

Ely City Council Regular Meeting November 3, 2009

The Ely City Council regular meeting was called to order by Mayor Skraba at 6:30 p.m. on November 3, 2009 at the Ely City Hall.

PRESENT: Council members Debeltz, Nikkola, Omerza, Salerno, Sheddy, Zupec, and Mayor Skraba (7)

Moved by Zupec supported by Salerno to approve minutes of the October 20, 2009 Regular Meeting and October 27, 2009 Study Session as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Additions to the agenda were as follows:

1. City Attorney, Item 5, Pawn Broker Ordinance
2. Operations Director, Item 1 Dump Box Quotes
3. Operations Director, Item 2 Chamber Request re: Christmas Decorations
4. Communications, Item G Information on NIMS Training for Elected Officials
5. Communications, Item H Letter from Secretary of State re: Voting Precinct Change
6. Communications, Item I Post for vacancies on Projects & TAB Committees
7. Old Business Item B Special Council Meeting – Budget Review & Adoption
8. City Attorney Item 6 -- Old Ford Garage

Moved by Debeltz supported by Zupec to approve Items 1-8 to the agenda as presented above. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor's Agenda

Mayor Skraba congratulated Jodi Martin, recipient of Northland News Center's Women in Leadership Award winner for 2009. Jodi was one of 10 recipients and the 2nd woman in the history of Ely to receive the award. He also thanked Jodi and her family for making the 4th of July parade successful.

Moved by Debeltz supported by Zupec to send a letter of congratulations and thanks to Jodi Martin. Motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda Items:

1. Approve Alternative Energy Task Force Committee Member appointment: Dave Marshall
2. Approve TAB Committee Member appointment: Matthew Larson
3. Annual Meeting of Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital and Nursing Home December 7, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Skraba and Council member Sheddy will attend.

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

REQUESTS TO APPEAR

Lisa Porthan, Director and Consultant of Northwoods Hospice Respite Partners (NHRP) gave a brief background of the program's importance in helping the community and aging population and asked the city for a letter of support.

Moved by Salerno supported by Zupec to send a letter of support. Motion carried unanimously.

Kurt Soderberg presented an update on the Alternative Energy Task Force Committee projects. The committee is working on 2 grants for the biomass feasibility study. A \$10,000 US Forest Service grant and a \$50,000 US Department of Energy grant. Kurt distributed the brochure which the committee developed to assist in promoting the biomass project to the public.

Moved by Debeltz supported by Nikkola to approve submission of both the US Forest Service and US Department of Energy grants for the biomass feasibility study. The matching money for these grant

applications are in-kind staff time and monies that have been committed to date for the feasibility study. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Council member Shеды reported that U.S. Forest Service has selected a holiday tree and it will be moved to Whiteside Park next week. He will be collecting donations of lights and decorations.

Council member Salerno questioned the wording in Charter Communications minutes regarding: 'changing the clerk's job description every time someone gets elected'. Attorney Klun explained there are references to jobs in the City's Charter which are no longer being filled. The only job description in the Charter currently is City Clerk/Treasurer. The Charter committee needs to make some changes and Attorney Klun will make those recommendations.

Council member Omerza reported that the TAB Committee meeting is rescheduled for November 9th at 4:00 p.m. and the Parks and Rec Board meeting will be postponed until December.

Moved by Debeltz supported by Salerno to hold future Park & Rec Board meetings at the newly finish recreation facility on the 1st Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Shеды supported by Omerza to hold future Planning & Zoning meetings at the Community Center in the card room at 6:00 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Council member Omerza reported on the Joint Powers meeting and discussion of 2010 funding for the EADA.

Council member Nikkola reviewed the weighting system developed by the Employee Relations committee to be reviewed by the council. He suggested the council review the process at the special meeting scheduled next Tuesday.

Mayor Skraba discussed the emergency preparedness meeting he attended. He reported that all city employees will be getting identification badges and at the next meeting the group will be reviewing procedures for deploying the decontamination tent.

Department Heads

Moved by Salerno supported by Debeltz to report that Mary Parks has completed her probationary period as a 32-hour employee for the city. Motion carried unanimously.

City Attorney

Attorney Klun reported that the language is sufficient in the hiring process policy. The ranking scale was discussed and Klun will research the point system whether it should be 100 or 110 total points including vet's preference. Additional changes to the policy included: changing 'Department of Utilities' on page 3 to Ely Utilities; change 'not public data on individuals' in the first paragraph on page 1 to 'non public data on individuals'.

Moved by Nikkola supported by Omerza to make the corrections listed above to the hiring policy and approve the policy pending any point rating scale changes recommended by Attorney Klun. Motion carried unanimously.

The council reviewed a letter from Attorney Klun regarding the Roe Loe property split.

Moved by Salerno supported by Debeltz to authorize the mayor and clerk to sign the parcel split which will result in the creation of a tract of land legally described as: The East 33 feet of the Northeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter (NE ¼ of SE ¼) of Section 27, Township 63, Range 12, St. Louis County, Minnesota, lying southerly of the following described line: Commencing at the Southeast corner of the Southeast Quarter of said Section 27; thence North 00 deg 20' 18" West, assumed bearing along the east line of said Southeast Quarter, a distance of 2130.26' to the point of beginning of the line to be described; thence South 75 deg 24'

09" West, a distance of 34.05 feet and said described line there terminating, said property containing 26,572 square feet or .61 acres more or less. Motion carried unanimously.

Attorney Klun presented a city ordinance regarding Criminal History and Employment Background Investigations for applicants for city employment.

Moved by Debeltz supported by Zupec to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 236, Second Series, Adding to the Ely City Code, Chapter 2, Section 2.16, Relating to criminal history and employment background Investigations for applicants for city employment as presented. Roll call: Debeltz-yes; Nikkola-yes; Omerza-yes; Salerno-yes; Shedly-yes; Zupec-yes; Skraba-yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Attorney Klun reported that she has requested an abstract for the Lucky Boy Property. Two of the parcels are in Torrance and the city has ownership of them. The remaining parcel is in Abstract and she stated that the city has 30-32nds ownership of that parcel. She is waiting for confirmation of the ownership.

Moved by Shedly supported by Debeltz to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 235, Second Series, Amending the Ely City Code, Chapter 6, Section 6.35, Relating to Licensing Requirements of Pawnbrokers as presented. Roll call: Debeltz-yes; Nikkola-yes; Omerza-yes; Salerno-yes; Shedly-yes; Zupec-yes; Skraba-yes. Motion carried unanimously.

The owner of the old Ford Garage did some work on securing the building and Attorney Klun asked the council if the work had been completed. Director Langowski reported that he had met with Mr. Venturi and discussed the city's concerns with regard to securing the building. A fence has been installed on the rear of the building along with a gate, the doors have been boarded up and all of the trees have been removed from the structure. Langowski requested that additional fencing be installed and Mr. Venturi stated he would have the contractor install the fencing. He has plans to start restoration of the building next spring. No further action was taken by the council at this time.

Eric Mayranen updated the council on the logging of the Lucky Boy property. During September, Bear Island Surveying established the 2 corners on west end. Ownership is still in question at this time. The market for wood is currently depressed. Eric recommended the city sits tight right now and sees what develops over the winter with the economy. If it doesn't improve, he suggested the city look at adding the airport property to the forest management plan. Salerno expressed the need to have Attorney Klun review the ownership issue of this property. He also thanked Eric for his report.

Meeting recessed for a break at 7:42 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 7:49 p.m.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Moved by Salerno supported by Debeltz to approve the payment of the City and EUC bills and payroll for the 1st half of November, 2009 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

The council reviewed the bond payment schedule as presented by Clerk Boese.

City Operations Director

Moved by Salerno supported by Zupec to award the dump box quote to the lowest bidder: TBEI in the amount of \$6,509.76. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Debeltz supported by Omerza to authorize the city crew to install the Christmas decorations as per the Chamber of Commerce request. Motion carried unanimously.

Calendar parking is now in effect. Warning tickets will be issued for the 1st week. Clerk Boese has advertised calendar parking in all of the local newspapers.

COMMUNICATIONS

The council reviewed the Respiratory Health Survey of Taconite Workers and Spouses being conducted by the University of MN.

A letter from Leonard Katauskas regarding the proposed increase in Street Maintenance Charges and moving electric meters to the outside of buildings was discussed.

The third quarter report from Ely Community Resources was received and reviewed.

Mayor Skraba will be attending a meeting on the 4th at 6:00 p.m. at the Tower Community Center to discuss the future of the school districts with Tower, Babbitt, Cook and Orr.

Moved by Salerno supported by Debeltz to send a letter to Morse-Fall Lake Rural First Responders that the city no longer needs their service. Motion carried unanimously.

The council reviewed the annual report from the League of MN Cities Insurance Trust.

Mayor Skraba requested Clerk Boese schedule NIMS 700 training to be done in house through MNSCU for the Council and Department Heads. Council member Omerza and Clerk Boese will complete Incident Command System classes 100/200/300/400 on line.

The council reviewed the approval of voting precinct change from the Secretary of State office.

Moved by Zupec supported by Salerno to advertise for vacancies on the Projects and TAB committees. Motion carried unanimously.

CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT

- A. Curry Concrete Construction Invoice # 101409 2nd Ave Ely \$10,007.82
- B. Ely Community Resource 4th quarter September 1 – December 31, 2009 for \$3,315
- C. Patrick Conery Building Inspector Billing October 6, 2009 \$3,714.16
- D. ULLAND BROS. 2nd Ave West Street Surfacing Partial Payment Estimate \$22,466.42
- E. RLK 2nd Ave West Utilities Project Invoice #12 dated 10/29/09 for \$2,445.30
- F. RLK Central Ave Utility Improvements Invoice #4, dated 10/29/09 \$576.80
- G. RLK Ely City Engineer 2008-2009 Invoice #8, dated 10/29/09 \$0.00
- H. St. Louis County Invoice #26302 2nd ½ of 2009 Lease Pmt \$71,884.00

Moved by Debeltz supported by Salerno to approve claims for payment items A-H as presented above. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Moved by Salerno supported by Omerza to waive readings in entirety of all ordinances and resolutions on tonight's agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

The council reviewed a letter from St. Louis County Land Department regarding the City of Ely's interest in purchasing a parcel of tax forfeited land.

Moved by Salerno supported by Nikkola to hold a special council meeting on Tuesday, November 10, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. to review the 2009 and 2010 proposed budget and the hiring process for the 2 open positions in the clerk's office. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Moved by Zupec supported by Salerno to approve the authorize the mayor and clerk to sign Amendment to NR-555 with the MN Department of Natural Resources to develop recreational facilities at the Ely Recreational Area in exchange for the property currently being used as a bus garage for the Ely School District. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Debeltz supported by Zupec to approve WSB Change Order No. 7 and Pay Voucher No. 14 (Final for the airport as presented pending approval by the Airport Commission. Motion carried unanimously.

Council member Omerza requested the Council review the City's Goals and Objectives and any changes to be considered for 2010.

Mayor Skraba informed the council that the area legislators will be at the Grand Ely Lodge event hosted by the EADA on December 3rd and asked the council members to take the time to speak with them regarding local sales tax and any other issues they feel are pertinent at this event.

Council member Nikkola suggested the council and the EUC meet with the legislators as a group. Clerk Boese will contact the legislators and request a meeting be scheduled before or after the December 3rd meeting. Council member Omerza suggested the group talk about the city's TIF districts also.

The council discussed the issue of buildings and whether or not they would be able to provide an answer to Mr. Mancusso of St. Louis County by the next meeting.

Moved by Nikkola supported by Salerno to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Terri Boese
Clerk/Treasurer