

## **Ely City Council Regular Meeting August 2, 2011**

The Ely City Council Regular Meeting was called to order by Mayor Skraba at 6:00 p.m. on August 2, 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 Nikkola to approve the minutes of July 19, 2011 Regular Meeting and the July 26, 2011 Study Session as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Debeltz and supported by Zupec to send a "Thank You" to the Ambulance staff for their volunteer services at the July 4, 2011 festivities and also at the Blueberry Festival July 29-31, 2011. Motion carried unanimously.

### **ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:**

- A. Addition: 5A – Volunteer of the Year Awards
- B. Addition: 5B – Legion Baseball Team
- C. Addition: 5C – Thank you to the Playground Task Force members, council and families
- D. Addition: 9Ai – Memorandum of understanding between RLK and JPJ Engineering
- E. Addition: 9Aii – Budget update
- F. Addition: 9Ei – New Police Squad Car
- G. Addition: 13D – Economic Development

Motion by Debeltz supported by Salerno to approve additions to agenda A–G as listed above. Motion carried unanimously.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Mayor Skraba presented the volunteer of the year awards to Shirley Sayovitz and Frank Salerno for their ongoing service to the Ely Community.

Mayor Skraba recognized the American Legion Baseball Team for their outstanding efforts during the season. Two of their three seniors, Alex Koschak and Drew Gustafson said a few words and presented their State Runner-up Trophy. Out of 312 American Legion Teams in MN, only 4 (including Ely) will head to Viroqua, WI to play in the Division II Regional Tournament beginning Thursday, August 4, 2011. Mayor Skraba stated at the next meeting he will present formally a recognition day for players, volunteers and coaches.

Mayor Skraba gave a big "Thank You" to the Playground Task Force Members, Council Members and their families who donated their time in the booth at the Blueberry Festival to help raise \$7,389 for the Whiteside Park playground equipment. The equipment is scheduled to be installed over Labor Day Weekend and everyone is invited to help.

### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

- A. Motion to waive readings in entirety of all ordinances and resolutions on tonight's agenda
- B. Special meeting – August 30<sup>th</sup> at 5:45 p.m. to award bids on White Street Alley Utility Project

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

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Council Member Omerza reported on several committees: Park and Rec meeting for August was canceled and the next meeting will be September 12, 2011 @ 6:00pm at the Recreation Center; the Library now has a large selection of electronic books as of September 2010; TAB is working on getting new council microphones.

Council Member Sheddy stated that the Planning and Zoning Committee is revisiting the Fence Ordinance.

Mayor Skraba spoke on the Ely Legion Baseball Tournament and at the Morse/Fall Lake Township Annexation Meeting. Also, at the Annexation meeting, the fire district was discussed. The main discussion centered on how the district would be governed and how it would be funded. Morse Township will speak with Jim Fisher, who is on the Township board and has experience in forming fire districts, and then they will get back to the Ely City Council with that information and the next meeting date.

## **Ely City Council Regular Meeting August 2, 2011 Continued**

### **DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

#### **Clerk/Treasurer**

Motion by Salerno and supported by Nikkola to send a letter to the City Engineer, RLK requesting a Memorandum of Understanding allowing the change to JPJ Engineering. Motion carried unanimously.

Clerk Boese stated that the Budget Committee met July 28<sup>th</sup> to go over this year's budget. They have a recommendation to amend this year's budget which will be on the next council agenda. The Budget Committee will meet on August 17<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm to go over the 2012 budget and will present a preliminary budget to the Council at the Study Session on August 30<sup>th</sup>. The preliminary budget must be certified to the county by September 15, 2011.

Motion by Salerno and supported by Debeltz to hold a Public Hearing on December 6, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. for the final 2012 levy. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Library Director**

Rachel Heinrich stated that the Library is having an ice cream sundae party at 2:00 p.m. and everyone is invited.

#### **City Operations Director**

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

- A. Authorized calling for bids for the Burntside Power Line Project.
- B. Recommended allowing the Morse-Fall Lake Fire Department access to the fire hydrant used by contractors.
- C. Authorized sending a formal request to annex the Beacon Hill service territory to Lake Country Power.
- D. Authorized the Operations Director to attend the MMUA Annual Summer Conference at Breezy Point on August 22-24, 2011.
- E. Authorized Change Order #2 for the Water Plant Demolition.
- F. Approved payment of the June EUC Bills List for \$271,181.83.

Motion by Debeltz supported by Salerno to approve EUC consent agenda items A-F as presented above. In discussion: A-Langowski stated that they were awarded a FEMA Grant of \$504,000 to bury the power line from the water plant to the Burntside pump station and that the electric utility shares about 167,000; B-the fire hydrant is in the gravel area in the old public works garage which has a meter and a back flow preventer & is only utilized in the summer months. A letter will be drafted itemizing the conditions on the use of that hydrant; E-there have been 3 change orders for this project: time extension, mercury containing equipment (54lbs of mercury in each of two pieces of equipment which there was no compensation) and additional piping needed to be removed. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Nikkola and supported by Salerno to approve change order #3 for the water treatment plant demolition to remove unexpected rusted piping which will increase the contract amount by \$2,260. Money is in the budget for this increase. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Skraba requested a "Thank You" note be sent to the public works crew for their hard work in keeping the park and surrounding area in clean working order during the Blueberry Arts Festival.

#### **Police Chief**

Motion by Salerno and supported by Nikkola to approve the purchase of a 2011 Dodge Charger from Mike's Motors approximately \$24,000 as a new police vehicle. Funds will come from the Police Equipment Replacement Fund and the Drug Forfeiture Fund and from the sale of the two old police cars. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **City Attorney**

Motion by Salerno and supported by Shedly to set a hearing date for Ordinance 248, 2<sup>nd</sup> Series change for August 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:45pm before the regular council meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

The liquor ordinance changes and the Korpi Estate will be brought to the Council for action at the next council meeting.

Council member Omerza questioned when the City Attorney contract ends. Klun stated the contract end date is December 31, 2011. Omerza suggested since the council was discussing all city contracts (i.e. labor and independent contractors) that Klun submit a renewal request at the next regular council meeting.

## **Ely City Council Regular Meeting August 2, 2011 Continued**

City Engineer

Daryl Maninga stated that the bid openings will be held: August 10<sup>th</sup> for the Pattison St surfacing project; and August 23<sup>rd</sup> for the White Street alley project.

### **COMMUNICATIONS:**

- A. Fall Lake Township donation of \$1,000 to the Playground Fund
- B. St Louis County Planning & Community Development Department is hosting Informational Meetings on proposed new Ordinance 60 – Subdivision Regulations
- C. Blandin Community Leadership Program (BCLP)

Motion by Debeltz supported by Omerza to send a “Thank You” to Fall Lake Township for their \$1,000 Whiteside Park Playground Donation. In the discussion, it was suggested by Mayor Skraba to send a donation request to the Town of Morse for their 2012 budget. Motion carried unanimously.

### **CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT**

- A. City and EUC claims for August, 2011 - \$912,591.09
- B. RLK – Water Treatment Plant Demolition – Partial Payment Estimate No. 2 - \$41,496
- C. US Bank – Ely General Obligation Refunding Bond of 2003 - \$1,387.50

Motion by Debeltz supported by Zupec to approve claims for payment A – C as listed above. Motion carried unanimously.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Motion by Debeltz and supported by Omerza to accept the grant of \$14,180 for the Hidden Valley Trail Enhancement Project #0014-11-2B. Motion carried unanimously.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Motion by Zupec and supported by Nikkola to accept Frank Salerno’s resignation letter from his position on the Gardner Trust Board. Mayor Skraba volunteered to take Salerno’s place on the board. This will be made formal at the next meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Nikkola and supported by Omerza to accept the TIF District decertification date extensions as proposed by St Louis County Auditor as follows: District #1 extended an additional 3 years to 12/31/2017; and District #3 extended an additional 3 years to 12/31/2026. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Omerza and supported by Salerno to authorize RLK to advertise for bids on the Pattison Street surfacing project 2011-106. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Skraba requested extending JPJ’s contract to include the Economic Development aspect of various projects. Council member Omerza was hesitant with this idea and proposed going through the correct hiring procedure for a permanent Economic Developer. Mayor Skraba suggested working short term with them on one project and having them bid as an Economic Developer for that project alone until something more permanent is decided regarding hiring a full time Economic Developer for the city.

Meeting was recessed at 7:12 p.m. and reconvened at 7:20 p.m.

Meeting closed at 7:21 p.m. to conduct Terri Boese, Clerk/Treasurer’s annual performance review.

Meeting reopened at 7:48 p.m.

Motion by Nikkola and supported by Omerza that Clerk Boese has successfully completed her annual review. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Salerno and supported by Omerza to extend the Clerk/Treasurer contract through August 17, 2011. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting closed at 7:49 p.m. to discuss union negotiation strategies.

**Ely City Council Regular Meeting August 2, 2011 Continued**

Meeting was reopened at 7:56 p.m.

Motion by Nikkola and supported by Omerza to adjourn meeting at 7:57 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Terri Boese  
Clerk/Treasurer