

Ely City Council Regular Meeting March 15, 2011

The Ely City Council Regular Meeting was called to order by Mayor Skraba at 6:00 p.m. on March 15, 2011 at the Ely City Hall.

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

ABSENT: Nikkola arrived at 6:20 p.m.

Moved by Zupec supported by Salerno to approve minutes of February 22, 2011 Regular Meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Skraba extended a "Thank You" to all the participants in the Ely Blue Line Club, Ely Hoop Club and Ely Ski Club and to all the volunteer organizations that help put on events every winter. He also extended a "Congratulations" to the Ely Ski Club, the girls won the All State Gold Award and the boys received All State Silver Recognition.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Skraba reported on attending the RAMS Dinner Meeting on March 11 in Virginia where Governor Dayton spoke on Local Government Aid, taxes and mining. Mayor Skraba and Fire Chief Erchull met with the Stony Township Board and discussed fire protection coverage.

Zupec commented that everyone is in favor of creating a Fire District and the city should move forward in that direction. Omerza recommended Jim Fisher, President of RAMS, be asked to help in this endeavor.

Mayor Skraba talked about Rainy River Watershed, Lake of the Woods Watershed and Citizens Action Group (CAG) which are organizations looking at Border Security, environmentalism, watershed usage and watershed monitoring. He also spoke about the Heart of the Continent Group which would like to sell the border area as a recreation area.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

City Operations Director

EUC Consent Agenda Items: The following items of business were recommended for approval at the regular EUC meeting of Wednesday, March 9, 2011:

1. Approved EUC Policy 2011-1: Policy Pertaining to Water Delivery.
2. Authorized Infratech to clean the wet well at the WWTP for \$14,000.00.
3. Approved the purchase of a chassis from Lundgren Motors for \$44,597.18 and a bucket and body from ABM Equipment for \$70,808.00 for a total low bid of \$115,405.18 to replace the small bucket truck.
4. Approved payment of the February, 2011 bills for \$35,986.67.
5. Approved payment of the MPCA Water Quality Permit Fees of \$345.00 for the WTP and \$5,900.00 for the WWTP.
6. Approved payment of the Cannon Technologies, Inc. invoice for load management software support for \$3,244.00.
7. Approved payment of the Minnesota Department of Commerce CIP Assessment for \$649.33.

Moved by Debeltz supported by Nikkola to approve EUC Consent Agenda Items 1-7 as presented above. Motion carried unanimously.

Director Langowski reported that the Compliance Evaluation Inspection report on the Ely Wastewater Treatment Plant was good. The bucket truck replacement low bids went to Lundren Motors for the Chassis \$44,597.18 and ABM Equipment for the bucket & body \$70,808.00. Langowski asked for permission to request bids on a tandem axle dump truck to replace our 1985 model. There is \$55,000 reserved for the purchase from 2007 Equipment Bond.

Moved by Nikkola supported by Zupec to advertise for bids for a tandem axle dump truck. Motion carried unanimously.

Langowski also clarified that the Wastewater Treatment Plant demolition is still moving forward. There is a pre-construction meeting required for all bidders on Thursday, March 17, 2011. The city will be opening bids on March 31st and will award the contract on May 1st. Langowski also reported on how the city is working with the hospitals and care givers regarding pharmaceutical waste. It is recommended not to flush pharmaceutical products but to

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contact your pharmacists, doctor or NPCA website for correct ways to dispose of these products. Omerza mentioned the county is also starting a program regarding pharmaceutical waste.

Omerza announced that the outdoor ice rink is now closed for the season.

Building Official

Dennis Schilling stated that Governor Dayton signed the Lead Certification Bill which will go into effect August 1, 2011 for the State of Minnesota which states all residential remodelers, general contractors and contractors are required to have the Federal Lead Certification and the city will waive the surcharge for the certification look-up. Schilling confirmed with the Council that the Water Heater Permit Fees will remain the same so he will send out letters to all area plumbers.

City Engineer

Moved by Zupec supported by Nikkola to approve payment of Central Ave Project Work Orders #2 1,226.74 & #3 \$1,324.02. Motion carried unanimously.

Langowski relayed information from Northeast Service Coop regarding the fiber optic project. They plan to start work on May 1st and store their materials in Ely. There are still a lot of questions and concerns to be dealt with and representatives will meet with TAB at their next meeting on March 31st to discuss these issues.

COMMUNICATIONS

Moved by Debeltz and supported by Zupec to approve the request to appoint Charles Novak to the Charter Commission. After discussion with Attorney Klun that there must be a Resolution to do this, the motion and second were rescinded. It will be added to the next council agenda with a Resolution to appoint those who request to be on the Charter Commission.

CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT

- A. City and EUC claims for , 2011 in the amount of \$113,194.24
- B. LMC – General Liability Insurance – 2nd Installment \$32,729
- C. LMC – Workers compensation Insurance – 2nd Installment \$16,532
- D. Northeast Technical Services–Former Pre-Demo Inspection-Invoice#1100851-IN \$512.55
- E. Northeast Technical Services-Pre-Demo Asbestos Inspection-Invoice#1100697-IN \$4,675.00
- F. Northland Consulting Engineers Invoice #2011-060 \$1,291.84
- G. LMCIT Claim#11075544 deductible \$1000.00

Moved by Debeltz supported by Zupec to approve payment of claims A-G as listed above. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

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

Council member Omerza spoke regarding the Ely TV Contract. It will be discussed further at the next TAB meeting on March 31 and then be brought before the Council at their next meeting on April 5.

NEW BUSINESS

The Rental License Ordinance was discussed. There was a public hearing where a few renters attended. Recommendations were voiced and some changes were made to the Ordinance and sent to Attorney Klun's office for review. It will then be ready for the first reading at the next Council Meeting.

Moved by Sheddy supported by Salerno to approve the recommendation that the Clerk's office operate a Passport Acceptance Facility and all necessary paperwork be filled. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Debeltz supported by Nikkola to approve the Trail Legacy Grant Application for the Ely Nordic Ski Club. Roll Call: Debeltz-yes, Nikkola-yes, Omerza-yes, Salerno-yes, Sheddy-yes, Zupec-yes, Mayor Skraba-yes. Motion carried unanimously.

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Omerza thanked Mary Lou Blasing for all of her hard work with the Parks and Recreation Board. Moved by Debeltz supported by Zupec to accept her resignation, send her a "Thank You" note and post the appointment. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Sheddy supported by Zupec to approve the 2011 Soft Drink License for the Oriental Orchid. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Debeltz supported by Zupec to send a "Thank You" note to the City of Winton for their \$300 donation to the Ely Public Library. Motion carried unanimously.

Sheddy spoke on the cardboard recycling issue. He spoke with several business owners and they would be willing to help the City financially regarding this issue. This issue will be brought to the Sanitation Committee to further discussion.

Moved by Nikkola supported by Salerno to allow Langowski to move forward on the land swap idea with the Ely Hospital and the City of Ely to acquire the old Clinic property from the Hospital in exchange for City land near the Hospital. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Omerza supported by Sheddy to nominate Frank Salerno for the C. C. Ludwig Award which is a lifetime achievement award for those people serving on Councils and other City offices, given every year by the MN League of Cities. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Salerno supported by Sheddy to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Terri Boese
Clerk/Treasurer