

Ely City Council Study Session August 25, 2009

The Ely City Council study session was called to order by Acting Mayor Zupec at 6:00 p.m. on August 25, 2009 at the Ely City Hall.

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

ABSENT: Mayor Skraba (1)

No additions or omissions to the agenda.

CITY BUDGETS

Clerk Boese presented 2010 Preliminary Budget for review and proposed suggestions.

Council member Nikkola expressed concern to move further than balancing budget this year. He suggested taking \$60,000 edge off this year for next budget cycle cut of \$163,464 plus \$60,000, an expected \$303,464. He also stated the need to levy in some areas, taxes increase slight amount. Departments have been doing a good job in cutting expenses; otherwise alternative would be to decrease jobs.

Clerk Boese stated proposed suggestions outside levy limit need to get to her by Monday. She suggested each council member review for changes you would like to see, pet projects to be funded or should not. Clerk Boese stated this is not a balanced budget and for council members to get their suggestions to her by early next week for the meeting on September 8th.

Clerk Boese proposed a savings through consolidation of voting precincts. Council member Omerza stated there is ample space at the school for consolidation of voting precincts and this is being looked at further.

Clerk Boese brought up the funding request for Ely Community Resources. Council member Omerza noted that this funding for Ely Community Resources has been in lieu of a Parks and Recreation advisor or department. She will make Chris Hartman aware of her need to talk to council about this as Clerk Boese mentioned a meeting in November will be too late for consideration.

OLD BUSINESS

Council member Salerno stated the need for two council members to join him on the coin selection committee and council members Zupec and Omerza agreed to be on the committee.

Blandin approval to authorize \$5000 grant monies to be used for biomass instead of geothermal was stated for information only.

Morse Township meeting Wednesday, September 9th. Clerk Boese spoke with Mayor Skraba and he asked that council come up with some dates. Council member Omerza suggested,

6:00 p.m., Wednesday, September 16th and to hold the meeting at the joint garage. All members agreed and Clerk Boese will see if that will work for Morse Township.

The Morse Township letter was read by Clerk Boese. It expressed an exchange for access across the land that they would be able to fill up their fire trucks with water. Acting Mayor Zupec stated township land is not an issue as Clerk Boese contacted Eric Mayranen and it is state land. Clerk Boese will contact Nick Wognum regarding the meeting.

Council member Omerza and Acting Mayor Zupec expressed concern as to whether a facilitator was needed to be present at the meeting, such as Nancy Larson. Council members Shedly expressed having council members first meet with them and if that did not work, then bring in someone. Acting Mayor Zupec expressed eventually bringing in a mediator. There is the issue of a \$1 million policy on the dam built in 1961 that has to do with public safety.

Richard Watson's four questions regarding noise ordinance was directed to Police Commission. Police Chief Saw will send a written response with a copy of citations.

NEW BUSINESS

Council members agreed that the annual review form will be due to Attorney Klun by September 1, 2009.

Acting Mayor Zupec presented Copper/Nickel Production Tax for council review. Clerk Boese will check on new language and get a copy of the bill and also will check with Bill Erzar and send him a copy of the bill.

Acting Mayor Zupec stated St. Louis County notice of decision to place Hoyt Lakes-Babbitt Connection project on hold—was briefly discussed as due to lack of funds for road construction.

Procedure for closing a meeting was presented as information.

Council member Salerno suggested that council invite a representative to Ely to openly discuss getting sales tax enacted. Council member Omerza serves on league policy groups on policy changes to public infrastructure utilities, under 5,000 population roads extend life of TIF districts.

Moved by Salerno supported by Omerza to adjourn the meeting at 6:30. Motion carried unanimously.

Terri Boese
Clerk/Treasurer