

Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Ely City Council Study Session was called to order by Mayor Skraba at 6:06 p.m. on March 27, 2012 at the Ely Senior Center.

Present: Council members Debeltz, Nikkola, Omerza, Sheddy, Zupec and Mayor Skraba (6)

Absent: None

Also present: Terry Lowell and Kara Polyner-Rechichi

II. ADDITIONS OR OMISSIONS TO TONIGHT'S AGENDA: None

III. REQUEST TO APPEAR: None

IV. OLD BUSINESS: None

V. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Discussion with Ely Business Owners:

Mayor Skraba read aloud the letter sent to the businesses inviting them to tonight's Study Session. The floor was open to the public to discuss their thoughts on how the City can help them. Many suggestions on City improvements were heard. These included:

- i. The City needs to pay more attention on cleaning streets and picking up overflowing garbage cans.
- ii. Cleaning should be the City's number one priority.
- iii. Trezona trail garbage can is always overflowing.
- iv. Enforce the City's noise ordinance, especially in regards to vehicle mufflers
- v. Lighting the Trezona Trail for evening skiing.
- vi. Use the Recreation Center as a Trail Facility
- vii. Use solar lights on the trail
- viii. Trees that are taken down should be replaced
- ix. City beautification group could be formed
- x. Work with Vermilion Community College to start an entrepreneurial program where students could use vacant stores to learn how to start and maintain businesses
- xi. The community could develop their own currency. A person would purchase the currency for maybe .70cents on the dollar. Money could only be used in Ely but maybe kept as souvenirs by the visitors thus generating income.
- xii. Work with townships to create a Fire District
- xiii. The City should have a five or ten year plan to create a vision or goal that the City could work towards.

Comments from the Mayor and Council members included:

- i. Mayor Skraba stated that garbage cans and dumpsters had to be removed due to abuse by people placing their household garbage in them. Keeping the dumpsters and allowing the people to dump their household trash for the city to dispose of becomes a useless use of tax dollars. He recognizes that cleaning does need to become a city priority.
- ii. Possibility would be to go to mandatory trash pick-up within the City.
- iii. Store owners could help by bagging up the overflowing garbage from cans in front of their stores.

iv. Council member Sheddy pointed out that the City does have a Comprehensive Plan which is redone every three years.

Ely business owner asked the council when they were going to make a decision on the fee for the interim use permit for Whiteside Park. The Ely Expo Event set for May 4, 5 & 6, 2012 would like a definite decision so they can charge their vendors accordingly. Mayor Skraba and council stated that nothing definite has been decided yet but fees will remain as usual until further notice.

It was stated that there will be a promotional event for the Ely Expo on Thursday, March 29, 2012 at the Grand Ely Lodge from 5:00pm to 7:00pm.

Council member Omerza reminded everyone that April is volunteer month and a great way to get involved in the community is to sign up to be on a committee. She also expressed her appreciation to everyone for showing up tonight.

VI. OPEN FORUM:

Ely resident, Dwayne Whalen, asked of the council, "What made them pick Kara Polyner-Rechichi to the vacant council seat?" Mayor Skraba and Council member Omerza stated they voted for her because they felt she had a lot to offer being a business owner with a young family and also she gave very good answers to the interview questions. Council member Sheddy felt her youth and vitality would offer different ideas and viewpoints to the council meetings.

VII. ADJOURN:

Meeting adjourned at 8:00p.m.

Claire Huisman
Deputy Clerk