

Ely City Council Regular Meeting Minutes, July 3, 2012

1. CALL TO ORDER:
The Ely City Council Regular Meeting was called to order by Mayor Skraba at 6:00am on July 3, 2012 at the Ely City Hall.
2. ROLL CALL:
Present: Council members Debeltz, Nikkola, Omerza, Polyner, Sheddy, Zupec and Mayor Skraba (7)
Absent: None
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
Approve June 19, 2012 Public Hearing, June 19, 2012 Regular Meeting and June 26, 2012 Study Session as presented.
Sheddy/Nikkola moved approval. Motion carried unanimously.
4. ADDITIONS OR OMISSIONS TO AGENDA: None
5. MAYOR'S REPORT: None
6. CONSENT AGENDA:
 - A. Motion to waive readings in entirety of all ordinances and resolutions on tonight's agenda.
Nikkola/Zupec moved approval. Motion carried unanimously.
7. REQUESTS TO APPEAR:
 - A. Jeanie Zaverl addressed the council for permission to use the Little League Field for Kick Ball pick-up games from July 17, 2012 to August 30, 2012, two days a week from 4:00pm – 6:00pm. She stated they would not need the road blocked for their event and the concession stand would be open at that time. Mayor Skraba gave his consent once it was determined that the cost to the City for the added insurance coverage remained minimal.
Debeltz/Zupec moved approval to send letter of support for this event to Jeanie Zaverl. Motion carried unanimously.
 - B. Tim Brennan brought forth three concerns on behalf of various businesses in Ely: Ely Steak House, Ely Bowling Alley, Dee's Bar, The Kwazy Wabbit, Zaverl's Bar and the Boathouse Brewpub.
 1. Asked the City to follow the Minnesota Liquor Laws and allow establishments serving liquor to remain open until 2:00am, Monday – Sunday.
Debeltz/Nikkola moved approval to have City Attorney draft the ordinance change to allow liquor serving establishments to remain open until 2:00am Monday - Sunday. Motion carried unanimously.
 2. Asked not to ticket cars left on streets overnight due to intoxicated drivers. This request was denied.
 3. Inquired as to business owner's rights when vehicles park in their parking lots that aren't patrons of their business. Police Chief Lahtonen stated they can call police station to have vehicle towed but it would be at the business owner's expense and then it would be up to them to get reimbursed from the vehicle owner. They can also call the police to issue citation to the vehicle parked on their property. Mayor Skraba stated that City Staff can research the ordinance on parking and get that information back to Mr. Brennan.
8. COMMITTEE REPORTS:
Council member Debeltz clarified that the City would cash flow the Cemetery Columbarium but would be getting reimbursed as people would purchase space in the Columbarium.

Council member Nikkola stated the ER Committee voted to not offer another ERIP (Early Retirement Incentive Plan).

Nikkola/Omerza moved approval of ER recommendation to authorize Operations Director Langowski to post (internally first-following union contract rules) for two (2) Equipment Operator II positions. In discussion, Mayor Skraba feels the City cannot afford two more full time employees and would like to hire just one for now. Nikkola stated that posting for two does not mean the city has to hire two. Motion carried unanimously.

Ely City Council Regular Meeting Minutes, July 3, 2012

Nikkola/Omerza moved approval to allow Library Director to hire two (2) – 32 hour/week employees for the Library to begin January 2013 since one employee will be retiring in April 2013. Motion carried unanimously.

Council member Omerza reported on the League of Minnesota Cities Conference and stated she was voted in to be on the Board of Directors for a three year term. Park & Rec Committee meeting will be held Monday, July 9th in Whiteside Park at 6:00pm. She thanked Secret Sisters for their generous donation of \$300 for the Playground Fund. Semer's dock will not be put out due to safety issues but they will accept donations for a new dock to be placed next year. Also, TAB needs interested people who are Midcontinent customers to be a member on their Committee.

Council member Sheddy stated a resident called him and thanked Langowski, Low Impact and EUC for the outstanding work they have done on Pattison St. Sheddy also stated that Langowski and the EUC Commission are working on Franchise Fees and Pole Agreements within the City.

Council member Zupec stated the City needs to move forward on discussions and action plans for updating their ATV trails.

9. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

A. Clerk-Treasurer

- i. Dr. Daniel Bliss spoke regarding his Community Development Research project. He would like to re-interview those from the first study (total of 39) and also interview new people that are relevant now in order to update the work he did five years ago. He will be using the room downstairs in city hall to conduct his interviews.

Clerk Lowell presented a new process for sending "Thank You" notes that are requested by the council which will lend itself to being more personable and efficient.

The Charter asked the council to charge the City Attorney to research what percentage of voters from the last election had to sign up for a change to the Charter. The State Statute states 5% and our Charter states 20%. They would like which one applies in this situation. They would also like the City Attorney to clarify how many members should sit on our Charter Commission since the Statute is stating that our Charter Commission should have more members than it does now. Also for clarification is language in the Charter stating the end of October is when the next fiscal year budget should be adopted and Statute states that it is the end of December.

Nikkola/Debeltz to direct the City Attorney to research the above mentioned Charter vs State Statute issues. Motion carried unanimously.

Matt Roderick offered the City \$6,625.00 for Lots 12-15 in Block 14 of auditors plat in the Chandler Addition to Ely. (\$1000 down, \$1,125/yr for 5yrs). The county's assessed value was approximately \$11,000. Mayor Skraba asked the Clerk to present to the council the appraisal along with the offer so the council can make a decision at the next EEDA meeting.

Property next to Amici's appraisal \$17,000 received offer from \$13,055 with conditions for the city to remove culverts and signs left on the property and relocation of the survey markers which indicated the alley way.

Sheddy/Nikkola moved approval to accept the offer of \$13,055 for the property next to Amici's along with conditions mentioned and to direct the City Attorney to proceed with the process for the sale. Motion carried unanimously.

Clerk Lowell stated he will be taking the next two days as personal days.

B. Fire Chief

- C. Library Director Heinrich stated the Friends of the Library will be sponsoring the following upcoming events at the Library: July 10th – the movie "Shrek" will be at 3:30pm; July 12th – Crafty Kids at 2:00pm; July 17th – the movie "The Lion King" will be at 3:30pm.

Ely City Council Regular Meeting Minutes, July 3, 2012

D. Operations Director:

- i. EUC Consent Agenda Items: The following items of business were recommended for approval at the regular EUC meeting of Wednesday, June 27, 2012:
 1. Approved moving ahead with the AMR metering project for Book 1 with an estimated cost of \$21,000 for metering and \$8,000 for software.
 2. Approved the LED Lighting Rebate for Tim's Auto for \$1,101.00; Studio North for \$1,243.00; Ely Flower & Seed for \$1,812.00; Range LP Gas for \$1,307.60 and Zup's Store for \$777.60.
 3. Authorized Mick Shusta to attend the MWOA Laboratory Workshop in Grand Rapids on July 24, 2012.
 4. Approved payment of the May EUC Bills List for \$350,713.19.

Nikkola/Zupec moved approval of EUC consent agenda items 1-4. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Police Chief

F. City Attorney

- i. Purchase Agreement was presented to Twin Metals for the vacant land they wish to purchase from the City of Ely. The price of \$50,000 was set by Attorney Klun along with the appointed committee along with a closing date of October 1, 2012. The Attorney is waiting for a legal description for the triangle piece within the Outlot that they also wish to purchase which will be included in the sale.

G. City Engineer

10. COMMUNICATIONS:

- A. Correspondence from Bill Campbell regarding the proposed new government facility

11. CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT:

- A. City and EUC claims for July 3, 2012 - \$133,148.90

Debeltz/Nikkola moved approval of claims for payment item A. Motion carried unanimously.

12. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. **Debletz/Zupec moved approval of the Amplification Permit as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

- B. Discuss a Code of Conduct – Item moved to next council study session.

13. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Approve the appointment of the election judges for 2012 election year as submitted in the June 28, 2012 letter from the City Clerk.

Debeltz/Zupec moved approval. Motion carried unanimously.

- B. Motion to invite the EUC to the Council Study Session scheduled for July 31, 2012

Nikkola/Sheddy moved approval. Motion carried unanimously.

14. OPEN FORUM - None

15. ADJOURN

Nikkola/Omerza moved to adjourn meeting at 7:15pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Claire Huisman
Deputy Clerk