

Ely City Council Regular Meeting September 20, 2011

The Ely City Council Regular Meeting was called to order by Mayor Skraba at 6:00 p.m. on September 20, 2011 at the Ely City Hall.

PRESENT: Council members Debeltz, Nikkola, Omerza, Salerno, Sheddy, and Mayor Skraba (6)

ABSENT: Zupec (1)

Motion by Salerno supported by Debeltz to approve the minutes of September 6, 2011 Regular Meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONS AND OMISSIONS TO AGENDA

- A. Addition Departmental Reports 9Bi: Fire Chief Report
- B. Addition Departmental Reports 9Bii: Earmark all funds & donations from Pagami Fire for equipment replacement.
- C. Addition Departmental Reports 9Di: Old City Garage – New Rental request
- D. Addition Departmental Reports 9Ei: Police Chief Report
- E. Delete City Attorney 9Fi: Fence Ordinance
- F. Addition Mayor's Report 5B: Fire update

Motion by Debeltz supported by Salerno to approve Additions and Omissions A-F to the agenda as listed above. Motion carried unanimously.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Skraba gave an update on the Town Hall meeting yesterday, September 19th at the Senior Center regarding the AEOA transit bus service. Various ideas were discussed on how to afford adding an extra day or two to the bus's schedule such as housing the bus in one of the city garages and using the city mechanic. Mayor Skraba stated he would like to meet with Jack Larson in Gilbert to discuss this issue further and to change the current bus schedule from Mondays and Wednesdays to Mondays and Thursdays as was requested by the current riders.

Motion by Salerno and supported by Nikkola to allow the Mayor and Council to move forward with discussions with Jack Larson, AEOA Director, regarding ways to add one or two more days to the bus schedule in Ely. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Skraba sat in on the press conference last Friday with Governor Dayton, Representative Cravaak and Sentors Klobuchar and Frankin who came to Ely to observe the fire and to offer their help and support in putting the fire out. A concerned citizen called the Mayor to help set up a chili feed for the firefighters. Mauro Caruso offered the use of his building. Mayor Skraba will work to get a civic organization to fund this project.

Council member Omerza extended a "Thank You" to Governor Dayton and Senator Klobuchar for getting the message across at the press conference that "Ely is open for business!"

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Motion to waive readings in entirety of all ordinances and resolutions on tonight's agenda.

Motion by Salerno supported by Debeltz to approve consent agenda item A as listed above. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Debeltz and supported by Salerno to approve supporting Council member Omerza's application to the CDBG Advisory Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Council member Debeltz stated that there will be a Cemetery Committee meeting in October and minutes from last meeting will be available at that time.

Motion by Debeltz and supported by Omerza to send a "Thank You" letter to the Boy Scouts for their volunteer work at the cemetery pulling weeds, hauling dirt and leveling stones. Motion carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Motion by Nikkola and supported by Salerno to approve the Fire Chief's request to earmark funds from the Pagami Creek Fire minus expenses to be used for fire equipment replacement. Motion carried unanimously.

Ely City Council Regular Meeting September 20, 2011 Continued

Motion by Debeltz and supported by Omerza to send a "Thank You" letter to the Ely Rotary for the \$500 donation to the Police Department which was used for the First Responders purchase of oxygen tanks and regulators. Motion carried unanimously.

City Operations Director

Langowski stated that the restrooms will be closed this week at Semer's Park and also the outside water spigots at Whiteside Park will be turned off but the Whiteside Park restrooms will remain open until the first week of October.

Motion by Omerza and supported by Salerno to rent the old mechanics room at the old city garage as office space to Mr. and Mrs. Collins for their used car business, Malco Auto Sales, for \$150/month. Harold Langowski will work with Attorney Klun to draw up a lease for this rental with the stipulation that no vehicles can be parked on city property. Motion carried unanimously.

City Attorney

Motion by Shedly and supported by Nikkola to adopt the changes to the original Hidden Valley Recreation Lease with MN DNR as presented, which were requested by the DNR. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Debeltz and supported Shedly to adopt the changes to the Hidden Valley Recreational Sublease with Ely Nordic Ski Club as presented, which were requested by the DNR. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS

Motion by Debeltz and supported by Nikkola to approve Jugoslav National Home's request for refund of liquor license fee due to their bar closure. In discussion, Mayor Skraba stated since no business was conducted under the new September 1, 2011 license, prorating of the fee would not be necessary, therefore, full refund of the license fee of \$450 will be granted. Motion carried unanimously.

CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT

- A. City and EUC claims for September, 2011 - \$469,294.68
- B. TKDA – Professional Services - Invoice #00201100249 - Airport CIP projects - \$4,431.68
- C. JPJ Engineering – Invoice#4 – 2011 Pattison St Reconstruct - \$1,682.00
- D. JPJ Engineering – Invoice#7 – Ely Water Treatment Plant Demolition - \$406.25
- E. JPJ Engineering – Invoice#2 – Ely White Street Alleys - \$5,785.65
- F. Ely Area Ambulance Service for 2011- \$18,806.00

Motion by Debeltz supported by Nikkola to approve claims for payment A – F as listed above. Amendment to the motion by Debeltz supported by Nikkola that the City will fund the Ely Area Ambulance Service for 2011 using the 2010 census number of 3,460 and not the 2000 census which amounts to a total of \$17,473.00 Amendment to motion carried unanimously. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion by Debeltz and supported by Nikkola to approve the requests for a Sunday Liquor License by Dee's Bar and by Zaverl's Bar pending the receipt of all required paperwork. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Shedly and supported by Debeltz to deny Fritz Gullickson request to purchase Outlot B in East Spaulding. In discussion, the lot is zoned "O" - not meant for development and had been designated to be used as a park in the future. Motion carried unanimously.

Council member Shedly requested Clerk's office to send Mr. Gullickson a letter regarding this denial and to suggest to him to call Paul Hedricks or Mr. Latourell or look at other lots that are available for purchase through the City.

Motion by Debeltz and supported by Omerza to approve the Resolution Giving Authorization to Execute Minnesota Department of Transportation Grant Agreement for Airport Improvement Excluding Land Acquisition as presented. Roll called: Debeltz-yes, Nikkola-yes, Omerza-yes, Salerno-yes, Shedly-yes and Mayor Skraba-yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Omerza and supported by Salerno to approve the Resolution Supporting the Hidden Valley Trail Enhancement Program as presented. Roll called: Debeltz-yes, Nikkola-yes, Omerza-yes, Salerno-yes, Shedly-yes and Mayor Skraba-yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Ely City Council Regular Meeting September 20, 2011 Continued

Council member Shedly attended the Chamber's Merchant meeting where they discussed the problem they were having of young people loitering and littering in their parking lot. This seems to deter visitors from coming into the parking lot and building. The Council extended an invitation to the Chamber Merchant members to attend the Council's October Study Session to further discuss this issue.

OPEN FORUM

Council member Omerza extended a "Thank You" and "Congratulations" to Tom Coombe and the Baseball Association for being awarded the opportunity to host the 2013 VFW State Baseball Tournament here in Ely. Coombe stated the event will be held August 8-11, 2013 and will bring in 10 teams that will be in need of our hotels and restaurants.

The meeting was recessed at 6:53 p.m. and reconvened at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was closed at 7:02 p.m. to conduct the annual review for Rachel Heinrich, Library Director.

The meeting was reopened at 7:26 p.m.

Motion by Nikkola and supported by Salerno that Rachel Heinrich, Library Director, has successfully completed her annual review. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Nikkola and supported by Salerno to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Terri Boese
Clerk/Treasurer