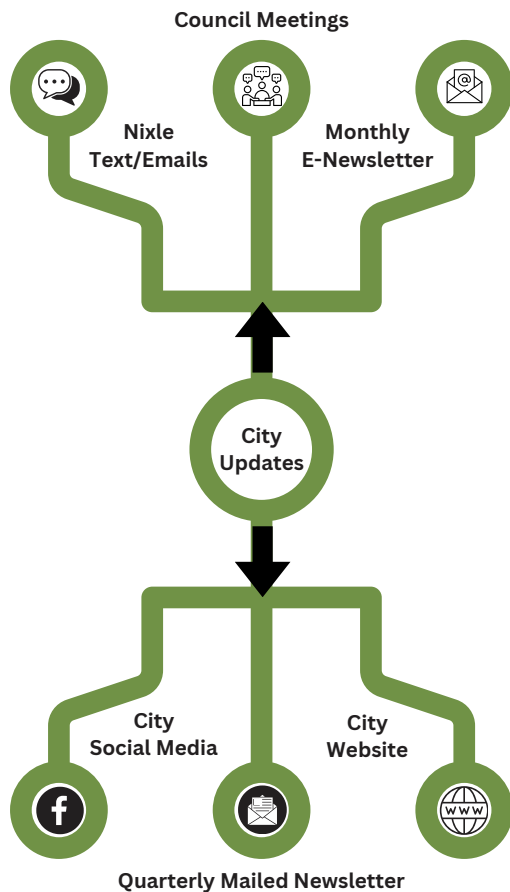


Council Meetings



The last FY25 budget workshop with council is scheduled on March 18. Final numbers will be submitted to the State by staff on April 5, 2024. The new fiscal year will begin on July 1, 2024. Below is the public meetings calendar for February:

- March 4 @ 7pm - Council Meeting
- March 18 @ 6pm - Budget Workshop #4 and @ 7pm - Council Meeting
- April 1 @ 7pm - Council Meeting & Public Hearing on FY25 Budget



Communications Survey Report

The results from the communication survey were presented to council. Some highlights from the results include:

- a centralized page on the city website for news
- a monthly e-newsletter
- weekly live updates from staff
- continued education for residents on the various outlets the city utilizes to get out info and updates

Staff will start to implement these ideas immediately. Continual feedback from residents on how they receive their information is appreciated as we strive to keep everyone up to speed with what is going on in our town. To view the centralized page on the city website, find City Updates off the home screen.

Public Hearing for FY25 Property Tax Levy

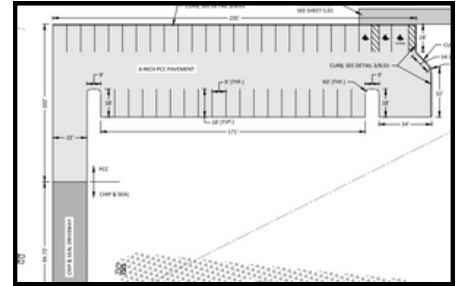
A public hearing is set for April 1st for the property tax levy for FY25. After working through multiple workshops staff is recommending that council hold the tax levy at \$11.08 which is the current FY24 tax levy. This will keep Ely in the bottom half of tax levies for cities within Linn County.

To catch up on all other city news, events & important info, visit the link at the bottom.

City Park Parking Lot

Spring 

On January 31, 16 bids were received and reviewed for this project. The low bid being \$206,812.25 from Dave Schmitt Construction. The bid came in \$50,000 lower than the engineer's original estimate! Phase 1 of this concrete parking lot will include 41 standard stalls, 3 handicap accessible spaces, a sidewalk connecting the lot to the pavilion area and a chip & seal access drive from Northgate to the new parking area. Construction of this parking lot on the north end of City Park will begin later this spring. Keep an eye out for updates as they become available.



Old Town District Bidding Process

After a public hearing on February 5, council approved the Phase 1 of the Old Town District Infrastructure Project to be put out for bid. Received bids were opened at City Hall on February 27. Council reviewed the bids on March 4 and approved the contract to the lowest bidder, Mainline Construction. A preconstruction meeting will take place in later March – early April. For more info on this project or to follow along with updates, visit the Project Page on the city website.

Banner Valley Sidewalk

The current phase of the Banner Valley Sidewalk Project includes Pacific St. to Rock Island Dr. The city is working on cost estimates to add one more block of sidewalk to include Rock Island Dr. to Glendale Ln. If it works within the FY25 budget, the additional block of sidewalk will be added into the project. Estimated costs will be presented to council this spring for approval.

Public Equipment Shed

The equipment shed at Community Center Park was made possible due to a 2023 Iowa Foundation for Parks and Recreation mini grant. The shed has pickleball net & accessories, basketballs, soccer balls, chalk, jump ropes, frisbees, a kickball & temporary bases, and so much more! This is all free for public use!



Easter Egg Hunt

The 21st annual Easter Egg Hunt is brought to you by the City of Ely and the Ely Public Library. The Egg Hunt will be held behind the Community Center at 10:00am on March 23. The Easter Bunny will be in attendance for photos. Please bring a bag or bucket to collect eggs. This event is free to attend.



BINGO FUNdraiser

Find BINGO Link Below

You won't want to miss out on the fun March 8! The Friends of the Ely Public Library will be hosting a BINGO fundraiser at the Ely Legion! \$1 for 3 cards, doors open at 6:30pm, and drinks and concessions will be sold to support the Ely Legion.



2024 Citizen of the Year

Upon the submission of a thoughtful nomination, the Selection Committee has named Aaron Cooper the recipient of the 2024 Jim Miller Ely Citizen of the Year! Over the two decades Aaron has lived in Ely, he has been actively involved with the Friends of the Ely Public Library, College Community School District, and also 24 years of service as a volunteer in the Ely Fire Department where he currently serves as Fire Chief. He has worked to secure grants with the purpose of extending STEM opportunities; as well as donated financially to the library's mission of early literacy, impacting countless young residents in our community.

Community Potluck

Find the Event Link Below

Everyone is invited to join us at the Ely Legion on on Sunday March 24 at 11am for a good old-fashioned potluck! After the meal, we will recognize Ely's amazing volunteers. The event will conclude at noon with the presentation of the 2024 Citizen of the Year Award to Aaron Cooper. If you can bring a dish to share, please do, however this is not required to attend.

