

# Elgin City Council Proceedings

## Regular Meeting January 9, 2025

Regular City Council Meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. January 9, 2025 by Mayor Ronald Bartz.

Pledge was recited.  
Public in Attendance: Luann Dart, Daniel Devitt, Tabitha Zimmerman, Marie Klein, Beverly Winkler.

**In Attendance:** Ron Fischer, Kristian Roth, Brianna Ricks, Leslie Bartz, Robert Mead and Ronald Bartz.

**Absent:** Brian Richardson  
**Public:** Bev Winkler approached the council regarding the replacement of extra wide sidewalks that surround her property. More information will be collected and the issue will be revisited.

Brian Day from Midwest Assistance Program joined the meeting via telephone. Mr. Day reviewed a sewer and water rate study conducted for the City of Elgin and informed the council of the increases that will be vital to Elgin's infrastructure (maintenance and improvements). Moved by L. Bartz second by Roth to approve the following rate increases that will be effective on the February billing: Water per thousand gallons - \$10.80;

Sewer Base - 0 to 4,999 = \$20.25, 5,000 to 9,999 = \$21.75, 10,000 plus = \$22.25; Garbage Base - Residential = 23.50, Commercial = \$34.00, Water Base - Residential = \$26.00, Commercial \$31.00, Misc. (St lights, snow removal, mosquito spraying) = \$10.00 and Bulk Water from Hydrant - \$12.50, all present aye motion carried.

**Maintenance Report:** None.  
**Engineers Report:** Council reviewed the engineers report as presented.

**Additions to Agenda:** None.  
Moved by Ricks second by Roth to approve the Regular City Council minutes dated December 6, 2024, all present aye motion carried.

Moved by L. Bartz second by Mead to approve the financial statement as presented for December, all present aye; motion carried.

Moved by L. Bartz second by Roth to approve the following bills for December and January:

FIBT \$2,067.49, City of Elgin 90.00, Dakota Hill 18,000.00, Industrial Chem Labs 595.68, Dan's HVAC 181.80, Elgin True Value 130.77, ESRI 3,710.00, FIBT 2,112.90, Fitterer Gas 1,311.46, Joel Klein 800.00, JD Financial 111.06, Lince

Sanitation 4,945.01, MDU 2,396.82, MDU 2,396.82, WRT 302.68, WRT 129.05, MDU 74.18, FIBT 168.00, City of Elgin 29,000.00, Elgin Park Board 310.97, Elgin True Value 214.72, Ferguson 19.49, Gas & Gears 126.27, Grant County 5,800.50, Lince Sanitation 2,628.91, MDU 111.31, Morrison-Maierle 950.00, One Call Concepts 9.00, R Family Market 8.68, SW Grain 1621.16, SW Authority 7,402.66, Stelter Repair 11.86, SW Grain 298.89, Employee & Council Wages - \$11,934.66; all present aye motion carried.

Past Due water bills were discussed in length and will be watched closely. Past Due List is as follows: Chris Pearson, Andy Chapman, Gr. County, Corinna Diehl, Nancy Iszler, Leland Adams, Robbie Friesz, Steve Bleick, Trenton Buchholz, Amanda Jaklich, Heather Moberley, Jerica Sims, Gary Eisenbarth, JMHCC, Delaus Hadley and Sean Marshall.

**Old Business:**  
Discussion was held regarding the release of the Performance Bond held by Lince Sanitation. Moved by L. Bartz second by Fischer to retain the Performance Bond as it part of the Garbage Contact, all present aye motion carried.

Moved by L. Bartz second by Roth to accept the estimate from Dan's HVAC regarding the upgrading of the thermostats throughout the Elgin Community Center, all present aye, motion carried.

**New Business:**

Moved by Ricks second by Fischer to approve the Library Board positions as follows: Donna Burnham - President, Melissa Rokusek - Vice President and Secretary - Brittney Klein, all present aye motion carried.

Moved by L. Bartz second by Roth to approve a 6% raise for full time employees effective Jan 10, all present aye motion carried.

Moved by Mead second by Ricks to approve an abatement for Justin Vetter, Parcel #61066300 for a \$500 credit on the property value for each year (2023 & 2024) which will accommodate the MDU substation property of 8,750 sq feet and the MDU easement, all present aye motion carried.

Moved by Mead and Fischer to approve First International Bank & Trust as our official bank to conduct day to business etc., as needed all present aye motion carried.

Council was updated on the annual transfer amounts, Commercial Blanket Bond, the Essentia Health Testing Program and the acceptance of the 2022/2023 Audit from Rath & Meher by the Office of State Auditor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

/s/Ronald Bartz  
Ronald Bartz, Mayor  
/s/Reva Weekes  
Reva Weekes, Auditor  
Published January 23, 2025

# Coyote School News



## Schedule of Events

Fri., Jan. 24: Varsity boys' basketball vs. Glen Ullin/Hebron at Mott or Elgin, TBA; 5:00 p.m.

Sat., Jan. 25: JH boys' basketball vs. Richardton/Taylor at Elgin, 1:30 p.m.; Varsity boys' basketball vs. Richardton/Taylor in Elgin, 3:30 p.m.

Sun., Jan. 26: Open swimming 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.; Adult water aerobics 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Mon., Jan. 27: JH boys' basketball at New Salem/Almont, 4:00 p.m.; JV boys' basketball tournament at Glen Ullin/Hebron - GCMR vs. Flasher at 3:30 p.m.

Tues., Jan. 28: JH boys' basketball vs. Glen Ullin/Hebron at Mott, 4:00 p.m.; Varsity girls' basketball vs. Standing Rock at Elgin, 4:00 p.m.; No open swimming.

Wed., Jan. 29: Adult water aerobics, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. and 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Thurs., Jan. 30: Varsity girls' basketball at Richardton/Taylor, 4:00 p.m.; Open swimming, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Fri., Jan. 24: Drama play, 7:00 p.m.

## Breakfast Menu

Fri., Jan. 24: Toast, scrambled eggs, juice, fruit, cereal, toast and milk.

Mon., Jan. 27: Oatmeal, juice, fruit, cereal,

toast and milk.

Tues., Jan. 28: Breakfast bar, juice, fruit, cereal, toast and milk.

Wed., Jan. 29: Omelet, toast, juice, fruit, cereal, toast and milk.

Thurs., Jan. 30: Pancakes, sausage patty, juice, fruit, cereal, toast and milk.

Fri., Jan. 31: Long johns, juice, fruit, cereal, toast and milk.

## Lunch Menu

Fri., Jan. 24: Chicken tortilla soup, sandwich, whole wheat products, fruit and vegetables, salad bar, milk.

Mon., Jan. 27: Chicken nuggets, fries, whole wheat products, fruit and vegetables, salad bar, milk.

Tues., Jan. 28: Hamburger on a bun, whole wheat products, fruit and vegetables, salad bar, milk.

Wed., Jan. 29: Roast beef, mashed potatoes with gravy, dinner roll, whole wheat products, fruit and vegetables, salad bar, milk.

Thurs., Jan. 30: Pizza, Sun Chips, whole wheat products, fruit and vegetables, salad bar, milk.

Fri., Jan. 31: Vegetable beef soup, sandwich, whole wheat products, fruit and vegetables, salad bar, milk.

# E/NL board adopts calendar, discusses breach

By Luann Dart

luann@westriv.com

During its regular meeting Jan. 15, the Elgin/New Leipzig School District board of education approved the 2025-26 school calendar, gave the OK for a senior class trip and discussed a PowerSchool breach.

## PowerSchool breach

Approximately 900 Elgin/New Leipzig School District student files were among those breached during a nationwide breach of an online student information system used by North Dakota school districts.

School districts were notified PowerSchool identified a breach Dec. 28, 2024, and users are being asked by local school districts to change their passwords.

That number does not represent 900 students, since one student could potentially have dozens of files, Secondary Principal Terry Bentz told the board, and files date back to 2004 when the district started using PowerSchool. Four-hundred staff files were also breached, including those of four present employees.

Among those, 172 contained student Social Security numbers and 80 contained staff Social Security numbers.

The district has been informed PowerSchool will be contacting those whose information was breached.

"This was not the fault of any one school district, including our own, nor the state PowerSchool team. This is totally on the national PowerSchool organization and their servers that house all of this information for schools," Bentz said.

PowerSchool has assured the N.D.

Information Technology (NDIT) the incident has been contained, and it is working closely with cybersecurity experts and law enforcement to address the situation, according to a statement from NDIT.

NDIT encourages PowerSchool users in North Dakota to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity.

N.D. Century Code required school districts to acquire PowerSchool and use it as their principal student information system, with full funding of PowerSchool approved for public schools in 2011.

PowerSchool has several features, including use as an online grade book.

## School calendar

Following a survey of staff regarding the school calendar, Superintendent Dr. Sherlock Hirning presented the 2025-26 calendar to the board for approval.

The start date will be Aug. 19, with graduation May 17, 2026. The calendar includes 167 student instruction days.

Although the 167 days meets requirements, Hirning expressed he feels the number of days is minimal and he would like to increase that to 170 days over time.

"I feel it's important to try to work towards more days instead of trying to be at the very minimum," he said.

## Senior class trip

The board approved a senior class trip March 18-23 to Charleston, S.C. Eight to nine students will be accompanied by chaperones Avery Roth and Dakota Schaefer. The trip will cost \$13,000 to \$15,000 and will be financed by the class.

Bentz reminded the

board the district's policy regarding senior class trips should be addressed, because it currently does not allow out-of-state senior trips, despite the board approving out-of-state trips for several years.

"We have a policy that we don't follow," Bentz said. "We can't blatantly just continue violating our own policies."

"I'm not against the senior class trip, but we need to get ahold of it and set some parameters," he said. "Ultimately, we're taking on a huge responsibility letting our kids go so far away."

... We've been fortunate. We've had no incidents, the kids are great, all good, but you just never know."

"For the future, we should talk about what we're going to do from now on," he said, expressing he didn't want to halt this year's trip.

## Construction coalition

Hirning shared information with the board about the N.D. School Construction Coalition made up of 25 North Dakota school districts "to study the current state of school facilities across North Dakota and propose recommendations to ensure that every student has access to adequate and equitable school facilities."

The coalition is proposing legislation in which the state would assess each district's facilities, then create a state funding program to guarantee adequate and equitable school facilities.

"Hopefully, it will develop a means for districts who absolutely do not have the financial resources. I'll use our district as an example. Our high school main building is 100 years old. It's at a point where it really can't be renovated anymore.

The entire infrastructure of that building is totally outdated, wiring, plumbing, the floors are starting to give away, stairways, everything," Hirning said.

## In other business:

The board approved a long-term substitute teaching contract with Elizabeth Hands as the second-grade teacher. As a paraeducator with a substitute teaching license and pursuing her teaching degree, she has been leading the classroom mentored by Roxann Tietz. She is now a student teacher and her pay was increased as a long-term substitute. She will graduate from the University of Mary in May. She stepped into the role following the resignation in October of the former second-grade teacher.

The gymnasium floor will be refinished May 19-28, Bentz told the board. It has been 15 years since the floor was last stripped and refinished. The \$30,000 project will result in a surface that will appear different than the current floor, with light and dark woods separating certain parameters.

The board was given a \$58,393 estimate to install new playground equipment. The district has approximately \$18,000 in the playground fund now.

The board was also given a \$60,635 estimate to replace flooring in the rest of the high school hallways and six classrooms.

The board also discussed a coach's letter to players stating expectations for players to ride the bus home from games. The district's handbook states all participants must ride the bus to and from games/events, with exceptions.

The next school board meeting will be at 6 p.m. Feb. 12.

**DO YOU HAVE A STORY IDEA?**  
Reach out at [jill@gspublishing.net](mailto:jill@gspublishing.net)  
or call 584-2900!

## Elgin/New Leipzig Public School PARAPROFESSIONAL

The Elgin/New Leipzig School is seeking applicants for a Paraprofessional. Salary is dependent on experience and education. This position is open until filled. If interested, please contact Gayle Beyer, Business Manager at 701-584-2374, or at [gayle.beyer@k12.nd.us](mailto:gayle.beyer@k12.nd.us).

E/NL is an equal opportunity employer. tfn



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