

City of Elk Run Heights
Special Council Meeting/Budget Workshop
October 28, 2025 – 4:00 p.m.
Located at Eddis Winstead Council Chambers

The City Council of the City of Elk Run Heights, Iowa met in regular session, according to law, the rules of said Council and prior notice given to each member thereof, in the Council Chambers of City Hall of Elk Run Heights, Iowa at 4:00 p.m. on the above date. Council members are present in order or roll call: Wilson, Rodden, Galbraith, Bass, Sallis. Quorum present.

Sallis/Bass to approve the October 28, 2025 agenda. Ayes-five. Motion carried.

Discussion: The mayor and council entered into a discussion regarding long-term goals for the city. Mayor Smock recommended creating a document to place on the city's website listing our goals for the residents to observe. The property between Gray St and Lafayette Rd was discussed. This area was on a previous list of goals. The mayor asked the council if they would still like to see a new park be placed there or to sell the property. Council agreed to sell the property. Future overlays and manhole repairs were discussed and will be placed on a timeline. Discussion was had about adding outlets on utility poles, speed bump requests, welcome signage, connecting the new sidewalk on Lafayette to the trail, seal coating, and solar radar speed signs. Mayor Smock was instructed to get quotes and look into grants for these things. Next, the possibility of a program to reduce the feral cat population was discussed. Then, discussion moved on to larger projects in the city's future including improvements to Dubuque Road and Plaza Drive. Mayor Smock informed council that she has started the preliminary work to fund these projects through grants but looked for directions on how to proceed. Council also discussed a residential development behind the Boys and Girls club and how important that piece of land is to develop correctly. Bass and Wilson decided to start a committee to look at any possible expansion of city borders. Rodden had to step out of the meeting.

Discussion/possible action: Website services through Neapolitan Labs. The mayor and council discussed switching website companies. The mayor explained that it is recommended for cities to use their website as the primary information hub for residents. The city's current website is not user-friendly or mobile-friendly. Neapolitan Labs is very efficient; they can give different departments such as the police and library their own logins to update their reports or calendar of events. The clerk would be able to have a calendar on the website that shows rental availability as well as the agendas and minutes would be placed side by side for easy accessibility for residents. The city is unable to edit the current website very much despite reaching out to the company for help. The current website costs the city \$2,247.00 per year. Neapolitan Labs would cost \$6,000 for initial design/set up and \$1,000 per year after that with a possible increase of up to 5% each year. Mayor Smock explained that the city would be saving money in year 4 if we proceeded with the new company and that we would use Creek Days profits towards this. Mayor Smock told the council that they could continue to think about this until the next regular council meeting and that no action needed to be taken during this meeting. Galbraith stated he did not see the benefit of switching companies. Bass stated that the city's current website is terrible and Sallis stated that the city has to have a website so why not have one that works. Mayor Smock explained that in the long run, the city would be both saving money and have a usable website. Council decided to move forward with the new website. Bass/Wilson motion to proceed with a website company. Ayes: Three. Nays: Galbraith.

Galbraith/Sallis to adjourn at 6:12pm. Ayes-Four. Motion carried.

Attest:

Lisa Smock, Mayor

Cheyenne Plummer, City Clerk