenance, Public Works, water department and wastewater. And then finally on Monday, June 6, we'll do the capital budgets, social services, recreation, review of debt, and Council review and discussion. Along the way, if we need additional dates we'll certainly accommodate. Right now that's the tentative schedule going forward for the budget workshops. Additionally, and I just wanted to set out a couple of thank yous want one to city staff, particularly Janna, Elena, Jane, Adam and Steve, who participated among others in the building in the Ukraine aid, which was wildly successful. In the seven days, we collected 7000 pounds of donations, and took those down to New Hampshire where they were putting into a shipping container and sent over to Poland, for eventual final destination of the Ukraine. We had everything from some brand new couple of brand new generators donated, to crutches and other types of medical type of equipment, and everything in between. So it's a very successful, and thank you to those employees and all the other employees who helped out with that endeavor. I also wanted to just give a quick thank you to Helen's restaurant and Healthy Acadia. And all these folks from the city of Ellsworth, who came and citizens who came out to the Helen's last week for a tip a cop event. I'm very excited to say that we raised over \$4,000 in just a couple of hours for project Hope. And so that money will go to helping folks who suffer from substance abuse disorder and getting the treatment that they need. So thank you to everyone who participated and everyone who donated Harbor Park Marina will officially open on May 15. Nope, the park will open on Memorial weekend, May 28. And just a quick announcement about the City Forest. We've got a bridge on the blue trail that's in pretty bad state of disrepair. So that trail portion of that trail is going to be closed for the foreseeable future until we can get that that bridge replaced, kinda a safety issue, so we had to take the bridge out. A couple of other other announcements, the fifth annual Ellsworth, roadside cleanup is kicking off April 23 and runs through May 1, you can pick up bags here at City Hall. And the highway department will be around to pick up those bags if you just leave them in the areas where you where you do the cleanup. And this Saturday, April 23, at 9:30am to noon is the annual card Brook cleanup. And the folks who want to do who want to donate their time to working in and around the Card Brook area can show up Saturday morning at 930. And the rain date will be Saturday, April 30. And you can show up in the Hannaford area, and there'll be organizers there to provide you with the equipment that you need and point you in the direction of where best to attack the Card Brook cleanup. Also, we just wanted to let everybody know that we are in the process of planning a ribbon cutting for our solar projects on the Mariaville road. And we're trying to iron out a date with sunrays, the project builders. But we're looking at sometime in the first week or two of May for a ribbon cutting and of course councilors and citizens are invited to attend that. And that is all I have. So just to notice about the transfer station. So as you most of you are probably very well aware the scale is being replaced. And its work is being is scheduled to begin on that May 9. Well, in the meantime, the scale is broken. Doesn't make a lot of sense to invest money on fixing the broken scale when we're replacing it in just a couple of weeks. So the scale is going to be down so folks will have to purchase bags, they won't be able to or stickers, they won't be able to come in and use the scale until the new scale is in place which will take a few weeks. That is all I have.

Dale Hamilton

Any questions, comments? All right, seeing none. Committee reports. Any councilors attend any committee meetings?

Robert Miller

Yeah, chair Hamilton. I attended the Recreation Commission. They basically were going over the budget there for the Recreation Commission to forward to the council. They've had one meeting to discuss it and then they've gone and evaluated the different organizations and they're having another discussion and then there'll be forwarding us their results.

Dale Hamilton

Anyone else? All right. Item seven citizens comments. Anybody can make a comment. Just go to the up to the podium. Introduce yourself.

John Linnehan

Good evening councilors. I'm John Linnehan. I have a handout. I don't know whether it's Toni has handed that to you or not. Okay, well, all got those. Got three items I'd like to mention tonight. First is an update on Constitution Hall. We've been working hard on it for several months, as most of you know, we've had many soft openings and soft launches on just about every aspect of it. And I'm excited to say that over the next two or three weeks, I think it's gonna be May 6, we're going to have actually our grand opening for it that night. I put these in front of you tonight just to give you an idea of what events we are having there. Every Friday night we're having a free Friday Movie Night. We have a variety movies as some our educational some are entertainment. So we just showed the Passion of Christ day this week in honor of Easter. So that was this week's movie and the day of our grand opening. We're very honored to have Seth Keshel here with us. Seth is a nationally known expert on election fraud. And there's been a lot of controversy on that going around, around our country. And I think he's one of the best speakers to have. So he will be here. And he just notified us actually yesterday another person he speaks with many times, it's Captain James Tessaro, but he's going to be joining as well like that. So I think we're going to be extremely blessed to have that group of people here for that meeting. We will probably have our grand opening at four o'clock. I'll make sure you guys have plenty of notice before that. And then there also is a meet and greet for Seth Keshel same evening. So that's going to be An awesome evening. And then the final flyer I wanted to give you is on constitution alive. We've had several constitutional meetings out there like that, which I've been very excited about. I'm learning to run the projector and the sound. So I'm kind of the sound guy out there. So I've had to set through every one of them so far that we've had, but I've really enjoyed them out there. And if you haven't really take a look at our Constitution, and the history of it, the background of it, I encourage you, every Thursday night at six o'clock, we've been doing that. This is a new series of settings going to be starting May 18. And I like this because it integrates the biblical historical background of our constitutions. And I think that's something that's not taught in schools nowadays, and something a lot of us have not had a good background in. And the Constitution is a solution, I believe, for our nation for the problems that we have going through right now. So I just encourage you to take advantage of some of those. So constitution halls come in very, very well, I'm excited about having our official grand opening on My 6. Also, at the last Council meeting, there was a vote, there's awarding of a contract that went to a higher bid than a local business person, Andrew McCullough here in our community. And I have never talked to Andrew about it. But it just bothered me sitting there, I think, you know, I think we need to be a lot more business friendly or user friendly, if you will, to our own local people I was really disappointed with it that night, to be honest with you. And I think that should never happen. Number one, finances are tight all around. And I think any dollar we have if we can save

\$12,000, which I think Andrews bid was roughly \$12,000 less, I was very disappointed the way that was handled. Be honest with you if I was on the council, and he was a few thousand more, I bet to give it to him, I think we need to take care of our local people. I just thought that was a very poor message that was sent. And I think Andrew is a good guy in the community. He's always around to help anybody that needs anything like that. And my third and final things, I want to encourage the council to really look at financial stewardship. I'm 73 years old, I've had multiple businesses around the state of Maine. I've been involved with finances and that type of business, that type of process all my life like that. I'm really concerned about our nation financially, our state financially, it's trickled down to our cities like that. You can't keep printing off trillions and trillions of paper money. It's funny money, it's Monopoly money. Every time they print it out. People say well, inflation stuff is going up. How about your dollars is going down in value every time they print another dollar out. So I encourage our city to really be proven. And I would like to see if a hiring freeze on all employees, the city, I think there's going to be some very, very bad times coming. I happen to be a prepper I'm prepared for the worst. I'm praying and hoping for the best. But I'm prepared for some really tough times coming. I've been through a few recessions, not a depression. But I think what's coming is going to get everybody's attention and I just like to see our city prepared to have a handle on it ahead of time. So I just present that for what it's worth. And thank you very much for your time. I appreciate it. Guys have a good evening.

Nate Hanson

Hi, I'm Nate Hanson, resident here. Just briefly. Last month at council meeting, we had dozens of citizen engaged with city council, this place was full as you all remember. And while the opinions expressed were all over the spectrum, every person on this podium spoke in a civil and respectful manner. Though people clearly had strong opinions on both sides of the debate. People maintained an appropriate demeanor every adult and even every teenager, especially every teenager, spoke and presented themselves with composure and propriety. After those dozens of citizen comments, Councilor Blanchette, unfortunately made a decision to break from civil discourse. He yelled at individual citizens, even swore at one attendee. He used vulgar language toward the teenagers who gathered in the room. And it was disappointing and it demeaned the proceeding. I hope the councilor understands how such behavior discourages civil engagement and it makes it more difficult for this body to do its job in representing the citizens and an acting in their interests. I hope that none of us have to see that kind of behavior from the Dyess in the future. Thanks,

Marc Blanchette

Mr. Hanson. Anytime that you've dumbed down the veterans of this country, you will here language from me.

Dale Hamilton

please, please stop. I was about to address it. And I don't need you to step in while I'm trying to do that. All right. I will remind all councilors to please if you want to speak to wait to be called upon. And we can carry on a conversation at that point.

Marc Blanchette

When I hear the dumbing down of veterans, veterans that served this country with distinction, honor and valor, you will hear words from me. And if they happen to be words that you don't like, or that you don't approve of as my grandchildren used to say, too bad, so sad.

Dale Hamilton

Councilor Blanchette. Yes. So if, if you want to respond, that's fine. But let's not respond in terms of making it personal. Just please respond to the chair in terms of comments. And rather than get into a debate with somebody else that has a difference of opinion,

Marc Blanchette

I will always stand for the veteran if nobody else does, I will. Simple as that.

Casey Hanson

can I say something? Just that nobody said anything bad about veterans during any email that I read, or any part of this conversation. So that just feels a little odd.

Marc Blanchette

Councilor, when I hear the word subset, being used to describe veterans, a subset of this community? I take umbrage at that. Always have, I always will. They are heroes in anybody's in most people's books, they are not a subset of this community. They are the pillar of this community.

Casey Hanson

Maybe the word subset means something different to you. Subset it just means a one part of greater Part.

Marc Blanchette

I understand what the word means.

Dale Hamilton

can we? If we want to have a discussion, please, let's let's not get into a debate, let's be recognized. And we can have a civil conversation about that. But let's not turn it into a debate among councilors. You're welcome to speak just please be recognized. And and we'll address your comments to the chair. You may go, but let me let me just stay. Let me just state something for the record. This process that we have that we go through is intended to have public input, and it's intended to have counselor input. And sometimes there's agreement, sometimes there's disagreement. It is one of those things that there is a balance that we all must adhere to as a council, we have a higher threshold in terms of maintaining that and being respectful of the process. What I tried to do as chair is to keep this from becoming a debate back and forth. There are some things that people will take personally, there is a time and a place for that and an appropriate place. So if I say that, because if the comments are going to be more about personal back and forth, we're going to end that. That conversation can happen outside of this forum. You've had the opportunity to express your concern, which I appreciate you doing. But I just want to keep this from becoming devolving into just a big debate back and forth on personal issues. So you have the floor.

Nate Hanson

I think everyone notices that nothing that I said here pertained to what Councilor Blanchette is trying to make this about. Councilor Blanchette's behavior. We were all here. We all heard his language. He swore. And yes, as he has now brought the conversation to, he referred to an email that I wrote, didn't quote, the email, didn't express the content of the email, as it was clearly expressed. If you'd like to read the email from up there, that's fine. But that's not really what I talked about here was it? I talked about your language and the way you treated people on this side of the Dyess and it was inappropriate. You have no response to that, as far as I can tell. That's all I've come here to say. Thank you.

Marc Blanchette

I just want to state that I quoted the email that Mr. Hanson sent me it was simply a copy and paste job. Don't shake your head no.

Dale Hamilton

All right. That's, that's, we're gonna end that conversation. If if you want to address it, the two of you outside of this, there are plenty avenues to do that. This is not the appropriate form.

Steven O'Halloran

Good evening. My name is Steve O'Halloran. I'm a citizen here in this town of Ellsworth, been here 57 years. And I would like to echo two things, Mr. Linnehan had stated his displeasure with this Council's vote to award a contract to an outside company for \$10,000 more. I was equally upset with that. As Mr. Linnehan was the research I did the firm in Ellsworth, it's a taxpayer and Ellsworth got sold out by this council. And I'm disappointed in that I think it's unfair, not only is it unfair to ask him to bid than not accept him as a low bidder. But furthermore, the \$10,000 more we're sending out of town, some of that is that citizens money. So I'd like to remind the council of that. Number two, is I'd like to echo Mr. Hansen comments, I have to sit beside this gentleman. And I apologized to the group because of his tone last month, and I would like to apologize tonight, again, for his tone.

Marc Blanchette

Mr. Hamilton.

Dale Hamilton

We we are going to follow the parameters of the charter in terms of being respectful to one another as councilors. And when we make personal comments about other counselors and and impersonal manner and not from a perspective of an opinion about the situation at hand, the agenda item that is going to be on the bounds, and I'm going to ask all councilors to be respectful. As chair, I have a responsibility to address that issue. And I will start addressing that issue because it is becoming increasingly more difficult, more adversarial at this table. And it doesn't need to be. We are not going to address him personally. If you make it personal, you will be asked to stop speaking. And if we have to take it further than that we will but we need to maintain decorum among this group in order to conduct the business. That's what we want to have happen. We don't always agree we want public input. But we need it to be respectful and that that's what I'm requesting. And as Chair if I have to, I will step in to prevent us from going down the wrong road. Anybody else like to speak? All right, moving on.

presentation of awards. There are no awards this evening. Consent Agenda all items with an asterix are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion. There'll be no separate discussion of these items unless a council member so requests in which event the item will be removed from the consent agenda and considered in its normal sequence on the agenda. Nine Council order number 041801 request of the city clerk for appointment of Wardens and Ward clerks for the four voting districts within the city of Ellsworth for the June 14 2022 City of Ellsworth school budget validation special municipal referendum election. Number 10. Council order number 04101802. That's 041802 request of the city clerk for approval and setting the polling places opening time as 8am for the June 14 2022, city of Ellsworth school budget validation special municipal referendum election and Item 11 Council order number 041803 request of the tax collector to accept payments on real estate purchase installment contract on property located on map 143 lat 050 Dash 00 Dash 000 and to authorize the city manager to release that property through a municipal quitclaim deed. Would any Councilor's like to remove any of those items. Seeing none, is there a motion?

Marc Blanchette

Move as presented.

Robert Miller

Second.

Dale Hamilton

Have a second, any discussion? All those in favor? Unanimous. Item 12 new business public hearing and action on the issuance of business licenses. Madam clerk is everything all in order with all these. Ellsworth number one LLC CBA Hampton Inn Ellsworth 6 down east highway for renewal of a city lodging license. This is a public hearing. I'll open the public hearing. Public Hearing is open. Seeing no comments closed the public hearing, public hearing is closed.

Marc Blanchette

So moved.

Dale Hamilton

So, have a motion.

Robert Miller

Second.

Dale Hamilton

Any discussion? All those in favor? Unanimous. Item 13. Council order number 041804 request for the public works director to approve an excavator lease agreement for a term of up to six months.

Lisa Sekulich

Good evening councilors Lisa Sekulich public works director. So the first item tonight is to this is our yearly rental of a excavator for the summer season to do ditching and larger culvert type items. So back in 2017/18, somewhere in there, we used to own one at one point. And we ended up getting rid of it and

decided to go with the rental option yearly. And so I'm requesting to rent an excavator with all the associated attachments for \$4,200 a month from Eagle rental. Who has been who we've used the last couple of years without any major issues.

Marc Blanchette

Move as presented.

Robert Miller

Second,

Dale Hamilton

Any discussion?

Steven O'Halloran

How many hours did you put on the one for the six months last time?

Lisa Sekulich

I can't even begin to tell you I don't know.

Steven O'Halloran

was it used daily, weekly....

Lisa Sekulich

Oh, daily. Just I mean, it's maybe set a portion of the time but 95% of time it was being used.

Steven O'Halloran

Thank you. One further comment, Thank you for recommending the low bidder in this case

Dale Hamilton

Any further discussion? All those in favor. Unanimous Item 14 Council order numbers 041805. requested the public works director to accept the DEP grant funds for stream crossing.

Lisa Sekulich

So the second item tonight is as you'll see in your packet is a state of Maine Department of Environmental Protection. We back this fall, Andrew McCullough, who was part of the discussion previously helped us put together an application for this grant funding to redo a culvert out on the Red Bridge Road. We found out from DEP that they would like to award us \$125,000 toward the replacement of this culvert. And so tonight, I am asking to accept those funds so that we can proceed with the engineering and construction of that project. It is the red Bridge Road over the Branch Lake stream, which is a culvert that's approximately over 30 years old and is at the end of its useful life.

Marc Blanchette

Move as presented.

Dale Hamilton

Motion.

Robert Miller

Second.

Dale Hamilton

Second. Any discussion?

Steven O'Halloran

any strings attached to this?

Lisa Sekulich

As far as?

Steven O'Halloran

If we accept it, is there some conditions?

Lisa Sekulich

No. We have to do the project other than that?

Steven O'Halloran

No, you have an estimate of the cost of the project.

Lisa Sekulich

The total project is upwards of \$700,000 +

Steven O'Halloran

And that's your estimate.

Lisa Sekulich

That is the engineered Andrew McCullers estimate.

Steven O'Halloran

So if we accept this money we have to press forward with

Lisa Sekulich

we continue Yes. I mean, there's always a backup clause if we come into something and we say no, we don't want to do it. We can tell them we don't want it but.

Dale Hamilton

discussion. All those in favor the motion. All those opposed? Unanimous. This is item 15. Council order number 041806 request of the public works director to approve the Water Street pump station project.

Lisa Sekulich

All right. So this project as you'll see the attached letter from engineers Woodard and Curran and the bid submitted from contractors. This project has been in the works for those who are newer to the Council this project has been in the works for several years. It's an upgrade to our current wastewater pump station on Water Street near RF, Jordan and coastal interiors. On this location is undersized in or the pump is undersized, and it has surcharges when extreme weather and puts additional strain on our system and upgrade solutions. The problem has been mandated by the Maine DEP. And this project will correct that issue and resolve the mandate from the DEP. On March 17, we had a bid opening for the project, three bids were received. And tonight I'm asking to go with the low bidder T Buck construction.

Casey Hanson

Move to approve the request the public works director to award the Water Street pump station project to T Buck construction as a written here,

Gene Lyons

second.

Dale Hamilton

motion and a second. Discussion?

Steven O'Halloran

The DEP has been tolerant of the situation thus far. Am I correct? But they're at the end of the rope?

Lisa Sekulich

Yeah, they've mandated that we do something about it. And since we have a plan and have been in the works with this project for the last couple years, they have said okay, you're you're making headway towards correcting the issue.

Steven O'Halloran

Do you have an end cost to this by the time you pay the bond and borrow the money and all of that.

Lisa Sekulich

So we have some money from northern borders. We have half million dollars from northern borders. We're going to use bond money and we have some other potential funding mechanisms which will come up in the next conversation. overall costs will end up being about \$2.7 or \$2.5/2.7. I think somewhere.

Steven O'Halloran

when when the debt service is settled, is that what I'm getting

Lisa Sekulich

with all engineering and everything included.

Marc Blanchette

Seeing no more discussion, all those in favor of the motion. All those opposed? One opposed? passes. (5-1 with O'Halloran opposed)

Dale Hamilton

Item 16. This is the new item that was added regarding the DEP ARPA and OSG grant funding.

Lisa Sekulich

So good evening councilors. We got some good news last Friday. And we have to act on it by May 5, which is what I'm hearing tonight. The State of Maine Department of Environmental Protection the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, which is the Fund for basically wastewater, and some storm water is as part of our application to them for a large project for sewer and storm drainage improvements. With sump pump station upgrades. We found out that because they have additional money coming in from ARPA and other federal agencies that they are doing instead of just loaning money. They're doing what they call principal forgiveness, and grants. And we have been offered \$2 million in free grant money, no conditions through the ARPA program. And then we've also been offered a \$200,000 from the sewer overflow and storm water reuse municipal grant funding, again from the Maine DEP. Again, no strings attached other than we need to use it for the items that were in our original presentation or application to them.

Dale Hamilton

So out of that project that you just said was about \$2.5 million total. If we use all two, we could use the 2.2 for that project?

Lisa Sekulich

I don't know that we can use all of it towards that project. No

Dale Hamilton

2.298 Whatever it is Okay, is there a? Is there some restriction, you got to split them between the two projects that you have submitted for them you submitted.

Lisa Sekulich

So some of the money has to be for at least \$200,000 Right? It has to be for what they call, I guess you could say that's an overboard discharge. But I'd have to clarify that honestly, with them, I don't believe we can use the whole thing towards water street pump station. But I don't know that. And I don't know that it would benefit us where we already have bond bonding and stuff set up for that project and nothing for the other projects, which included the High Street pump station and storm water issues. I don't know that it would benefit us to use this money for that and not start the process of designing, which is essentially what this money would be used for is to start the designing process. So that we would have shovel ready projects that we can go after, you know, like, congressional earmarks and other stuff that's going to be rolling down the track in the next few years.

Glenn Moshier

Also, not allowed to use federal funds for matching.

Lisa Sekulich

so we'd have to use at least half a million to match the existing northern borders current we have.

Glenn Moshier

Since this is ARPA funding, we couldn't use the federal funds to match the other federal funds, which is what the bond money is for this is our match for the northern borders. So we could use some of it to offset some of the costs, but that just got is going to have to come from other sources, not federal funds.

Dale Hamilton

So the projects you're referencing, we have projects ready to go, we have to accept it by May 9. In is are these funds have a expiration in terms of when they have to be used?

Lisa Sekulich

It says 2022 or 23.

Dale Hamilton

So so we have projects that yes, that are ready to go that we were

Lisa Sekulich

Yeah, so we would use, you know, worth we were talking \$200-300,000, probably maybe more now towards the Water Street pump station. And then the rest of it would be towards these other storm water and sewer projects to move them forward.

Gene Lyons

It's one of those things where we don't take it somebody else will, right.

Lisa Sekulich

Yeah, exactly. It's, it's completely free money. So if we don't use it, they'll send 2.2 million to somebody else.

Marc Blanchette

You'll pardon me if I snicker, I heard that term before.

Lisa Sekulich

Oh, yeah. Nothing's really free. But it is free.

Dale Hamilton

It's available.

Gene Lyons

Yeah, it's gonna get paid back someday. But we can get none and then still pay it back. And we can get some pay it back. So

Steven O'Halloran

I just want to clarify that this does not rope the city into millions of dollars of projects to use this. It's not like you've got 2.2 million and it sounds like you're allowed to use maybe 200,000 or 300,000 on this project. But does that rope us into more projects that's beyond our budget?

Lisa Sekulich

Nope. So if you look at this form right here, it says ARPA funding is not conditional upon borrowing via a Clean Water State Revolving funds loan. If you accept the ARPA funding, please check this box. Upon acceptance of this offer, we will work with you to set up your grant, if the box is left unchecked, or you do not accept by the date listed below, we will assume that you do not wish to receive the funds. We do not not link to a loan or anything further, it's literally here's \$2.2 million to get you guys rolling.

Steven O'Halloran

How much of these other projects valued at that are ready to roll?

Glenn Moshier

The whole the whole application that was forward by Woodard and Curran was 10.8 million.

Lisa Sekulich

water street pump station, High Street pump station and a whole bunch of stormwater work.

Steven O'Halloran

And when I roped into this,

Glenn Moshier

so the water Street pump station were estimated is going to cost probably about 400,000 of this 2.2 million. The High Street pump station which is the next kind of priority as far as the wastewater goes, is estimated to be 1.8. So if we, if we use the 400,000 for Water Street, we'd have the majority of the High Street pump station paid for with this grant funding and then we'd have to come up with the remainder either through some other funding source or through through additional bonding to the wastewater something but we've also put a congressional earmark for that High Street pump station as well. So there's potential funding source there we get that funding, then we would have the remainder of the 2.2 million to spend on other wastewater projects or storm water,

Lisa Sekulich

wastewater and storm water. So and we can split it how, you know, we can say we want to put a million towards the pump station, and we're gonna put half a million dollars towards storm sewer storm drains. So it's it leaves it open ended enough that we can do a little bit of something or we can pick and choose in, it's all if we want to how we want to.

Robert Miller

and this is \$2.2 million that the city would have to spend anyway.

Lisa Sekulich

if we want to continue development out on High Street, we're going to need to do something about that Street pump station for wastewater. And it makes work to the point where and we heard this in the local roads meeting, drainage, drainage, drainage, that is our number one problem in the city is drainage. And this could be a huge chunk to get us so far in being able to actually deal with the water so that we can really have some decent roads.

Robert Miller

Moved to approve the request of the public works director to accept \$2,200,000 from the Maine DEP and allow the city manager to sign required documentation,

Lisa Sekulich

and we'll get to it in the future. But there's also a program much like this for the drinking water side. And there's rumors that the same type of thing might be happening there too. So I may be back next month or the month after for something similar.

Dale Hamilton

I just kind of I think the the other reality is, one thing I like is that it's moving some of these projects forward. I'm sure as we go through our next 18 weeks of Monday's, listening, preparing a budget, the needs of the city are not few. There are lots of things that we're facing, both short term and long term that we are going to have to address, we will have no choice. And a lot of those projects require phase approaches, they most of them require engineering and design so that it can be ready to then move to the next state. And that's where I think that we've we've gotten stuck is that we look at the project of being \$10 million. And we freeze and we don't do anything, we were going to be faced with that. And so any project that we can start to move along and get to the place that we can move it to the next phase is good for the city and and this is a smart way of doing it in terms of having access to resources that we normally wouldn't. Now we can all debate in terms of what that means on our other pocket but for the city. It's it's it's a good decision. So glad that you put up any other comments?

Gene Lyons

Second.

Dale Hamilton

All those in favor. Unanimous Item 17. Council order number 041807. requests the finance director to approve the annual reports for tax year April 1 2021 through March 31 2022. for affordable housing tax increment financing districts Leonard lake or a way in oil way senior in the city of Ellsworth.

Glenn Moshier

Josh is not here tonight. But these are the reports we put forward every year. And we have to fall in with the state just to advise them about any changes in any of those districts. There aren't any.

Marc Blanchette

Mr. Chairman, Move to approve the annual reports for tax year April 120 21 through March 31 2022. for affordable housing tax increment financing districts Leonard lake, Oriole Way and Oriole Way senior in the city of Ellsworth

Robert Miller

second

Dale Hamilton

motion and a second any discussion? All those in favor? Unanimous Item 17 executive session to discuss labor negotiations between the city of Ellsworth and the Ellsworth Wastewater Treatment Plant laborers 327 in accordance with MRSA title one chapter 13 section 405 Paragraph six D

Marc Blanchette

so moved

Robert Miller

second.

Dale Hamilton

All those in favor? All those opposed. One opposed. (5-1 with O'Halloran opposed) we're going in to Executive Session. So we're back out of Executive Session.

Marc Blanchette

move to accept the Ellsworth wastewater treatment negotiated contract as presented.

Gene Lyons

Second.

Dale Hamilton

Motion a second. Any discussion? All those in favor? Unanimous. Item 19 executive session to discuss labor negotiations between the city of Ellsworth and the Ellsworth City Hall clerks unit Massachusetts and northern New England laborers District Council 327 in accordance with Mrs. A title one chapter 13. Section 405. Paragraph six D.

Robert Miller

Moved to go into Executive Session.

Casey Hanson

Second.

Marc Blanchette

All those in favor? All those opposed? One opposed (5-1 with O'Halloran opposed)

Dale Hamilton

All right. We are back out of Executive Session.

Robert Miller

And I'll make a motion to accept the city of Ellsworth and Ellsworth City Hall clerks, unit laborers. Local 327. Agreement.

Gene Lyons

Second.

Dale Hamilton

Motion a second. Any discussion? All those in favor? Unanimous. Is there a motion to adjourn?

Robert Miller

adjourn.

Marc Blanchette

Second.

Dale Hamilton

Second. All in favor. We're adjourned.