

Ely City Council Study Session August 30, 2011

The Ely City Council Study Session was called to order by Mayor Skraba at 6:00 p.m. on August 30, 2011 at the Ely City Hall.

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

ABSENT: None

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

Motion by Salerno and supported by Debeltz to add by the Building Official, Fire Code Enforcement & Blight Enforcement under New Business. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Skraba and Council member Sheddy met with the Pamida Representative regarding their gift of the old Pamida building to the City. The building costs Pamida around \$10,000 a year in taxes and would be a liability to the City as well. Council member Sheddy would like Pamida to give to the City \$40,000 or \$50,000 to help offset the cost of tearing down the building. Operations Director Langowski stated the City could work with IRRRB for funding on this redevelopment project along with the Old Clinic Building Site. Further discussion and plans for this project will be brought to the next council meeting.

Discussion on John Fedo of JPJ regarding hiring him as an economic developer will be moved to the next EEDA Meeting on September 20, 2011.

NEW BUSINESS

Attorney Klun presented the revised Civil Enforcement Handbook for the Council to review. Administrative and clerical changes were made ensuring the handbook corresponds to the Ordinance which is currently in effect. Attorney Klun stated that the list of Hearing Officers and their fees needs to be re-evaluated along with setting up training for them.

Building Official Schilling, discussed his responsibility for Fire Code Enforcement. He spoke with the State Fire Marshall regarding this matter and he recommended Schilling conduct inspections on a complaint basis only, due to the advanced age of most of the buildings in Ely. There is no liability to the City if a yearly inspection is not done. Currently, if a consumer request a building permit for remodeling, etc. then inspection is done and the building must be brought up to current fire code. The council agreed with the State Fire Marshall's recommendation of inspecting on a complaint basis only.

Schilling also asked for council direction regarding the blight ordinance enforcement process. Under the current ordinance, if the building owner does not comply with a notice Schilling issues then the City has the right to seize the property which becomes an expense to the City. This issue will be moved to the Planning & Zoning Committee for their discussion and recommendation.

Clerk Boese presented the 2012 General Fund & Library Budgets. The biggest change affecting the budget is the new law called the Homestead Market Value Exclusion which replaces the Homestead Residential Market Value Credit. This is due to the state budget situation and the LGA cuts. It was suggested that if anyone had any questions they should be brought to the Clerk. The budget will be brought to the next council meeting for preliminary approval.

Council member Omerza suggested the city and taxpayers write letters to our representatives and senators to let them know how the LGA cut has affected the city's budget.

Clerk Boese stated she had spoken with Auditor Giroux regarding Council member Zupec's question on the EEDA transfer of funds from the last council meeting. Giroux stated that there is no state statute relating to the City's requirement to make a transfer or not, it is merely a council decision.

Ely City Council Study Session August 30, 2011 Continued

Motion by Omerza supported by Nikkola to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Terri Boese
Clerk/Treasurer