

Ely City Council Study Session January 25, 2011

The Ely City Council study session was called to order by Acting Mayor Salerno at 6:00 p.m. on January 25, 2011 at the Ely City Hall.

PRESENT: Council members Debeltz, Nikkola, Omerza, Sheddy, Zupec, and Acting Mayor Salerno (6)

ABSENT: Mayor Skraba (1)

Mike Jankovec of Ely TV informed everyone that Ely TV is now operating an additional channel. Channel 98 is part of the basic package channel line-up and subscribers are encouraged to check out the new station.

Additions and Omissions to the agenda:

Request to Appear – Delete item B, Bill Tefft

Old Business A – Add items 4. Ordinance on EUC By-Laws and 5. Energy Assistance Program

REQUESTS TO APPEAR

John Soghigian, Chair of Well Being Development presented an overview of their program. Their mission is to inspire and foster activities that develop and enhance the mental well being of residents in and around the Ely area. The council thanked them for their work on the project.

Council member Zupec updated the council on the meeting held earlier today with Ely Greenstone representatives to discuss final revisions to the lease for Miner's Dry complex. Attorney Klun will present the lease for council approval at the February 1st meeting. The group requested council support of their grant application to the IRR for the stabilization of the Captains Dry Building.

OLD BUSINESS

Joint meeting with the Ely Utilities Commission members. The EEDA 2011 goals were discussed.

Director Langowski presented the Hydrant Usage policy that has been discussed several times in the past. The EUC will be replacing 5 hydrants this year at a cost of approximately \$25,000. The Commission is wondering what the next step should be on the Hydrant Usage policy with Morse Township. It was suggested that the Director Langowski and Fire Chief Erchull schedule up a meeting with Morse and Fall Lake Fire Chief.

Beacon Hill utilities are outside the current electric utility services. Director Langowski has been working with representatives from Lake County Power regarding this area and adding it to the city's service. It was also discussed that Lake County Power should be paying a franchise fee for services it provides within the city limits. Langowski will discuss options with MN Power on Brisson's Point properties and also continue discussion with Lake Country Power.

Kurt Soderberg presented information on the EUC By-laws which were drafted by Mary Frances Skala in 2004 but have never been adopted. He requested authorization for the EUC to review and present to the council for adoption. The council agreed with the request.

The CIP requirements as mandated by the State require the EUC to save 1.5% per year of gross KW hours. The EUC provides energy star rebates for appliances, the CFL light bulb giveaway, ballast and light bulb recycling and commercial lighting program which was recently added. The EUC is working on a program for assistance to local businesses for energy audits.

The council talked to Dick Zahn regarding his request for reappointment to the EUC.

Opportunities for legislative support were discussed. It was agreed that the City should contact their legislators for assistance with a TIF district extension. Northland Securities will draft legislation with the help of Mary Frances Skala once the council decides the specifics of their request to the legislature.

Ely City Council Study Session January 25, 2011 Continued

Handicapped accessibility to city buildings was discussed. A city sales tax needs to be a priority for the city to be able to upgrade city buildings. Reverse and Enabling Referendums were discussed. Council member Zupec suggested the council put together a plan identifying needs for Semers, Whiteside, Community Center, City Hall, Rec Center, Miner's Dry, Chamber, fishing pier, cemetery, soft ball complex and Hidden Valley.

NEW BUSINESS

Council member Omerza will be testifying at the Senate Hearing in Hibbing on January 28th. Council member Sheddy will also be attending the meeting.

The council reviewed the December, 2010 preliminary expenditures. Acting Mayor Salerno suggested if council member have questions they should review them with Clerk Boese.

Council member Sheddy will be hosting a meeting at the hospital on January 27th at 6 p.m. regarding the school board referendum. The council and public are invited to attend.

Duane Whalen requested the reasoning behind the city pulling out of the EADA and funding Joint Powers. Council member Nikkola stated that the main reason was a lack of cooperation from this group. Sheddy explained that when the Council appears in front of the legislature they will be able to appear as the City of Ely and not Joint Powers.

Moved by Omerza supported by Nikkola to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Terri Boese
Clerk/Treasurer