

Ely City Council Regular Meeting July 5, 2011

The Ely City Council Regular Meeting was called to order by Mayor Skraba at 6:00 p.m. on July 5, 2011 at the Ely City Hall.

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

ABSENT: None

Motion by Salerno supported by Zupec to approve the minutes of June 21, 2011 Regular Meeting and June 28, 2011 Study Session as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:

- A. Old Business 12B – Safe & Sober Agreement
- B. New Business 13B – Request by Earl Bulinski

Motion by Debeltz supported by Zupec to approve additions to the agenda A and B as listed above. Motion carried unanimously.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Skraba gave a big "Thank You" to all of those who gave their time, hard work and money to making the 4th of July events a big success and great fun for all.

Council Member Frank Salerno congratulated Heidi Omerza for achieving the Coalition of Greater MN Cities excellence in service award.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Coalition of Greater MN Cities excellence in service award to Heidi Omerza – authorize council and staff to attend the award ceremony Aug 4th at 5:30p in Grand Rapids
- B. Coalition of Greater MN Cities, Summer Conference – Authorize Council and Staff to attend Aug 3rd to the 5th
- C. Police Department Residency Policy
- D. Communication Policy
- E. Authorize clerk to schedule meeting with council and forest service representatives regarding stewardship contracting program

Motion by Debeltz supported by Nikkola to approve consent agenda items A-E as listed above. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Council member Debeltz mentioned the next Cemetery Committee meeting on July 14th will be at the cemetery to decide on a spot for the columbarium.

Council member Nikkola stated the Employee Relations Committee will put together something for new incoming council members to be ready prior to the next election. The EUC By-Laws are being finished as well which will tie into the ER project for new council members.

Council member Omerza mentioned that color chips for the new playground equipment are in the Clerk/Treasurer's office if anyone would like to view them. Colors will be picked and equipment ordered by the end of the week. She also thanked the Chamber of Commerce for their generous donation to the Playground Fund.

Council member Sheddy stated that Planning & Zoning will meet July 7th at 5:30p for two public hearings and the HRA will meet at Pioneer Apartments on Tuesday, July 12th.

Mayor Skraba stated the Airport Commission is working with the Forest Service on a new lease agreement for additional property and should be ready for the council by the next meeting.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Library Director

Rachel Heinrich stated that the Zoo Mobile will be at the Library on Thursday, July 7th at 1:00pm.

Ely City Council Regular Meeting June 21, 2011 Continued

City Operations Director

EUC Consent Agenda Items-The following items of business were recommended for approval at the regular EUC meeting of Wednesday, June 22, 2011:

- A. Approved the Minnesota Power contract Extension
- B. Approved purchasing 24 Load Management Receivers from Cannon Technologies for \$3,270.38.
- C. Approved payment of May EUC Bills List for \$298,735.70.

Motion by Debeltz supported by Nikkola to approve EUC consent agenda items A-C as presented above. Motion carried unanimously.

Langowski stated the MN Power contract extension is still on the formula rate which was approved by FERC in 2008. This extends the contract from 2013 to 2019 with a three year cancelation notice. The changes within the contract: true-up period and payment options moved to a monthly payment instead of a lump sum; return on equity – reduced from 11% to 10.3% which comes to \$800,000 savings; allowing 2% generation from the municipalities of the peak and no greater than two megawatts which comes to about 150,000kw. Ely is 10% of MN Power’s customer base.

Motion by Debeltz supported by Salerno to approve the 2011 CIP Roof Repair Bid from Lenci Enterprises in the amount of \$146,100 subject to state and federal concurrence and availability of funding. Roll called: Debeltz-yes, Nikkola-yes, Omerza-yes, Salerno-yes, Sheddy-yes, Zupec-yes and Mayor Skraba-yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Zupec supported by Debeltz to approve the 2011 CIP Crack Repair Bid from Struck & Irwin Paving, Inc of DeForest, WI in the amount of \$75,190 subject to state and federal concurrence and availability of funding. Roll called: Debeltz-yes, Nikkola-yes, Omerza-yes, Salerno-yes, Sheddy-yes, Zupec-yes and Mayor Skraba-yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Salerno supported Sheddy to approve the Work Order Confirmation from RLK for the 2011 White Sts Alley Utility Reconstruction Project for \$32,800. Bidding will begin in August, 2011. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Omerza supported by Salerno to approve the proposal by Keller Fence Co. in the amount of \$4,195 to salvage fencing and railing from Hidden Valley and reconstruct fencing on the Miner’s Lake Bike Trail as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Debeltz supported by Salerno to approve the final Shagawa Pines Plat as presented with wording added to the covenant to read “licensed engineer in the state of MN and also approved by the City of Ely”. Roll called: Debeltz-yes, Nikkola-yes, Omerza-yes, Salerno-yes, Sheddy-yes, Zupec-yes and Mayor Skraba-yes. Motion carried unanimously.

City Attorney

Attorney Klun spoke on annexation of the 3 parcels on the east side which does not include the Forest Service parcel. Morse Township Supervisor Cersine agreed to a joint resolution for annexation which means we would not have to annex by ordinance making the process more efficient. Motion by Debeltz supported by Zupec to authorize Attorney Klun to draft a joint resolution for orderly annexation with Morse Township. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- A. State Demographic Center report
- B. St Louis County Planning Commission Public Hearing on Thursday, July 14, 2011 at 10:15am at the Northland Office Center in Virginia, MN
- C. Ely-Winton Rod & Gun Donation of \$1,000 to the Whiteside Park Playground Fund.
- D. Ely-Winton Rod & Gun Donation of \$500 to the Fireworks Display.
- E. The Birch Project Environmental Assessment
- F. Replacement of County Bridge 335, CSAH 88 – Parcel#1
- G. Omerza Report on 2011 LMC Summer Conference held in Rochester on June 14-17.
- H. Informal Fire District Study Group Letter

Motion by Debeltz supported by Zupec to approve Communication items A-H as presented above and to send a “Thank You” letter to the Winton Rod and Gun Club for their donations. Motion carried unanimously.

Ely City Council Regular Meeting June 21, 2011 Continued

CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT

- A. City and EUC claims for July, 2011 - \$142,620.79
- B. Wells Fargo Securities – Finance Street & Utility Improvements - \$5,681.60

Motion by Debeltz supported by Salerno to approve payment of claims A and B as listed above. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

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

Motion by Sheddy and supported by Debeltz to send the Safe & Sober Agreement to the Budget Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion by Nikkola and supported by Sheddy to approve Aaron Shapiro's request for non-exclusive rights to City of Ely records for a book he is writing. Motion carried unanimously.

Earl Bulinski requested permission to block off 5th Ave E (one block from Pattison to James St.) on July 23rd from noon to 5:00 p.m. for a wedding reception party. After council discussion it was motioned by Debeltz to approve the request after making sure everything is in order. Motion failed due to lack of support. At the recommendation of the City Attorney the council decided that it will be handled in the Clerk's office where a permit and requirements for this situation will be formed.

OPEN FORUM

Duane Whalen suggested the planes doing the fly over before the 4th of July parade should fly lower & along Sheridan St. so more people could see them.

John Lincicome presented a donation from AFSCME Local 1490 City of Ely Employees in the amount of \$250 for the new playground equipment at Whiteside Park.

Motion by Omerza and supported by Salerno to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Terri Boese
Clerk/Treasurer