

Ely City Council Regular Meeting December 1, 2009

The Ely City Council regular meeting was called to order by Mayor Skraba at 6:30 p.m. on December 1, 2009 at the Ely City Hall.

PRESENT: Council members Debeltz, Nikkola, Omerza, Salerno, Sheddy, and Mayor Skraba (5)

ABSENT: Council member Zupec (1)

Moved by Salerno supported by Debeltz to approve minutes of the November 17, 2009 Regular Meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Addition/Omissions to the Agenda:

1. Omit Consent Agenda Item 2. Chief Saw – D.A.R.E. request for Christmas
2. Omit Request to Appear Item A. Mike Hillman – Legacy Grant for Pioneer Mine
3. Omit Claims for Payment Item B. pay request to Fahrner Asphalt Sealers
4. Omit New Business Item B. US DOE Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grants program request to apply for funding from LHB
5. Add Mayor's Agenda Item 4. Nominate ARDC Representative

Moved by Debeltz supported by Salerno to approve Items 1-5 to the agenda as presented above. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor's Agenda:

Mayor Skraba read the following statement: The Ely City Council performed an annual probationary performance evaluation of Clerk/Treasurer Terri Boese on November 17, 2009. Present were council members Debeltz, Nikkola, Omerza, Salerno, Sheddy and Mayor Skraba. The council agreed the results of the evaluation were satisfactory and Clerk Boese had successfully completed her probationary period.

Moved by Sheddy supported by Debeltz to authorize Mayor Skraba to attend and represent the council at the Polymet public hearings in Aurora on December 9th and in Blaine on December 10th. The council is in support of the project. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Debeltz supported by Sheddy to authorize LHB to apply for funding through the DOE – Energy and Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program for the proposed Biomass project. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Sheddy supported by Salerno that Council member Omerza be nominated to represent the city on the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission (ARDC). Motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda Items:

1. Change meeting time for Planning & Zoning to 5:30 p.m. starting in January and hold one meeting on the 1st Thursday of the month during the winter.
3. Hometown Minnesota Protecting Historic Downtown Resources Workshop on December 9, in St. Cloud, MN

Moved by Salerno supported by Debeltz to approve consent agenda items 1 and 3 as presented above. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Council member Omerza reported on the unallotment law suit currently being pursued by the Coalition of Greater MN Cities. The decision was made to have the Coalition be part of law suit in filing an amicus brief when it goes to the appellate court level. Omerza will be attending an upcoming meeting of the Coalition and requested authorization to speak on the City of Ely's behalf at the meeting.

Mayor Skraba reported on the recycling meeting with St. Louis County. The group discussed getting cardboard recycling back in Ely and using Joint Powers as part of funding. Director Langowski explained the

County serves 88,000 people, has 49 recycling centers throughout the county, and they need to look at how to be fair and equitable to all. He added City and County are hopeful by spring to have something in place and will hold another meeting in February, 2010.

Department Heads

Librarian Rachel Heinrich reported the American Library Association has again named the Ely Library as a Star library and it received a 3-Star ranking. The library is 1 of top 7 libraries in Minnesota.

Council member Shedly reported the Christmas tree lighting in the park is having some technical difficulties but will be fixed soon.

Fire Chief Gerzin requested a meeting of the Fire Committee to prepare a recommendation for fire protection for the City of Winton and Stony Township for 2010. Chief Gerzin, Clerk Boese, Council member Zupec and Mayor Skraba will meet to discuss the 2010 budget.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Clerk-Treasurer

Moved by Debeltz supported by Salerno to approve the payment of the City and EUC bills and payroll for the 2nd half of November, 2009 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Clerk Boese informed the council that interviews for the clerical assistant position have been scheduled on December 10th at 2:00 p.m. with the Employee Relations committee.

The council discussed the Assistant Treasurer position and agreed with Auditor Gary Giroux that it should be an employee and not an independent contractor position. Attorney Klun reminded council in order to have an independent contractor, the city would have to relinquish control over the person, and not dictate the course in how they do work. She advised the council to keep this in mind when hiring a building inspector. Clerk Boese will schedule an interview for the assistant treasurer position with the full council on December 11th at 3:00 p.m.

EUC Consent Agenda Items:

1. Approved payment of Payment Request #2 for the Washington Street Reconductoring for \$37,819.78 to Lake States Construction.
2. Approved payment of the November #2 Bills List for \$185,319.61.
3. Approved payment of the Minnesota Power October Bill for \$148,721.70.
4. Approved payment of the KBM, Inc. Invoice #100921 for the 2009 Reconductoring for \$1,450.00.

Director Langowski reported that Item 1 was completed this summer and added another feeder to the city's substation which increased the capacity of the electrical grid and reliability.

Moved by Nikkola supported by Salerno to approve payment of items 1-4 of the EUC consent agenda as presented above. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS

Notice from Corp of Engineers Section 569 Grant Application was denied. The city will continue to keep the Army Corp updated in case there is money through other sources.

Representative Dill will join Senator Bakk at 1:30 p.m. to meet with the Council on December 3rd at the City Hall.

CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT

- A. LHB, Invoice #1, Professional Services \$10,000 for Biomass feasibility study.

Moved by Salerno supported by Debeltz to approve claim for payment A as presented above. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Council member Shedy requested office hours be added to the RFP's for building inspector. Potentially this position could be a part time employee. Moved by Omerza supported by Salerno to publish notice of opening for building and plumbing inspector RFP's with EUC input on water and sewer inspections. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Daryl Maninga of RLK submitted a proposal for engineering services for 2010 and 2011. Moved by Debeltz supported by Nikkola to approve the 2-year contract renewal for engineering services with RLK as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Director Langowski announced the EUC will hold a CFL light bulb give away on December 15 and 16th at the City Hall from 9 to 4:00 on both days. This is for EUC customers only. Customers should bring proof of residence and will receive 2 bulbs per customer. Also there will be a fluorescent bulb and ballast 4 ft or 8 ft collection in the parking lot across from City Hall at the same time for EUC commercial customers.

Director Langowski reported on the light standards damaged on Sheridan Street. The replacement cost is approximately \$2,000 and will be completed within the next 6 weeks.

Moved by Nikkola supported by Omerza to adjourn at 7:24 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Terri Boese
Clerk/Treasurer