

MEETING NOTICE

The regular monthly meeting of the Ellsworth City Council will be held on Monday, September 19, 2022 at 6:00 PM in the Ellsworth City Hall Council Chambers

Meetings will be broadcast live on:

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

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

Spectrum Channel 1303

AGENDA

1. Call to Order.

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Miller to add #20, heating oil extension and #21 appointment of Interim Treasurer, second by Blanchette, passed 7-0

3. Rules of Order.

4. Adoption of minutes from the following meeting (s) of the Ellsworth City Council:

- 08/15/2022 Regular Council Meeting. **
Motion to approve by Miller, second by Hanson, passed 7-0

5. City Manager's Report.

6. Committee Reports.

7. Citizens' Comments.

8. Presentation of Awards.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

9. Schedule workshop for Charter review.

Done.

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.

* ** - Consent Agenda items containing backup material.

** - Agenda items containing backup material.

10. Council Order #091900, Request of the City Clerk for approval on the time polling places open for the November 8, 2022 State of Maine General Election and City of Ellsworth Municipal Election as 8:00 AM. * **
11. Council Order #091901, Request of the City Clerk for appointment of Wardens and Ward Clerks for the four voting districts within the City of Ellsworth for the November 8, 2022 State of Maine General Election and City of Ellsworth Municipal Election. * **
12. Request of the Historic Preservation Commission to appoint Payden Maddocks-Wilbur as a regular member with a term to expire 6/30/2023 and Linda Firlotte Grindle as a regular member, term to expire 6/30/2024. This leaves 2 alternates with terms to expire 6/30/2023.
13. Request of the Recreation Commission to appoint Melinda Workman as a regular member, term to expire 6/30/2023.

Motion to approve by Blanchette, second by Miller, passed 7-0

NEW BUSINESS

14. Public hearing and action on the application (s) for the following license (s):

- Provender, LLC d/b/a Provender, 112 Main Street, for renewal of a City Class C License (Victualer and Liquor) and renewal of a State Restaurant (Class I, II, III, IV), Malt, Spirituous and Vinous Liquor License. **

Motion to approve by Blanchette, second by Miller, passed 7-0

- The Grand, 165 Main Street, for renewal of a State Class III and IV malt and vinous license. **Motion to approve by Miller, second by Lyons, passed 7-0**
- Louise Joy and Thomas Joy d/b/a Edward Joy & Sons, 129 North Street, for renewal of a City Junkyard/Automobile Graveyard Permit. **

Motion to approve by Lyons, second by Miller, passed 7-0

- James B. Card II d/b/a Jimbo's Junkin, 62 Kylies Way, for renewal of a City Junkyard/Automobile Graveyard Permit. **

Motion to approve by Lyons, second by Kaplan, passed 7-0

15. Council Order #091902, Request of the Public Works Director to award the winter salt supply contract. **

Motion to approve by Hanson, second by Blanchette, passed 7-0

16. Council Order # 091903, Request of the Public Works Director to award a Medium Duty plow truck chassis bid. **

Request to remove without prejudice by L. Sekulich.

Motion to approve removal by Blanchette, second by Miller, passed 7-0

17. Discussion and potential action on adopting a Community Resilience Partnership Resolution. **

Motion to approve by Hanson, second by Blanchette, failed 3-4 (Hamilton, Lyons, O'Halloran, and Kaplan opposed)

* ** - Consent Agenda items containing backup material.

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18. Council Order #091904, Request of the Public Works Director to enter into a lease agreement for the Water Department. **
Request to table by L. Sekulich.
Motion to table by Blanchette, second by Miller, passed 7-0
19. Request to schedule dates for workshop meetings to discuss ARPA funding and expenses, and a second workshop to discuss floating structures. (Sponsored by Hamilton)
Motion to schedule on Thursday, September 29th at 6pm for both, second by Kaplan, passed 5-2 (Lyons and Blanchette opposed)
20. (Added item) Request to approve the extension of the current heating oil contract for the City of Ellsworth and Ellsworth School Department for FY 2023.
Motion to approve the extension by Miller, second by Hanson, passed 7-0
21. (Added item) Request to appoint an Interim Treasurer.
Motion to approve the appointment of Toni Dyer to Interim Treasurer by Kaplan, second by Miller, passed 7-0
22. (Added item) Councilor's Comments (3 minutes each) to discuss any item not on the agenda.
Lyons- thanking those who painted the cannons/balls on Bridge Hill, Home Depot for the materials.
Kaplan- tax bill increase. Request explanation to the assessment increases. Traffic issue on Water street is growing.
Hanson- In addition, we just turned down money to fix taxes and opportunities like fixing lights and traffic.
Hamilton- Thanks to City staff on the resilience work, and the vote was not a criticism to staff.
Hamilton noted O'Halloran declined this opportunity to address his earlier request.
23. Adjournment.
Move to adjourn by Blanchette, second by Miller, passed 7-0

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City Council Minutes September 19, 2022

Dale Hamilton

Call to order the September 19, 2022 meeting of the Ellsworth City Council. First item pledge of allegiance.

Robert Miller

Chairman I'd like to make a addition to the agenda, two addition, item 20 a one year extension on the oil contract. And item 21 appointment of a deputy treasurer interim,

Marc Blanchette

second,

Dale Hamilton

motion a second, any discussion. All those in favor of adding those two items, unanimous. Rules of order we follow rule of order or any other tools that are adopted by the council. Just one addition at the prior to the last agenda item which will be number 21. Counselors will have an opportunity to speak up to three minutes on any subject that's not on the agenda. So if you choose to do so you can do it at that time. And so that will be just before we adjourn. Item four adoption of minutes from the following meetings of the Ellsworth City Council 8/15/22 Regular council meeting.

Robert Miller

Motion to accept

Casey Hanson

Second.

Dale Hamilton

Second. Any discussion? All those in favor? Unanimous. Item five city manager's report.

Glenn Moshier

Chair, councilors. Good evening. Just a couple of quick announcements. This weekend is the autumn gold celebration throughout the city of Ellsworth, and the all sorts of events all throughout the city. Again, so and for a full list of the events, you can visit the Ellsworthchamber.org Chamber of Commerce website and they have a full listing of all of the events that are taking place over the course of the weekend. Also, just wanted to let folks know that absentee ballots can be requested now, however, ballots do not arrive until October 8 ish, somewhere around that date. So if you request them now, please don't expect to see them in the mail until mid October. One request will generate both the state and city ballots. And finally, I just want to let the citizens know that tax bills did go out. They all are out. But they were late this year due to some issues with our software, but they are out suspended the late interest charges until after October 6.

Steven O'Halloran

why was there not something put in the envelope saying that when I opened my tax bill, it was already overdue and there was no explanation. Why did the city not stuffed the envelope with an extension notice?

Glenn Moshier

Well, sir, because that would have extended the lateness even further. And we did what we could through social media and other methods to notify the public that those any additional fees would be waived until October 6.

Steven O'Halloran

So unfair to open a bill that's overdue.

Glenn Moshier

Which is exactly why we suspended the late fees until October 6.

Dale Hamilton

Any other questions, comments? Councilor Blanchette.

Marc Blanchette

Last month, the city continued its annual program of restoring the city's original graveyard, the old burying ground, behind the Congregational Church. We hired a professional restorer for three days at a cost of I believe it was just under \$3,000. For everything in return the city had they paid for one person. We got a minimum of four professional restorers, that showed up every day. About that. No, they were all volunteers over the period of three days between the paid restorer and the volunteer restorer was we completed 42 stones, cemetery stones that were broken, lying down, and in a few cases buried these are the stones of Ellsworth veterans Ellsworth's founders and Ellsworth's earliest citizens. The program will continue, I understand next year. And in the three years, I believe it is that we've been doing. We've restored over 100 graves. And they're all standing now facing the sun as they once did.

Dale Hamilton

Item six committee reports any Councilors attended committee meeting since last time last meeting? Seeing none, Item seven citizens comments portion of the agenda where citizens can make a comment on anything that's not on the agenda. If it's on the agenda, you'll have a chance to speak at that time. But if you'd like to speak, just go up to the podium, say your name.

John Linnehan

Good evening counselors, I'm John Linnehan. And in Ellsworth for 74 years. And like Councilor O'Halloran says, I've received my tax bill in the mail this last week. And I was in shock when I opened it up with the size of the increase. I'm here to talk about taxes tonight. I'm handing out something to you right there I am running for the House of Representatives in our district and also to the city council. Finances is one of my if not my most important issue this time around. And I'm concerned about our finances and our city in a state in our country. And I believe we're in trouble financially, I was disappointed with the vote on the budget that most of the people in the council voted for a fairly substantial increase in the budget, which I believe is raised our taxes way higher than it should be. I've

been talking to a lot of people over the last couple of weeks, that were unhappy with the cost of living, high inflation, high gas prices, high fuel prices, I looked at prices, and on and on. And some things we can't control but other things we can and one thing we can control is our taxes. So I'm here really to fight for my taxes and for the taxpayers of every other citizen here in the city of Ellsworth. The open house I'm inviting you to is going to be on September 30. Friday night Constitution Hall, six o'clock. And I'll have more specific information on what I think we need to do with our finances. There'll be an open mic, not for me, for anybody that comes. I'll be upfront. And I'll handle any question that is asked from any council member, any personal citizen, the city of Ellsworth, that I think is very easy solutions on how to take care of our finances here in the city of Ellsworth. And this boils down into one statement, you're spending determines your ending whether you're an individual, whether your city, whether your business, or whatever. And I believe we've been not paying attention to the spending in the city of Ellsworth from a council position. So I'm running for the City Council. And I'm running all in one place right here. There's a lot of issues we could talk about. But I believe from talking to people out there, everybody's hurting so much financially. I'm already talking to people wondering when they're going to have enough food to eat and fuel to heat their home. They're already making some tough decisions, and trying to lay up for the future for this winter. But there's just not simply enough money to go around for our citizens here and elsewhere. So here's what I'm going to run on right here. A city of Ellsworth tax reduction pledge. One sentence. I John Linnehan, the undersigned pledge to not vote for any city of Ellsworth budget, that doesn't have a minimum of a 5% budget reduction across the board for every city department. And I'm going to have more suggestions than that. But I believe we can very easily just look at every department we've gotten, say, not micromanage to say who's in charge of that department. I expect the budget to be 5% less, and that will translate into some real estate taxes that I think would help people financially. And I really need help. I've got these printed off and we like them. I know some of you guys are running for reelection. I hope anybody is running for election or reelection on the city of Ellsworth council would sign that pledge and take a strong look at it. I think it's the most important issue facing our cities, our finances now we handle it. So I encourage you to take a look at it. I've got some blank copies of that. I just made them up today printed off myself. Proud to sign it and I'll be running number one, on reducing our taxes and other expenses here in the city. It also in a state. Thank you very much.

Michelle Kaplan

So I like the idea. But when you're at Council, one of the things you're looking at are union budgets, union contracts. And so you start at a base. And because the union contracts, labor cost automatically goes up. And with that, unemployment insurance workers comp insurance, etc, etc, automatically are increased by those negotiated contracts. How would you suppose changing that,

John Linnehan

I think you have to look at all the budgets, that's one of the items is a union cost expenses, you need to take the budget, which I have not done, take a line by line budget, can go down through every area, if there's any area in there, which I know there are, that need to be done, you make a decision, you put it up to the council vote, and you try to make a motion for that item to be reduced or eliminated from the budget. So it's by looking at it from my perspective, from running businesses for many years. And watching financial statements. You look at each individual item, and not micromanage the department. But you make us use that oh, 5% reduction right there. Some things are fixed, you probably although

some things. And I believe five percent's a very minimal budget, I think you can do 10%. But I'm committing willing to commit to 5% Until I review every line by line item budget.

Michelle Kaplan

I thought I could do that too. I really did.

John Linnehan

But you can if you're in a majority, when you're in a minority, I've noticed the council votes had been four to three, four to three wrong way on spending. So I'm convinced that if we can put two more people's three open seats, if we have two more people that have the same concept that I have, hopefully you had as well, then four to three votes will make the difference in the city council.

Michelle Kaplan

What I have found is that if the labor cost is fixed, we can't change that. What we are sacrificing our services, for example, pavement for the roads is going to cost a certain amount. Now, if we have it fixed labor cost, but 5% reduction, that means less roads get done. Less plow trucks, less surfaces, if you will.

John Linnehan

So what is the total percentage? I haven't looked at the budget? What is the total percentage, for example, those labor costs of the total budget? They're higher? But I mean, is it 30% 25% of the total budget? 70 70%?

Glenn Moshier

Okay, every 75% is labor costs. Okay, so,

John Linnehan

so 70%,

Dale Hamilton

in terms of this discussion is do you have any other questions, or, I mean, it's

Michelle Kaplan

no, I'm just, I was interested in how we're going to do that.

Dale Hamilton

So I mean, that that's something that I think can happen outside of this meeting, in terms of if you want to get that information.

John Linnehan

September 30, six o'clock, if you're really interested, I'd be more than happy to address it in any more detail like that. Thank you. Thank you.

Dale Hamilton

Anyone else like to speak?

Nick Sarro

Just real quickly. I wanted to thank the council again, for supporting activities of the grant, especially the free waterfront concerts this summer, we also threw in Shakespeare in the park to city, fold it out there and see how I did. And in 2018, we had over 1200 people who came down and enjoyed free activities at the waterfront. And we had to cancel one of them this summer. And if we hadn't had to cancel, I think we would hit that same number. So about 1200 to 1500 people come down on those Friday night, enjoy live music on the harbor, if you haven't done it before, it's a really fantastic evening. People see each other, they hang out together, they buy food, it's free, and you see all these wonderful people look so forward to it. And you should be proud of that program. And thank you again for sponsoring it. And I tell I mentioned the city a lot when we promote, because that's important. So thank you for your support of the waterfront concerts. We'll do it again next year, and Shakespeare in the harbor. Thank you

Steven O'Halloran

mentioned that this is the part of the meeting that allows citizens to go to the podium and speak about any topic. Would you allow this citizen to do that?

Dale Hamilton

Council O'Halloran, I will remind you that the council approved a rule that does not have does not allow counselors to speak from the podium. However, as you will also note that I said earlier this the beginning that counselors any counselor at the end of the meeting will have an opportunity to speak for three minutes on any subject you wish. That's not on the agenda which exercises your freedom of speech rights. The council has the right to determine certain procedures, that's not a violation of your freedom of speech. And you may exercise that later in the evening.

Steven O'Halloran

So the answer to my question,

Dale Hamilton

I think I just answered your question.

Steven O'Halloran

So I'm not allowed to speak as a citizen like every other citizen.

Dale Hamilton

I think you are interpreting it the way you want to. Those are your words.

Steven O'Halloran

May I speak from the podium as a citizen?

Dale Hamilton

I will defer again, to the rule that the council passed, maybe Councilor O'Halloran, when she tells us what the rule was that the council passed last. Last meeting,

Steven O'Halloran

I'm asking you a question.

Dale Hamilton

I'll just ask you a question.

Steven O'Halloran

So you're not answering mine. And I'm not answering yours. There we go.

Dale Hamilton

We have a stalemate. Anybody else like to speak? Item eight presentation of awards. There are no awards this evening. Item nine scheduled workshop for the charter review.

Glenn Moshier

There's Thursday for the charter review. And we were going to look to schedule potential dates for the other two issues, which are still outstanding for you workshops. One being the ARPA funding educational workshop for the council in the citizenry about the that what those monies can be spent on. And then the other workshop was for the issue with Green Lake and floating structures. So we had had a we had, we attempted to schedule a Green Lake workshop back on the 25th of August. But we didn't get good counselor response to availability for that date. So that was cancelled at that date. Now, obviously, with summer being over, not such a pressing concern, but we do need at some point to schedule that workshop so we can get guidance from the council as to whether there's any tolerance whatsoever for an ordinance? And if so, what that ordinance may look like. And then the ARPA funding is still an outstanding workshop that we need to schedule. I'm not sure that between now and the election, either workshops necessarily appropriate based on the fact that post election the council makeup may be significantly different. And both workshops are not pressing matters that need to be addressed immediately. But certainly, if the council wishes to schedule those, perhaps we can work out a date this evening, because the email sent around the Council for workshop dates doesn't always produce good results.

Michelle Kaplan

Isn't that item number 19 on the agenda

Glenn Moshier

later in the agenda.

Dale Hamilton

That will just be a preview so we can set the dates at that time. And that just responding to an email the agenda, it was not an agenda item. The update during the committee meetings and the Manager Moshier's report. Those are updates in terms of things that have been happening in the city. Those are standing items and they cover a lot of areas. So the update on that councilor Blanchette provided was

an update on activities taking place in the city. And it goes under that that category. I also will I just want to make one more comment to councilor O'Halloran, you imply that it was me making a decision. I just want to remind you that as chair My role is to enforce the rules that the council sets that those are our roles, not my rule. And that's what I am going by.

Dale Hamilton

Consent Agenda all items with an asterisk are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion. There'll be no separate discussion on 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. Item 10. Council order number 091900 requested the city clerk for approval on the time of polling places open for the November 8, 2022. State of Maine general election and city of Ellsworth municipal election as 8am. Item 11 Council order number 091901 request of the city clerk for appointment of wardens and Ward clerks for the four voting districts within the city of Ellsworth for the November 8, 2022 State of Maine general election and city of Ellsworth municipal election. Request of the historic preservation commission number 12 request of the historic preservation commission to appoint Peyden Maddox Wilbur as a regular member with the term to expire 6/30/2023 And Linda Firlott Grindle as a regular member term to expire 6/30/2024 This leaves two alternates with term to expire 6/30/2023 And item 13 requests of the recreation commission to appoint Melinda workman as a regular member term to expire 6/30/2023

Marc Blanchette

move as presented

Robert Miller

second

Dale Hamilton

motion and second

Casey Hanson

one quick question which was just under the appointment of the wardens and Ward Clerks there was no Warden for work two is that okay? Does that we're still working

Toni Dyer

we have a potential confirmation, but she was able to get back to us but at the bottom of my memo you'll note that it says all other voters as necessary, okay.

Casey Hanson

Okay.

Dale Hamilton

Any other discussion? All those in favor? Unanimous. New business public hearing and action on the applications for the following licenses. Madam Clerk get everything in order. Provender LLC DBA Provender 112 Main Street for renewal of a city Class C license fixture line liquor and renewal the state restaurant class 1234 Malt spirituous and vinous liquor license. This is a public hearing open the public hearing. Public Hearing is open. Seeing then I'll close the public hearing public hearing is closed.

Marc Blanchette
Move as presented.

Robert Miller
Second

Dale Hamilton
motion second. Any discussion? All those in favor? Unanimous. The Grand 165 Main Street for renewal of a state class three and four malt and vinous license as a public hearing open the public hearing. Public Hearing is open with anybody like to speak. Seeing none I'll close the public hearing. Public Hearing is closed.

Robert Miller
I move to approve.

Gene Lyons
Second

Dale Hamilton
motion and a second. Any discussion? All those in favor? Unanimous. Louise Joy and Thomas Joy DBA Edward Joy and sons 129. North Street for renewal of the city junkyard automobile graveyard permit. This is a public hearing open the public hearing. Public Hearing is open. Anybody wish to speak. Seeing none I'll close the public hearing. Public Hearing is closed.

Gene Lyons
Move approve.

Robert Miller
Second

Dale Hamilton
And second any discussion? All those in favor? Unanimous James B card II the second DBA Jimbo is Junkin. 62 Kylie's way for renewal of a city junkyard automobile graveyard permit. This is a public hearing open public hearing. Public Hearing is open. Anybody wish to speak? Seeing none I'll close the public hearing. Public Hearing is closed.

Gene Lyons
move approve the motion.

Michelle Kaplan
Second.

Dale Hamilton
Any discussion? All those in favor? Unanimous.

Dale Hamilton

Item 15. Council order number 091902 request to the public works director to award the winter's salt supply contract.

Lisa Sekulich

Good evening councilors Lisa Sekulich public works director. On Wednesday, September 7, the city of Ellsworth accepted bids for the supply of winter salt. Six RFPs were requested that resulted in two bids and one decline letter. The summary of bids that New England salt company or they're a little better at 78.45 per ton, and then the second was Morton Salt company at 79.77 per ton. I am requesting to go with the low bidder New England salt who has supplied us with salt for the last three years and have been good to work with.

Casey Hanson

Move to approve the request of public works director to award 2023 Winter salt supply to New England salt company at 78.45 per ton of delivered road salt, the contract amount to be funded from the highway department operating budget.

Marc Blanchette

Second,

Dale Hamilton

motion second any discussion?

Michelle Kaplan

I would just add that New England assault fund money is in Winterport Maine and the other one is in Ohio right?

Lisa Sekulich

Is actually I believe in Herman Hamden somewhere over there.

Steven O'Halloran

I'm wondering how many ton that you purchase? I'm in favor of the lowest price obviously. Could you tell us? What does this compete to per dollars? And how many times have you purchase it?

Lisa Sekulich

Last year, we used approximately 2270. Tons. Thank you.

Dale Hamilton

Of the motion second, all those in favor? Unanimous, thank you.

Dale Hamilton

Item 16, council order number 091903 requests of the public works director to award a medium duty plow truck chassis bid.

Lisa Sekulich

Sorry, I forgot. I'm asking to remove that item without prejudice. In reviewing of the bids that we received, we wanted to rethink our option. So we're going to withdraw those bids, and then go back out to bid.

Marc Blanchette

a motion

Robert Miller

Second

Steven O'Halloran

So what kind of numbers that we talking about? To prepare us for the next time you're in front of us?

Lisa Sekulich

Oh, I would hate to say it, because we're gonna completely change what we're asking for. So

Marc Blanchette

We're gonna be sending it back up the bid?

Steven O'Halloran

What were the numbers that came in?

Lisa Sekulich

So we originally went out to bid for just a chassis. And then we got in the range of 85 to 105,000. About that, without a dump body, we are changing the vehicle we're asking. And it's going to change the gearing so it's going to be completely different. delivery date was a good factor as well as just I don't think we what was bid was exactly what we were originally thinking. So we're gonna reassess and go back.

Michelle Kaplan

That's the second delay the availability for winter.

Lisa Sekulich

The bids right now for the stuff that was turned in, they are looking at November of 2023, for deliveries. So it's not going to change much. As long as well. Potentially, if we go out for something different, it may there may be something available sooner, which was part of the factor.

Gene Lyons

Thank you. You got coverage without it right?

Lisa Sekulich

Oh, well, we'll make it we always

Dale Hamilton

That assumes it's knows it might not say

Lisa Sekulich

I heard of a town that's gonna use it cement trucks or concrete mixer places.

Gene Lyons

I'd love it. Plow my way to my pump job.

Dale Hamilton

Any other questions? All right, all those in favor.

Dale Hamilton

Item 17 discussion, discussion and potential action on adopting a community resilience partnership resolution.

Glenn Moshier

I'll start out speaking about this effort that the staff has been working on and there are several staff members here in answer additional questions that you may have. This funding opportunity was brought to our attention through Woodard and Curran who we've been working with closely to help find resources out there available to fund many of the needs that the city has, particularly in infrastructure, whether it be water, wastewater, or storm water management. And this is a unique opportunity. It was created last year by the governor, governor's office in the state and through becoming a member of this partnership. It affords us the opportunity initially for a grant opportunity for \$50,000 but then opens up the door for us. If we are accepted as a member of this partnership, it opens up the door for us to access lots of other resources, funding resources that ordinarily without being a member of this, of this partnership, we would not have access to. And so as part of this process, the city went through staff went through a self assessment, which identify the staff identified what they felt were needs of the city, in the areas that were identified under this partnership. We also held a public hearing last week, where the public was invited to come in and speak to areas of concern that they have. And finally, there was also a survey that was circulated through social media and other means to the community, for their input as well. And then through that process, the information was gathered from staff, as well as from the citizenry, and some priorities were identified for the city. And then just to kind of outline what some of those priorities were, that were identified. There was interest in investing in essentially, electric automobiles or transportation, embracing the future of transportation was one of the top ranked by both citizens and employees within the city, protect the environment and improve natural climate solutions was another one that was identified, reduce emissions through clean innovations, build healthy and resilient communities and invest in climate ready infrastructure. So as we're looking through, and you're looking through some of the information about the community road resiliency partnership, you know, we quick we quickly realized as a group that a lot of the things that are identified within these this partnership, as being priorities, the city has committed already committed resources to many of the different activities, for example, our solar agreement, solar, and green energy is, you know, is a focal point of this partnership, EV charging stations, which we currently have in the city, and are pursuing additional charging stations as well. Tree planting, we have planted trees on High Street and also worked with the green Ellsworth to wood their tree growth in the city. And of course, the City Forest was

identified as a post partial parcel of land that the city has, has designated for, for conservation and also protection of our water source. So a lot of the things that are identified throughout this throughout the information dealing with the community resiliency partnership the city is committed to. So what we're hoping for tonight is that the council will see to it, to adopt this resolution, so that the city can the city staff can continue the process of moving forward with the application for the partnership and the and essentially the application for the grant to access additional funding for the many needs that we have.

Michelle Kaplan

One of my concerns, is this some survey, a lot of the questions were put in such a way that it's kind of a confidence bias. And self selection bias 56 respondents out of 9000 residents, and we're going to adopt resolution is going to affect 9000 residents. And basically, I mean some of the stuff is great, you know as far as clean energy, but there's reduction in energy use by the city zoning restrictions, which if I own property, and I want to develop that property. And now I can't because of new zoning restrictions based on habitat, or what could be perceived as a wetland and even a culvert or a ditch could be considered runoff wetland. And I'm really concerned about anything that's going to restrict private property rights. And it's also looking at moving People from the outer areas 30% green space, there's a lot in here. That is not for everyone, including, you know, looking at the reduction in energy use through smart meters and heat pumps and etc. And we just saw that in Colorado during the heatwave where the company that programmed the smart meters. And the thermostats literally would not. They overrode it so that people couldn't even adjust their own thermostat. A company was deciding that for them to save on energy, because they didn't have enough energy infrastructure to support the need at the time. We're not there yet. I'm not ready to commit to something like that yet. I just think that we're going so full force into the green energy. And it talks about, you know, fisheries and wetlands and things like that and rely more on wind and solar. You know, I look at, you know, for example, the lobster people, they're protecting wildlife, and things along those lines. And it literally talks about that. And then, you know, they're saying, Well, you know, we need to change all the gear. Yeah, if you look at the the northern right whale, the thing that was circulating today is the now amount of Northern right whales that are allowed to be killed for the wind project is 20 versus the number of lobsterman that have actually entangled, right whales, zero, but we're going to impact them. And this is all in the same grouping of everybody's jumping, full force into the wind and solar bandwagon, without considering how it affects everybody.

Glenn Moshier

So if I may, I think the point to be made is that by entering into this partnership, we're not committing to anything, the only thing we're committing to is to doing better, we're committing to striving to do better, whether it be and we're committed to striving to do better in the areas of which we identify as priorities. So amongst the staff, one of probably the top priority that we have discussed, pursuing funding for is storm water management. We know we have extreme issues with storm water management at the current levels in the city. And if we anticipate and expect that those storms are going to be become more intense, and receive even greater amounts of water out of storms in the future. And we already have drainage issues. Now, if we don't do anything about that, we're going to be in a worse situation. So that's one of the priorities that staff has identified as something that we would want to pursue funding. And this would grant us access to funding that otherwise, we would not be able to access.

Michelle Kaplan

However, at the same time, it also talks about when you have buildings being built that you have to include EV charging stations as part of the regulations to get the permits, heat pumps as part of the regulations to get the permits. And it's for its its pigeonholing people into doing something that maybe they don't want to do.

Glenn Moshier

But we're not committed to doing any of those things. Those are merely suggestions. saying these are concepts, these are ideas that you may want to pursue.

Michelle Kaplan

I'll give you an example of something that pigeonholed the city. The water department is still at the place, the water treatment facility, Ellsworth had to give up a certain amount of green space, in order to build the water treatment center. 5-10 years down the road. All of a sudden, we want to put handicapped accessible equipment on the playground at Knowlton park over a mile away from the treatment facility. But we can't because we can't scratch that Earth, because it's part of the wetland mitigation, green space, etc. So when you pigeonhole into something, you have to be careful what you're going into down the line. And yes, it was it would open up grant funding, but every single grant is funded by somebody who has an agenda who has a specific thing that they want you to do. And when you accept money, you have to look at all the strings attached, because otherwise those strings you've just become a puppet. They're moving you along.

Casey Hanson

I just want to commend city staff for doing such as complete job in finding this grant opportunity and this opportunity to partner with this state, we have a lot of things that we try to accomplish in this city. And a lot of needs a lot of infrastructure needs as chief Moshier was saying. And our options are either let those things crumble, raise taxes and have the taxpayers pay for it or find other sources of funding. This is very obvious to me as another source of funding, I think it would be irresponsible for us not to use the work that the city staff has done in order to get the money from the state that helps us to fix the things we know we need to fix without putting the burden on our citizens.

Gene Lyons

I'm just kind of feeling like maybe it didn't get brought to the attention of everybody, if only 50 people voted to or responded to and like there is close to 9000 people, so maybe if there's a way to get it more, so that more people saw it before. That is kind of puzzling and only 50 People seem to have looked at it, or whatnot.

Steven O'Halloran

how much was Woodard and Curran paid to discover this.

Glenn Moshier

They were they're contracted. They're working on other projects. And they brought this to our attention merely as an opportunity for us to pursue funding, which would essentially, in essence, many of the projects, they're currently working on our wastewater storm water treatment system. And so funding

from this would potentially further that effort. So they weren't paid anything to read to bring this to our attention, they brought it to our attention, because they know what our needs are. And they know what the future costs are going to be in order to get our system to in a position where we can handle the storm water that we currently have, let alone what future makes.

Janna Richards

Good evening, Janna Richards, I'm the economic development director for the city. I was one of the staff members that worked on this, particularly with the public engagement piece. And the rationale behind that is because economic development really touches upon a lot of the explanation for why we go after a lot of the funding sources that we need. So you know, in terms of the infrastructure, we need good, solid, reliable infrastructure to be able to keep developing the city of Ellsworth in the rate that it has been developing. And so that's why I get asked to help write some of the narrative for the grants that we write to support the decisions that we make and in going after additional funds for the city. So that's why I'm here but also I just Councilor Lyons wanted to speak to Yes, 56, obviously, is a low number given that we have 9000 citizens. We did do a press release with the Ellsworth American and other media sources to try to get the word out other than social media since we know other some people in the community don't have social media or they don't look at social media. This was posted to the city's website, and we had flyers around City Hall. The other point I'd like to make is that the survey is actually not even a requirement of the public engagement. It's something that us as staff decided that hey, that would be another way of reaching out to the community because sometimes people don't have time to come to forums, which we held last week. So we decided we would do a survey tools to see if we could get more responses that way. So we tried to do the digital avenue of creating the survey to get some responses as well as an in person, public forum. And all of those were fairly well advertised and like I said, we did a public press release to do the best that we could to get public input. So I just wanted to provide that information

Lisa Sekulich

Hi, public works director Sekulich i to helped to work on this as storm water is near and dear to my heart. One of the things I did want to mention talking dollars to Councilor O'Halloran, we do have money in the local roads budget to do storm water evaluation. So if we were to get this \$50,000 From this grant, it would be \$50,000 more that I could use for something else in the local roads budget

Michelle Kaplan

I agree with everyone who is the things that I'm not on board with is trying to get people out of their cars and into buses. You know, everybody has different schedules, and they don't always go along with a bus. And nowhere does it address some of the key issues that are facing our citizens like drug abuse, mental illness. I mean, there's so many other things that are happening in our city right now, we've got more homeless than ever, property taxes are higher than ever. You know, the, the rental crisis is of concern. And when you're looking at putting in regulations that are going to put, decrease construction of new housing, in a time when we've got homeless and rent prices are through the roof. I just don't think that this is the time for that I think that some of it is worthwhile as far as looking at cleaner options, that I'm not against clean energy, I'm just saying we can't just go rushing into things like this, at a time when we need more housing to be built, not restrict people from building it and putting in regulations that are going to make it more costly to build.

Dale Hamilton

Guess I want to also comment on. So on the resolution language, it says that the following language is provided for the municipal resolution, the three preamble and resolution sections on this page are required. So it's the what we have are requirements that's being imposed on the city, which includes, committed to participating in the community resilience Partnership, which supports community leadership and reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing resiliency to extreme weather and climate change impacts. What I share a similar concern, sitting here today, I don't have all the information in terms of what is required. Can we get out of it if the city decided to to opt out after we opt in, to understand the implications of it. And we've sat here as a council before talking about the comp plan, and connecting all these dots. And now this is coming up in front of that. And so for me, it's just it's a lack of information and understanding around what is really required by this, they the state would not have required these three statements to make be maintained if there wasn't some sort of expectation about participation. And so I don't know if you have that information tonight, I don't know how long we have to make a decision to join or not join. But the lack of information is the problem for me the content. I think it has a lot of room for discussion in terms of what that looks like. I because I think there are limitations in terms of what the city can and cannot do. That you know, the city and post x and the city state imposed x and the city can only do y. And we'd signed on to this and the city said, Well, you signed into it, you're going to do X? That's my question. So I don't know where are we with having that kind of information to be able to make an informed decision about it.

Janna Richards

So in terms of the timeline, both of our grant application as well as the application to become part of the partnership is due by midnight tomorrow. And then in terms of what is additionally required. This program was designed to help municipalities combat some of these or implement these actions. There is no match if you if you are going to move forward with one of the community actions as listed in that big table that was provided for you. So up to \$50,000. No match required by the city. The way that I would relate this is that, you know, the state requires you to have an up to date comprehensive plan, if you don't have an up to date comprehensive plan. You're not allowed to apply for certain grant applications as well as you get docked. If you do apply for certain grant applications. And let's say another municipality has an up to date comprehensive plan and you don't they'll give that credit point to the municipality that does. So essentially, if the D O T has a really big infrastructure grant, which they do, and we go to apply for that a municipality that's within the partnership will get a credit for being part of the partnership, whereas a municipality that does not will not get that credit, and therefore you become less competitive in the grant game, as you will. Aside from what is written here, there is no other commitments that we are aware of, and that we would be subject to as a municipality.

Dale Hamilton

Can we opt out?

Casey Hanson

It's just we're asking for money, why would we opt out of money that they want to give us?

Dale Hamilton

Like, let me be clear, what I'm saying is in the future, if we, if we opted in, if we pass this resolution accepted the \$50,000, and move forward. If at some point down the road, the state said now that you're in this partnership, you must do x? And we say, No, we don't want to do it. Can we opt out? Are we are we obligating ourselves to do certain things? That's my question is, I don't see anything in here that says, what next? Is it just the \$50,000? And that's it. And we get we get positive points? Or are we obligating the city to do certain things? That's the question. That's, that's my only issue and without an answer to it. I can't sit here in good faith and vote for something that I don't have information. That's That's my only question.

Steven O'Halloran

So from a legal standpoint, this is what you would be legally obligated to what is put here in the resolution? Because that would be what you would be voting on as a counselor, you're not voting on anything else other than that, that's all. If this is adopted, there's no guarantee that there's a \$50,000 reward? So it just qualifies you for a reward?

Gene Lyons

Is there a way and I'm not sure how much information we're getting out to the public. But like we just said that 9000 People 50 People obviously, participated in as is there some better way to get information out to people? I hate seeing like, even like, an election, like, like the school board. And, and 100 people out or 9000 people show up? Well, no, it's I don't know. Is it because 9000 people isn't hearing about it? Or is it because

Janna Richards

interest, if you will. So, for example, with the broadband survey, we sent postcards direct to everybody's house with a link on there told them to come to City Hall, if they couldn't get a good connection. We ended up getting 450. That's a good response rate. But it's not 9000, you'll never get Sorry, I'm going to go on record by saying you probably never get 9000 out of 9000 or

Gene Lyons

what have you, like 4000? I'd be great. Yeah,

Janna Richards

I mean, we've incentivized people in the past by sending out postcards saying, you know, you'll get a in a drawing to get a gift card to Hannaford, let's say we've done things like that it doesn't. It's really, are you interested in the topic? Yes or no. And if you are, then you're going to respond. And if you're not, then most, most likely, we won't get a good response rate unfortunately, or to

Nick Sarro

support you as being in the business of trying to tell everybody everything that's going on. And at this point, I'd say everybody's sick of me encouraging me everywhere, everywhere. And yet, you'll still have people tell me I had no idea you were doing that show? Like why. So I commend the responses you even got, or even trying to trying to get responses 99% of people or less is absolutely something they want to know.

Michelle Kaplan

The list of strategies are the list of community actions, as stated. And there it says that we would agree to the community actions, one of which is incorporate a goal into conservation plans of conserving 30% of the land in the community, including undeveloped town property, with a priority on addressing conservation gaps relative to the high biodiversity blah, blah, blah. That's 30% of our so so that's,

Janna Richards

these are suggestions of things that a municipality could do. We don't I don't even think we have a conservation plan to be honest with you at this point. This the, what the resolution has is it asked for two to six actions that your community will prioritize If and if you have a copy of the resolution in front of you, I believe we listed five, that after speaking at those communities with the community forum, and through the survey and then doing a staff self assessment, we came up with five, that are actually applicable to the city of Ellsworth, that would help us tremendously in terms of moving forward with some community actions.

Michelle Kaplan

But it doesn't say that we're not obligated to all these different strategies.

Janna Richards

We're not I mean, first of all, a lot of those communities strategies would have to come before this council to be implemented anyways, like, you know, if you were ever to change the building code, I mean, that would have to come before the council as a policy change. That's not something we can do with staff. But the five that are listed within that resolution pertain to like a vulnerable, doing a vulnerability assessment on city's infrastructure to make it more climate ready, which, you know, we're doing, we're already in motion on doing quite a bit of that already, through public works. There's some in there about low impact design for storm water, which means you give a developer the option to either do traditional storm water management, or they could use like bio cells and things rain gardens and things like that. It's just giving them an option to be able to do the best for storm water management when they're in their development. So these are really more applicable to the city and what the city has going on, rather than some of the suggestions in there that, you know, for example, Matthias and DeRoyal are part of this partnership. They strategize and prioritize more coastal erosion type mitigation strategies, because they're right on the coast, and they have a lot of issues with sea level rise and coastal erosion. Whereas here in Ellsworth, we don't have, you know, at this point, we don't have that significant problem. Ours is more localized flooding and issues with like, High Street, Water Street, those areas of town.

Dale Hamilton

So aside from the \$50,000, setting that aside, why can't these initiatives be carried forward, without signing this partnership,

Janna Richards

we are already doing them. It's just a matter of like Lisa said, with limited resources, getting an additional \$50,000 could really push us over. And like, for example, one of them is the community

actions is working on an LED lighting, we're already paying for that on parts of Myrick Street, if we could get \$50,000 and then potentially get more money through efficiency Maine, we could do more of the city, which in the end, goes back on a savings to the taxpayer, just like, you know, the solar credit agreement, helps save costs for electricity for for the city, which then rolls back to the taxpayer.

Dale Hamilton

As Councilor O'Halloran said, there's no guarantee about the 50,000. Right. And outside of that, at the set that aside, the value is we can do all of this as a city without signing this partnership. And we have control over what we choose to do with this. I feel like we don't know yet what is being asked of us. So I guess my question to you is why and outside of the 50,000. What's the value for us to sign this document?

Janna Richards

It's not just \$50,000 because there's other grant opportunities out there. I don't know what the D O. T. Grant that we could be eligible for, but it's somewhere in the millions of dollars that we could help get for construction of infrastructure.

Lisa Sekulich

some of the frequently asked questions could actually be helpful. First one is What are the benefits of enrolling in this partnership. tackling climate change is not easy. The community resilience partnership offers many kinds of support for communities who are enrolled regardless of size, capacity and previous experience in climate related projects. One: the enrollment process designed to help communities take stock of their current activities and to identify a few next steps based on their priorities. Two: tools which we use during the process of public engagement, help structure early conversations and can eliminate potential near term projects. Once enrolled communities are eligible to apply for community action grants to undertake additional planning efforts, or to implement the priorities identified during enrollment, which is the public engagement side of things. These grants are offered twice a year. Number three, in addition to grants enrolled communities have access to a regional coordinator who can help with developing future project ideas, and then aid and researching and applying for grants, especially federal grants, which is the money she's talking about. And four in rural communities, may participate in training sessions hosted by regional coordinators as well as peer learning and networking opportunities. The other part I wanted to say is how this is funded. And this is a key thing for this grant. This source of funding for this grant is the biannual state budget. So applicants are strongly encouraged to utilize these grants as matching funds for federal grants. You can't match federal grants with federal money, you can match federal grants with state monies. This is strictly state money, you take this \$50,000 that can be used as our match money for federal money. That's the money that we get. That's the big dollars that we're trying to get.

Casey Hanson

I just, you guys have done a great job figuring this out in your finding money for our city to do the things that you know, we need to do. It absolutely boggles my mind that there's any question about joining into this partnership. And one thing that didn't get mentioned in the frequently asked questions, but did get mentioned in here is that one of the things that comes along with the partnership is a regional coordinator who works with the Senior Researcher apply for potential federal funding. So there's

actually like a human being that you get in this partnership, who helps you guys to figure out where the federal money is, all this money is out there. There are cities that are using this money to make their city better if we don't do this, I it is just an absolute crime to the taxpayer.

Michelle Kaplan

So we only have till midnight tomorrow to decide on this

Lisa Sekulich

if we want to make this round, if we want to bring it back and come in for the next round, which is next spring, I believe there's that option?

Michelle Kaplan

Yes. Because I feel like I'm in a timeshare presentation. And that's good today, and today only. And then, you know, there's buyer's remorse later. So

Gene Lyons

that covered my question.

Dale Hamilton

So there is a second round,

Lisa Sekulich

second round, but it comes out twice a year? So assuming it continues, depending on potentially what happens in November.

Dale Hamilton

And we we anticipate moving forward a bit with the comp plan? Right, by that time?

Janna Richards

Absolutely. We're moving forward with

Lisa Sekulich

We are Yeah, we're moving forward with storm water, whether we get this \$50,000 or not. I'm going to continue. I think it's something we all addressed during the local roads meetings that storm water is a major issue for the city. And so we will continue on that whether we get to 50,000 or not, it'll just come out of the local roads budget versus the grants

Steven O'Halloran

Is there one \$50,000 award, or many?

Lisa Sekulich

there's multiple, so we could go after our, quote unquote, storm water this year, we could put in an EB charger next year. I mean, I'm just picking random numbers. I'm not saying that's what you guys would have voted on. And then we could go after something else, you know, each grant round.

Janna Richards

The other thing too, is that if we go in with like, let's say we were in and Lamoine, and Trenton, I'm just making this up all decide, you can go in as a partnership, and it changes from 50,000 to \$100,000. So if you go in with multiple towns for let's say, a reach some sort of a regional plan or a multi town plan, you can get more funding that way.

Steven O'Halloran

So if this was to be adopted this evening. When if ever would the city received 50 Grant?

Janna Richards

For September, probably by December, I think we would know that if we were awarded or not. I anticipate pretty fast.

Steven O'Halloran

Yeah, process. Yes.

Lisa Sekulich

If they voted no. On this particular project, we can apply again in the spring for something different or refined or that kind of thing.

Casey Hanson

Moved to adopt a resolution to the Ellsworth city council regarding participation in the state's community resilience partnership.

Dale Hamilton

I have a motion.

Marc Blanchette

Second.

Dale Hamilton

Second, further discussion? Seeing none, all those in favor. All those opposed? Motion fails.

Dale Hamilton

Item 18 Council order number 091904 request for the public works director to enter into a lease agreement for the water department.

Lisa Sekulich

Good evening counselors I'm requesting to table this item as the lease agreement was just received on Friday, potentially lease agreement and it's at our lawyers being looked at currently. So I'm hoping to be back next month with a finalized lease agreement

Marc Blanchette

So moved.

Robert Miller

Second

Dale Hamilton

a motion. Second any discussion? Councilor O'Halloran

Steven O'Halloran

What is the cost?

Dale Hamilton

Wait. Thank you. There's no discussion on the table. He can ask at no discussion on a table motion. So we have to vote. All those in favor of tabling. All those things unanimous table, counselor O'Halloran may ask your question.

Steven O'Halloran

What is the cost of this lease? You say it's going to the lawyer give us a number so we can be chewing on this.

Lisa Sekulich

Hi, and till we have a signed one, i don't know.

Steven O'Halloran

must be a number

Lisa Sekulich

right. I don't know it off the top of my head. And I would hate to speak out of turn. I believe it's alone. 1050 or 11? A square foot somewhere in there? How many square feet? It's I think it's 4200 a month somewhere in there.

Steven O'Halloran

The number I'm looking for. Thank you. Again,

Lisa Sekulich

it written because I wasn't prepared for that. But somewhere. I know what's under 45. So 42 ish, I believe. Thank you.

Dale Hamilton

Alright, item 19. Request to schedule dates for workshop meetings to discuss ARPA funding and expenses and a second workshop discuss floating structures.

Glenn Moshier

Already wrestled out of time. So now I'm just

Dale Hamilton

looking for dates, or dates? Did the council wants the staff to set the dates? Let's start with the first question is do you want to have these workshops prior to the election?

Casey Hanson

I mean, I do we we voted for the ARPA funding workshop back in January, we voted for the floating structure workshop in June. And that's a thing that's been being dealt with by the city council for last two years. I just feel like we should just get this work done. So I don't know if you want me to say like, how about next Thursday, or whether like how we should do this.

Dale Hamilton

I'm open to whatever.

Casey Hanson

This Thursday we are meeting for charter review. So the following Thursday, we could meet for one of the other. I mean, I don't like coming here any more than anybody else does an extra days. But I just think we have to get this work done. So I guess I could just make a random proposal for I don't know. Maybe we can even do them both in one workshop on say Thursday the 29th.

Michelle Kaplan

Is that a motion? Sure. Second,

Dale Hamilton

Motion and second, any discussion? All those in favor of setting the 29th is a date for the workshops. All those opposed. Motion passes. So we'll set that date. Six o'clock. And as we discuss the workshops, workshops are not the same as a city council meeting. And certainly with the flooding structures. We've had plenty of public hearing. So it's the workshops are intended for the council to have an opportunity to work with staff around these issues. Public comment will be limited. So we can focus on that work. We the floating structures was to to talk about an ordinance, get some clarification and have that discussion. So I just want everybody to be aware of that. As we go into those workshops. That will be the focus that is not going to be open long. Here are a lot of comments that have been put forward before that will happen. Should any of these move forward at the council meeting?

Casey Hanson

The ARPA workshop we were supposed to have someone from the MMA come and talk to us. So I can't imagine that you can just figure that out by a week from Thursday.

Glenn Moshier

Okay, I might be able to get if we can't have an actual person then we'll get a PowerPoint presentation and we'll get

Dale Hamilton

item 20 year proposal for a one year extension on our oil contract.

Glenn Moshier

Thank you, counselor so you have the information in front have you. We were preparing to go out to RFP and we were contacted by our current provider, no frills, with an opportunity to lock in rates at 3.69 for oil and 1.69. For propane. We've been hearing from multiple different sources that is anticipated to be issues with availability of those products this winter, whose prices are less than what the going market rate is currently. If you were to call for number two, currently, last year, the city used 22,160 gallons of number two and 6187 gallons of propane. The school department, which is included in this agreement, use astounding 79,672 gallons number two and 5703 gallons of propane. So asking tonight if the council would like to extend this agreement with no frills for that price, or would prefer to go through the RFP process to see what other options are available for us. Yes, then he guarantees the gallons at those prices.

Gene Lyons

Let's probably go with that.

Glenn Moshier

our current rate is 2.19. And for number two oil and 1.39 for propane.

Gene Lyons

So it's more than that currently, considerably.

Glenn Moshier

But those were rates from last year. while he's is asking for an answer. But if I mean the options are a we either agree to the terms built through the RFP process which will hopefully we could get it on the October agenda to be a pretty short turnaround. But we may have to hold special meetings if we can't get it on the currently scheduled October November rather than wait November because the current agreement expires October 1.

Michelle Kaplan

I believe the news says it's anticipated that heating oil prices will be extremely high in this winter. So

Steven O'Halloran

How long is the city been using no frills oil?

Glenn Moshier

Well, the last RFP that we were able to find was from 2017. But this was a recent agreement. It was from 2019.

Steven O'Halloran

This is a long term agreement was satisfactory results.

Glenn Moshier

Yes, we haven't had any issues. As far as you know, Missed deliveries or need for emergency deliveries. We did have one issue last year with a frozen line which we addressed with no frills this

year. And they assured us that in the future, because we didn't have a service contract with them. But they assured us with this contract that in the future they would respond to that. It was an emergency situation. There was some confusion. They were going to respond but not in a timely enough fashion because it was critical infrastructure but they've we've identified that as critical infrastructure and with any future issues they agreed to respond to that, regardless of day or night. That was the only real concern that we had amongst any staff or with the current service desk.

Robert Miller

Mr. Chairman motion to approve the one year extension to the heating oil contract for the 2023 year with no frills for 3.69 nine per gallon of number two heating oil and 1.699 propane for the city of Ellsworth and Ellsworth school department.

Marc Blanchette

Second

Dale Hamilton

motion in a second Any further discussion? All those in favor? Unanimous. Item 21 appointment of a deputy treasurer.

Glenn Moshier

Well, I guess I just Yeah. So in light of recent resignations from the finance director and now the Deputy Finance Director, we felt the need that there was definitely a need for some stability in that department and current city clerk Toni Dyer has expressed an interest in learning the world of finance and has a very good base knowledge based on our systems and her extensive knowledge in municipal, the workings of municipalities and finances to some degree. So she has expressed an interest in that role. We need a treasurer and a person responsible for finances. So I'm asking that she'd be appointed as interim Deputy Finance Director and treasurer.

Dale Hamilton

And this gives her another sticker and she's only 10 stickers from filling every role that we have in the city

Glenn Moshier

That's correct. She will, she will be maintaining her duties as city clerk, with help from her deputy clerks, at least through the November election, because that's a significant undertaking for the city. And at such time between now and then she'll make we'll make a decision as to what career path she chooses to pursue whether it stays in finance realm or goes back to the clerk. So that's at least the immediate plan.

Michelle Kaplan

Move to approve. Toni Dyer as interim deputy treasurer.

Robert Miller

Second

Dale Hamilton

motion a second, any discussion?

Steven O'Halloran

I trust we're going to pay this young lady more money for more work. We discuss how much?

Glenn Moshier

We can't here. But we have discussed how much

Steven O'Halloran

and everyone was in agreement that that's fair. Well, I need to hear

Dale Hamilton

any further discussion. All those in favor? Unanimous. So before we adjourn, and counselors would like to take an opportunity to make comments that are not on the agenda. You may do so now you have approximately three minutes to speak about anything you'd like.

Gene Lyons

I like to think I don't know if anybody notice or not. But on Bridge Hill, the cannons. And the balls got recently painted by Kenny Grant and his son KJ who got some credit for towards his high school and community service. And they did a great job and they look great. I'd like to thank them for that. And also Daniel Sullivan got a hold of me and he'd like to thank them also. Thank you very much. And also Home Depot for supplying all the materials to do that project.

Michelle Kaplan

I'm sure I'm not alone as a citizen of Ellsworth, when I opened my tax bill, and literally got sticker shock. My tax bill went from 9,000 to 12,000. Just like that \$12,000 a year on a private road, when I don't get trash pickup, don't get a school bus. Yes, I get schools, but \$12,000 a year for property taxes. Because the property was valued higher. And all the work we did as a council to try to get the mill rate down was erased because of a buying frenzy for property in the state of Maine. And now at the drop of a hat. That's \$3,000 more. And I know I am not alone with that sticker shock. So I think that maybe at the next meeting, we could have our city manager ask our tax assessor to explain how that happened. And whether or not next year, now the real estate market is plummeting if we're going to get a tax break next year. I have that and then also, I would be remiss if I didn't complain about the traffic on Water streets either coming into the city from the Bangor side, but more importantly, if that intersection is so bad, because when Jackson lab lets out, everybody's going through that intersection, and people going all the way around. And we cut off that little cut through and put that outdoor park there. And anytime I've ever driven by there, I see maybe three or four people, if I'm lucky. Yet, at peak traffic times, you probably had 20-30 cars that are using that as a cut through now they're all going up School Street, just to try to go that way, they're all going to Franklin Street try to go up that way, just because that light takes so long, and the way it's designed, I don't think that it's keeping up with the current trends in our traffic. So that's just me complaining.

Casey Hanson

I would just say in addition to that, we all just sat here and turned down the city's opportunity to find money to fix traffic problems, again, boggles my mind that we're going to complain about taxes, and then turn down opportunities from the state to fund some projects we need to do is crazy.

Dale Hamilton

So just take this opportunity, I want to say thank you to the city staff. The earlier vote, it was not an indictment of the work that's being done in the city. And city staff. I think that being part of a municipal government and being a staff in that government, you're always getting criticized, something isn't right. And you're going to hear that more than you're going to hear the positives. I think part of the role here is to understand that you're all doing the very best you can. And we sit here as council trying to get information. Those are questions, I don't think that that we should be criticizing the staff, I think you are all doing is working as hard as you can, in an in hiring environment that is very difficult, and you have positions that are unfilled. So I certainly hope that just because a vote doesn't go the way that you recommend that you you don't look at that as a as any kind of criticism on the work you're doing. It's sometimes it's just based on the decision that we make individually. And then we move forward. And so I just I just want to stress that because I think sometimes city staff hear too much of the negative and you should hear the positive. Because I think I think more people in the city appreciate the work that you do every day to keep the city running. So again, before we do that, councilor O'Halloran you seemed to earlier wanted to express your right to speak as a citizen? Are you now choosing not to do so?

Steven O'Halloran

I was denied that.

Gene Lyons

No, that's what we're doing right now.

Dale Hamilton

Would you like to take this opportunity to express your views as a citizen or are you declining? Do you not want to answer that question? You pressed me on questions. So. Do we have a motion to adjourn?

Marc Blanchette

Motion.

Robert Miller

Second.

Dale Hamilton

All in favor? We're adjourned.