

Council Chambers
Ely, Minnesota
Tuesday, February 17, 2009
6:00 P.M. Regular Monthly Meeting
EEDA

Regular monthly meeting of the EEDA was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by President Heidi Omerza.

PRESENT: Debeltz, Nikkola, Skraba, Salerno, Sheddy, Zupec, President Omerza (7)

ABSENT: None (0)

Moved by Salerno supported by Skraba, that the minutes of the regular EEDA Meeting of January 20, 2009, be approved without reading. Carried unanimously. Minutes to stand as recorded.

President Omerza asked if there were any additions to tonight's agenda, noting that if agenda business could not be taken care of in the ½ hour scheduled time allotted, the EEDA could reconvene after the regular city council meeting.

Council member Salerno – requested the following addition under Old Business, Item #3 – update on city commemorative coin, calendar, stamp. EEDA concurred with requested addition. EEDA concurred with requested addition.

New Business

1. Election of Officers – President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer. President Omerza requested nominations from the floor for the office of President. Moved by Debeltz supported by Salerno, that Heidi Omerza be nominated as President of the EEDA, with term to run through December 31, 2010. Carried unanimously.

President Omerza requested nominations from the floor for the office of Vice President. Moved by Debeltz supported by Sheddy, that Warren Nikkola be nominated as Vice President of the EEDA, with term to run through December 31, 2010. Carried unanimously.

President Omerza requested nominations from the floor for the office of Secretary. Moved by Debeltz that Frank Salerno be nominated as Secretary of the EEDA. For lack of a support, the motion was declared lost. Moved by Sheddy supported by Salerno, that Jerome Debeltz be nominated as Secretary of the EEDA, with term to run through December 31, 2012. Carried unanimously.

President Omerza requested nominations from the floor for the office of Treasurer. Moved by Sheddy supported by Zupec, that Frank Salerno be nominated as Treasurer of the EEDA, with term to run through December 31, 2012. Carried unanimously.

President Omerza requested nominations from the floor for the office of Assistant Treasurer. Moved by Skraba supported by Sheddy, that Mark Zupec be nominated as Assistant Treasurer of the EEDA, with term to run through December 31, 2012. Carried unanimously.

2. Ely City Council Adopted Goals and Objectives. President Omerza brought forth for discussion at this time, noting that the listed 14 items were adopted by the Ely City Council on August 12, 2008. Nikkola questioned item #1, complete the amended orderly annexation agreement with Town of Morse, noting that there is a cost for annexing land, and does not feel the City will have the necessary funds needed for total proposed annexation, when the time arises. He does not feel that this item needs to be ranked as item #1, as even if an agreement comes into place, annexing discussed land was not going to happen at this point in time. Debeltz questioned item #14, repair of Highway #169 – go after matching State funds. With the federal stimulus bill now being passed, will this project proceed sooner. Skraba noted that right now all the matching dollars are in place; project will be bid in 2010 and built in 2011 – on Friday, Feb. 20th, there is a meeting with MNDOT in Duluth, of which he would like to get Ely's downtown on list – the City needs representation there with an actual letter. Repair of Highway #169 within the City limits is very important

Skraba also reported that he had met with City Engineer John Jamnick, John Fedo, City Operations Director Harold Langowski, of which annexation agreements were discussed. He noted that according to John Fedo, if you have a large area available for growth (and in a down economy as we are experiencing at this time) it looks good to people wanting to live and build in that area. Skraba recommended that the 39 acres near the hospital be annexed, with acreage beyond that needing to be discussed. Zupec agreed noting that the City needs to do something jointly on current trail system with Tower and Babbitt, as the DNR budget is increasing. * EEDA members concurred that annexation be kept as a monthly agenda item for all EEDA meetings.

3. Greater Minnesota Housing Fund – Executive Director of HRA has been requested to attend tonight's meeting or provide information. An email was received from HRA Executive Director dated January 20th, noting that he will contact Steve Greiser and/or Andrew Schlack from the Greater MN Housing Fund on information discussed at the meeting held with them and others, on the potential of Ely applying for funding future housing. As of this date, no information has been provided the City of Ely.
4. Ely Echo 2009 Progress and Pride Edition - President Omerza notified EEDA members that in the past, the EEDA has always placed an ad in the Ely Echo 2009 Progress and Pride Edition, and she is inquiring as to whether the EEDA wishes to continue this practice by providing an ad to include in this edition. Moved by Salerno supported by Debeltz, that the Clerk-Treasurer and President Omerza be

authorized to develop and place an ad in the Ely Echo 2009 Progress and Pride Edition. Carried unanimously.

5. President Omerza – coordination of on-going City projects. President Omerza reported that she has met with EADA Executive Director Nancy Larson recently, and there are currently a lot of projects, thoughts and ideas being discussed, as to what can work in Ely. The EADA Executive Director is currently trying to figure out how to use her allotted hours more efficiently. She will be speaking at the February 23rd Noon meeting of the Chapman Street Redevelopment Committee, and President Omerza is recommending that the EEDA invite her to a future EEDA meeting or Council meeting. Council members concurred with recommendation.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Review of Current By Laws – after review by EEDA members there was no comment. Matter of information.
2. EEDA to administer storefront loan program. EEDA had requested in June of 2008 and recently, the city attorney's office to research the issue of whether the Storefront Loan Program can be administered by the EEDA as an enterprise fund. City attorney opinion is yes, with the EEDA to comply with procedural requirements as set forth by statute and outlined in Attorney Rae Bentz's correspondence of June 11, 2008. Nikkola, also a member of the Ely Rehab/Storefront Renovation Committee, recommended that the same committee members be kept in place as now appointed; that there currently is some bad debt out there on the storefront renovation loan program at this time, but the City needs to proceed cautiously. The Council will need to relinquish authority over the Storefront Renovation Loan Program, giving the EEDA administration over this part of the program in place. *This matter will be placed on the next Council agenda.
3. Salerno – update on commemorative coin, calendar, stamp. Reported that he will be meeting with Cecelia Rolando and other key community members, to continue working on this project concept, and will report back once all details are in place.

Moved by Sheddy supported by Nikkola, that the meeting adjourn.
Carried unanimously. Adjournment at 6:27 P.M.

Patricia Wellvang
Deputy Clerk
City of Ely