

Ely City Council Regular Meeting February 1, 2011

The Ely City Council Regular Meeting was called to order by Mayor Skraba at 6:04 p.m. on February 1, 2011 at the Ely City Hall.

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

ABSENT: Council member Debeltz (1)

Moved by Salerno supported by Zupec to approve minutes of January 4, 2010 Regular Meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Committee appointments were made as follows:

Moved by Zupec supported by Sheddy to re-appoint Richard Zahn to the EUC Commission for a 3 year term.

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Sheddy supported by Omerza to appoint Kristen Zobitz and re-appoint Dave Johnson to the Police Commission for 3 year terms. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Zupec supported by Salerno to appoint:

Ron Pruitt and Jen Westlund to the Ely Public Library Board for 3 year terms with one seat still open.

Rollie Green, Jay Poshak and Mike Weinzler to the Airport Commission for 3 year terms.

Barry Bissonett to the Donald G Gardner Trust Board for a 2 year term

John Klem and David O'Donnell to the Donald G Gardner Trust Board for 3 year terms.

Gail Sheddy, Judith Swenson and Jean Zaverl to the Cemetery Committee for 3 year terms.

Will Hauser to the Projects Committee for a 3 year term.

Gordon Sheddy to the Telecommunications Advisory Board as the resident subscriber to a 3 year term.

Gordon Sheddy to the Planning & Zoning Commission for a 3 year term.

Motion carried unanimously.

An ad will be run for the following openings: Park & Recreation Committee – one seat; and Charter Committee – two seats.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Pay Equity Report

B. Authorize Clerk/Treasurer to attend Clerk's Conference, St. Cloud March 15-17

C. Authorize Operations Director to attend Playground Safety Seminar, Mt. Iron, March 3

Moved by Zupec supported by Nikkola to approve consent agenda items A-C as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Council member Omerza reported on her testimony to the Senate Committee of Environment and Natural Resources on behalf of City of Ely.

Council member Sheddy informed the council that he sent invitations to the Senators of the Environmental Committee inviting them to visit Ely. Council member Sheddy also reported on the Merchants Board meeting and discussed the possibility of having a dance on Chapman St. to promote that area.

Mayor Skraba reported he had met with Tom Landwehr, DNR Commissioner regarding the permitting process, and attended the following meetings: IRR Alternative Energy Task Force, MNDOT hearing on transit dollars, and EADA.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Clerk-Treasurer

Moved by Salerno supported by Zupec to accept the low bid from the Ely Echo for 2011 legal publications. Motion carried unanimously.

Clerk Boese reported the 2008 payroll compliance check had been completed and no further action was required.

The Council will hold a joint meeting with ISD 696 School Board at the Grand Ely Lodge on February 8, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

Ely City Council Regular Meeting February 1, 2011 Continued

Library Director

Director Heinrich informed the council and invited the public to a free Photo Workshop at the Community Center on Tuesday, February 8, 2011 from 10:30am-4:00pm

City Operations Director

EUC Consent Agenda Items: The following items of business were recommended for approval at the regular EUC meeting of Wednesday, January 26, 2011:

- A. Approved the 2011 EUC Budget
- B. Approved the Chamber of Commerce request for in-kind services for the Blueberry Arts and Harvest Moon Festivals
- C. Authorized Harold Langowski and an operator to attend the MPCA Wastewater Operations Conference in Brooklyn Park on March 23-25, 2011
- D. Approved payment of the MMUA 2011 Dues for \$5,401.00

Moved by Salerno supported by Shedly to approve EUC consent Agenda Items A-D as presented above. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Omerza supported by Nikkola to approve 2011 Revenues and Expenditures Budgets for Enterprise Funds 601-Water, 602-Sewer, and 604-Electric as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Police Chief

Moved by Nikkola and supported by Salerno to approve the Joint Powers Agreement with the State of MN Department of Public Safety for Fuel Cell Option breath test instruments pending Attorney Klun's review and approval. Motion carried unanimously.

City Attorney

Ely Greenstone – Pioneer Mine Lease

Moved by Shedly and supported by Nikkola to approve the Ely Greenstone – Pioneer Mine lease as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Attorney Klun requested the council close the meeting at the end of the agenda to discuss a personnel matter with the Police Commission.

The Council directed Klun to review the request for a highway easement received from St. Louis County for the replacement and widening of County Bridge 335 at the Shagawa River crossing on CSAH 88 (Grant McMahan Blvd).

Building Official

Shilling reviewed the new law recently enacted by the state related to Contractor's Lead Certifications. No action was taken at this time on permitting fees which will be required by this statute.

City Engineer

The council reviewed the proposed fee schedule submitted by TKDA and referred this issue to the Airport Commission for approval.

COMMUNICATIONS

The council reviewed the following communication items:

- A. Notice regarding Council member Omerza to serve on League Project Task Force
- B. Daniel Bliss, Ely Executive Summary
- C. Ely Energy Action Plan submitted to InCommons Local Government Innovation Award
- D. Cool News from Bonnie Hundreiser regarding City of Duluth adoption of an Energy Action Plan
- E. Health Insurance update – Virtuwel
- F. League notice regarding City vs. Wellvang

Ely City Council Regular Meeting February 1, 2011 Continued

CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT

- A. City and EUC claims for January and February, 2011 total of \$399,317.14
- B. RLK, Invoice 14, Central Ave \$3,598.75
- C. RLK, Invoice 10, White St Engineering \$0
- D. US Bank, GO Refunding Bond \$42,147.50
- E. Ely Community Resources 1st Qtr 2011 \$3,140

Moved by Salerno supported by Nikkola to approve claims for payments A-E as presented above. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Moved by Salerno supported by Zupec to waive readings in entirety of all ordinances and resolutions. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Moved by Salerno supported by Zupec to support the resolution authorizing changing the 2012 polling location to the Ely Senior Center. Roll call: Nikkola-yes; Omerza-yes; Salerno-yes; Shedly-yes; Zupec-yes; Mayor Skraba-yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Shedly supported by Nikkola to pass Resolution Authorizing Pre-payment of General Obligation Tax Anticipation Certificate of Indebtedness, Series 2010B in the amount of \$590,000. Roll call: Nikkola-yes; Omerza-yes; Salerno-yes; Shedly-yes; Zupec-yes; Mayor Skraba-yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Zupec supported by Nikkola to pass Resolution in support of Local Government Aid. Roll call: Nikkola-yes; Omerza-yes; Salerno-yes; Shedly-yes; Zupec-yes; Mayor Skraba-yes. Motion carried unanimously.

The council reviewed a notice from Terry's Operational Services consulting regarding the contract which expires March 31, 2011.

The council reviewed the Charter Commission's approved charter amendment to Section 2.02 as follows: The Council shall be composed of a Mayor and four Councilors who shall be qualified electors and who shall be elected at large. Each Councilor shall serve for a term of four years, the Mayor for two years and will serve until their successor is elected and qualified. Council terms initially will be as follows, two Council seats for two years and two Council seats for four years. Two Councilors and a Mayor will be elected every two (even) years thereafter. No action was taken.

The meeting was recessed at 6:55 p.m. and reconvened at 7:00 p.m.

Moved by Nikkola supported by Omerza to close the meeting at 7:05 p.m. to meet with the Police Commission to discuss employee discipline. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was reopened at 7:28 p.m.

Moved by Nikkola supported by Omerza to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Terri Boese
City Clerk/Treasurer