

Ely City Council Study Session February 22, 2011

The Ely City Council study session was called to order by Mayor Skraba at 6:00 p.m. on February 22, 2011 at the Ely City Hall.

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

Addition to agenda:

1. TIF information update

REQUESTS TO APPEAR

Bill Tefft, representing the Whiteside Park Playground Task Force, presented information regarding the status of the project and will continue to provide updates as the committee moves forward.

OLD BUSINESS

Langowski presented the need for various upgrades on the Community Center Building. The Council discussed options for funding the renovation and whether or not this was a worthwhile endeavor for the City to pursue.

Attorney Klun provided interpretation of the MN Statutes regarding the use of the Community Center by the veterans organization. According to her findings, the statute states that veteran organizations shall have "equal and free use" of such facility as is the same for the public. If heating and electric are not charged to the public for their use than it cannot be charged to the veteran organization for its use as well. If it is in the City's policy to charge for clean-up and/or water usage then the same shall be charged to the veteran's organization. Attorney Klun suggested the City can maintain its current policy and charge or it can choose to revise the policy to accommodate the veteran's organization.

Attorney Klun will look into the annexation issue and will present options as to which parcels of land to begin annexation on based on economic circumstance and development. Once a direction is chosen she will look into the legal costs as well.

Clerk Boese reported that the City needs to request the legislature to extend the life of TIF District #1 – Holiday Inn for an additional 10 years. If not extended, the shortfall by 2021 could be approximately \$415,000. The extension would provide enough TIF revenue to pay back the projected negative fund balance that will accrue.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Skraba spoke about the Heart of the Continent Partnership Meeting to be held February 24 & 25 in Eveleth, MN which will provide local community leaders & public land managers the opportunity to discuss how public lands and communities can work together to benefit the economic and social needs of the local communities. Ely was not specifically invited but the Mayor, Zupec and Sheddy will try to attend.

Moved by Salerno supported by Nikkola to adjourn the meeting at 7:29 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Terri Boese
Clerk/Treasurer