

## **Ely City Council Regular Meeting May 3, 2011**

The Ely City Council Regular Meeting was called to order by Mayor Skraba at 6:00 p.m. on May 3, 2011 at the Ely City Hall.

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

ABSENT: None

Moved by Zupec supported by Salerno to approve the minutes of April 19, 2011 Regular Meeting, April 26, 2011 Study Session, April 28, 2011 Special Meeting and April 28, 2011 Board of Appeals Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

### **ADDITIONS AND OMISSIONS TO AGENDA:**

- A. Add 6B – League of MN Board of Directors - Omerza
- B. Add 9Div – CDBG Grant for the Water Plant
- C. Omit 9Fiv – DNR Hidden Valley Lease
- D. Omit 13D – Request for Jeanne Tome' to be on the HRA Board

Moved by Zupec supported by Salerno to approve additions and omissions to the agenda A-D as listed above. Motion carried unanimously.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

The Mayor spoke on his intent to attend the Twin Metals Minnesota Grand Opening of their new St. Paul Headquarters on May 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. He will speak with the Board of Directors about their position in Ely.

The Mayor extended a "Congratulations" to Rollie Green for being awarded the "Outstanding Service Award" from the Minnesota Council of Airports (MCOA) and would like to invite him to a council meeting to be congratulated in person.

The Mayor announced that calendar parking will be end on Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup>. The Cemetery Committee will be dedicating the Ely Cemetery Garden on Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, Memorial Day at 11:00a.m.

### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

- A. 2011 CGMC Labor & Employee Relations Seminars – June 2, 2011 in Brainerd, authorize Clerk and Council to attend
- B. League of MN Board of Directors Annual Conference June 15-17, 2011 in Rochester, MN – Authorize Council member Omerza to attend.

Moved by Zupec supported by Nikkola to approve consent agenda items A-B as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

### **REQUESTS TO APPEAR:**

Richard Pucel from the Charter Commission apologized to Clerk Boese and the Council for misspeaking at the last Study Session and inferring that Boese had not put ads in the paper for available Charter Seats when in fact she had placed four separate ads. The Charter Commission sent a letter to the District Judge to request appointing Charles Novak and John Fossum to the Charter Commission.

Moved by Nikkola and supported by Debeltz to approve the proposed Charter changes and authorized Attorney Klun to prepare a resolution to Sections 2.04, 6.01, 6.02 and 6.04 of the Charter. Motion carried unanimously.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Omerza stated that the Happy Hearts Committee is preparing to send off the application packet to nominate Frank Salerno for the CC Ludwig Award. Also, the Telecommunications Advisory Board meeting has been switched to May 12<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. She reminded Council members to submit their input to Clerk Boese on the Franchise Agreement. The Library Board would like to start a Library Foundation to help fund specific projects at the library, more info will be coming on this item.

Moved by Omerza and supported by Sheddy to advertise for bids on the Rainbow Park Equipment and to include a disclaimer regarding the unsafe condition of the equipment. The money from the sale will go toward the new playground equipment. Motion carried unanimously.

## **Ely City Council Regular Meeting May 3, 2011 Continued**

Moved by Omerza and supported by Debeltz to have the five new Rotary Benches installed at Whiteside Park facing Sheridan St. Motion carried unanimously.

Omerza asked the council, on behalf of the Park and Rec Committee, who controls the free space in Whiteside Park. The Little League and the Soccer Group would like exclusive use for their practices. Mayor Skraba stated that the open space is there to be used by all and shared without reservations. Further discussion will be moved to a Study Session if needed.

Director Langowski updated the Council on the Playground Taskforce and stated specifications are being prepared for bidding for the new playground equipment. The Playground Taskforce will update the public at the Business Mixer Wednesday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. at the EADA office in the Queen City Federal Building.

Council member Shedly reminded everyone that the Sanitation Committee is meeting Thursday, May 5 at 10:00 a.m. There will be a collection free of charge to the public for City Clean up Day on the South side of the Old City Garage on May 28<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. They will be accepting old household items but no garbage. The G-Men are donating their time and will only be charging for the tipping fees.

Mayor Skraba reported on the Ambulance Joint Powers meeting where they voted on the rate of \$5.05 per constituent per entity using the 2010 census data. The City of Ely's 2010 population is 3,460. They also presented information on the purchase of a new ambulance.

Skraba attended a meeting in Eveleth to say thanks to former Congressman Jim Oberstar. He also attended the Mesabi Trail meeting and the funding is being approved through MN DOT for the Mesabi Trail between Soudan and Ely.

Skraba attended the 2011 Minnesota Mayor's Annual Conference in Owatonna, MN on April 29<sup>th</sup> where the theme was rethinking public leadership.

### **DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

#### **Library Director**

Rachel Heinrich informed the Council of the program called "The Minnesota Crime Wave" on Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup> consisting of three Minnesota Mystery Authors who will be presenting at 4:00 p.m. at the Library.

#### **City Operations Director**

EUC Consent Agenda Items: The following items of business were recommended for approval at the regular EUC meeting of Wednesday, April 27, 2011:

- A. Authorized sending one employee to a One-day Wastewater Pump Workshop from the MPCA.
- B. Approved increasing the vehicle reimbursement for the billing clerk from \$70.00 per month to \$77.00 per month, retroactive to March 1, 2011.
- C. Recommended payment of the March EUC Bills for \$616,750.92.
- D. Approved payment of the Minnesota Power March Invoice for \$224,078.22.
- E. Approved payment of \$11,305.00 and \$2,695.00 to Infratech for WWTF and lift station cleaning.

Moved by Zupec supported by Nikkola to approve EUC consent agenda items A-E as presented above. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Debeltz and supported by Zupec to approve awarding the bid to Skubic Bros for the dump truck in the amount of \$7,900. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Omerza and supported by Salerno to accept the water treatment plant demolition grant from CDBG in the amount \$57,000 and authorize the clerk and mayor to sign the grant. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **City Attorney**

Attorney Klun stated that in regards to Lori Schultze release of easement, the recorder's office indicated the release was done properly in the past so the issue seems to have been solved. She will give a further update at the next council meeting.

## Ely City Council Regular Meeting May 3, 2011 Continued

Attorney Klun will do additional research and report back to the Council on the request to purchase Outlot C.

Director Langowski stated a sketch is being drawn to show the easements on Outlot C and more information will be presented at the next meeting.

Additional changes were made to the Rental Ordinance which were quite substantial. Attorney Klun recommended the council approve the changes and make this the first reading. Moved by Nikkola and supported by Omerza to approve the First Reading of Ordinance #242, Second Series, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ELY, MINNESOTA, ADDING TO THE ELY CITY CODE, CHAPTER 16, SECTIONS 16.01 THROUGH 16.23, RELATED TO THE LICENSING OF RENTAL DWELLINGS and to publish it in its entirety prior to review by the Planning and Zoning Commission at their next meeting. Roll Call: Debeltz – yes, Nikkola – yes, Omerza – yes, Salerno – yes, Shedly – yes, Zupec – yes and Mayor Skraba – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Clerk Boese will coordinate and schedule a meeting with Attorney Klun to meet with the council regarding annexation.

### Building Official

Dennis Schilling asked the Council to add an addendum to his contract approving the City to pay up to \$600 annually for his continuing education classes. The council did not approved adding an addendum.

### CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT

- A. City and EUC claims for March, 2011 - \$180,439.71
- B. RLK – Invoice#2 – Ely Water Treatment Plant Demolition \$3,530.75
- C. RLK – Invoice#3 – Ely City Engineer 2010-2011 \$0.00
- D. RLK – Invoice#17 – Central Ave Improvements \$985.00
- E. Northland Builders – Hidden Valley Solar Hot Air Panels & supplies \$9,351.00 (DNR & IRRRB Grant)

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

### OLD BUSINESS

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

### NEW BUSINESS

Moved by Nikkola and supported by Debeltz to authorize City Attorney to research Statutory vs. Charter city options. Motion carried unanimously. Attorney Klun will present her findings at the May 24<sup>th</sup> Study Session.

Moved by Debeltz and supported by Salerno to barricade Harvey St and Stukel Way during Little League games, T-Ball games, Coach Pitch and Major League games except during Blueberry Festival. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Shedly and supported by Nikkola to approve a 3.2% on Sale Liquor License for Stony Ridge on Shagawa Lake pending the receipt of all required paperwork. Roll Call: Debelta – abstained, Nikkola – yes, Omerza – yes, Salerno – yes, Shedly – yes, Zupec – yes and Mayor Skraba – yes. Motion carried six and one abstained.

Moved by Debeltz and supported by Salerno to approve the DNR Grooming & Maintenance Grant for Hidden Valley in the amount of \$6,697. Debelta – yes, Nikkola – yes, Omerza – yes, Salerno – yes, Shedly – yes, Zupec – yes and Mayor Skraba – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Nikkola and supported by Omerza to approve the MN DNR 2012 Cross Country Ski Trail Assistance Grant in the amount of \$686. Debelta – yes, Nikkola – yes, Omerza – yes, Salerno – yes, Shedly – yes, Zupec – yes and Mayor Skraba – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Debeltz and supported by Nikkola to approve the MN Department of Public Safety notice to extend Lease No# PS0035 through 6/30/2014 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**Ely City Council Regular Meeting May 3, 2011 Continued**

Request from St. Louis County on the classification of State Tax forfeited lands will be placed on next agenda with a map.

**OPEN FORUM**

Dwayne Whalen asked the Council to explain annexation and how it benefits the City. He also asked that in light of the projected LGA cuts, how the city expects to maintain services on the new property they want to annex.

Moved by Nikkola supported by Salerno to adjourn meeting at 7:14 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Terri Boese  
Clerk/Treasurer