

## **Ely City Council Study Session**

The Ely City Council study session was called to order by Acting Mayor Zupec at 6:00 p.m. on June 30, 2009 at the Ely City Hall.

PRESENT: Council members Debeltz, Nikkola, Omerza, Salerno, and Acting Mayor Zupec (5)

ABSENT: Shedly and Mayor Skraba (2)

Addition to the agenda was Chuck Hartley of LHB Engineering.

### **CITY BUDGETS**

Clerk Boese presented the May year to date revenue and expense reports along with the 2010 budget worksheet. She informed the council that she will be meeting with all department heads the week of July 6<sup>th</sup> to begin reviewing their proposed budget figures for 2010.

Council member Debeltz requested the council review the general liability insurance being charged to the softball fields.

Clerk Boese informed the council that expenses for general liability insurance are now being charged to each corresponding department and she recommended the council review the budget reports for May. She explained that the council could amend the budget to cover this cost.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

No action was taken on the Council's Goals and Objectives.

Civil Enforcement Officer Burger did not present a monthly report for review this month.

Council member Omerza presented a draft of the Community Center Rental Policy for the council's review. Changes include on-going quarterly rentals at a discounted rate, no refunds and any rentals that require overtime by staff would be charged at a rate of \$50/hour. When an officer is working at an event, the officer would be required to stay until all guests have left the building. She requested the council review the policy and provide input to either Librarian Heinrich or Clerk Boese. Omerza suggested Attorney Klun review the document prior to adoption by the council.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Bradley Peterson, Lobbyist and Attorney for Flaherty & Hood explained they do associate management and lobbying for the Coalition of Greater MN Cities. He presented budget information specific to Ely with regard to the local government aid and explained that there will most likely be a significant state budget deficit in 2010. He reviewed the two bills which were presented by the Coalition on land use and annexation.

Mr. Peterson invited the council to attend the summer COGMC conference in Brainerd in July 29-31.

Council member Salerno requested additional information on the pros and cons of annexation. Mr. Peterson will send information regarding orderly annexation options to the council.

The council reviewed the Sanitation Committee report that was presented in regard to the city's recycling area.

Jack Zorman presented a slide show with pictures of the city's recycling center area. He addressed concerns of residents living in that area.

Public Works Director Langowski explained that the Sanitation Committee reviewed the issue and is proposing moving the location of the recycling center. The proposed site is the County's old cold mix storage site on the south side of Sheridan St and is currently owned by the city. It is gated and would have controlled access. He suggested moving the city's tree, brush and mulch piles to the new site also. There would need to be power brought into the site and a small building erected to house the cardboard crusher at this location. Director Langowski stated the cost of cleaning up the city waste and barrels of blacktop contaminates in the recycling area would be approximately \$38,000.

Jane Sadler presented a letter to the council stating her concern with public safety in the recycling area.

Steve Piragis reviewed the Alternative Energy Committee's progress to date and informed the council that the committee will be meeting on Wednesday to define the group's purpose. He then introduced Chuck Hartley of LHB Engineering. Mr. Hartley presented information on the Department of Energy federal stimulus grant monies which will be available late summer for combined heat, power and distributed energy. The state will have approximately \$54 million grant funds available. He suggested a potential alliance between the cities of Ely and Grand Marais. If an alliance is developed there would be potential of \$20 million grant monies to be split between these two entities for creation of a biomass system. The City of Ely's share would be \$5 million.

Mr. Hartley will provide copies of the grant application and biomass plant information to the council prior to the July 7<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The council agreed to authorize Mr. Hartley to present a resolution for the grant and an application at the July 7<sup>th</sup> regular meeting. The application will be for federal stimulus grant monies for combined heat and power and an alliance with Grand Marias.

Moved by Salerno supported by Omerza to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Terri Boese  
Clerk/Treasurer