

Ely City Council Regular Meeting Minutes, July 17, 2012

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Ely City Council Regular Meeting was called to order by Mayor Skraba at 6:01pm on July 17, 2012 at the Ely City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Council members Debeltz, Nikkola, Omerza, Polyner, Sheddy, Zupec, Mayor Skraba (7)

Absent: None

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Approve July 3, 2012 Regular Meeting and revised minutes from May 29, 2012 Public Hearing as presented.

Zupec/Nikkola moved approval. Motion carried unanimously.

4. ADDITIONS OR OMISSIONS TO AGENDA:

A. Addition 9.D.ii. – Potential IRRRB redevelopment projects (Building Official)

B. Addition 9.F.vi – 1st reading of Ordinance 260, 2nd Series

C. Addition 10.B. – Chip Hanson

D. Omission 9.F.v.

Debeltz/Zupec moved approval of Additions & Omission A-D. Motion carried unanimously.

5. MAYOR'S REPORT

A. Mayor Skraba congratulated Baseball Coach Tom Coombe on his 400+ wins during his term as an Ely Baseball Coach.

Debeltz/Omerza moved to send a letter of commendation to Tom Coombe. Motion carried unanimously.

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. Paul Kess and Valerie Nesteruk spoke on behalf of the Tree Committee. They gave an update on what they have been accomplishing as a group regarding the trees within the City of Ely. Several key points included: 1) drafting a tree ordinance, 2) being included in a grant through the U of MN to conduct a city tree inventory, 3) conducting a review of the health of the trees on the first four blocks of Conan with tree expert member, Chad Kirschbaum, 4) continuing to find grant money to help defray the costs of replanting, 5) developing a Tree Plan to outline how cities manage, maintain and replant their trees. They also requested to meet with the Council Study Session sometime in the fall for further discussion and updates.

B. Bill Paulson with Walker, Giroux & Hahne discussed the City of Ely's 2011 Audit Report which showed positive results.

Omerza/Nikkola moved to accept the City of Ely 2011 Audit Report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Council member Zupec met with Mayor Skraba, Doug Luthen and Chad Jacobson met at the DNR office to discuss the ATV trail between Ely and Tower. They will be revising their forest management plan and will plan a trail between Ely and Tower with public hearings being held this fall and winter.

Zupec met with the group from the Trailer Park and their representative from the Trailer Park Association. A million dollars has been set aside in a fund dedicated to the cleanup of trailer parks in MN. North Country Bank may be able to help them fund their relocation project through the form of a Coop which would be run through a Board. Council member Zupec will keep the council informed as he obtains further information.

Council member Sheddy reported that P&Z Commission will be changing their meeting location to City Hall starting with tomorrow night's regular meeting at 5:30pm.

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Council member Polyner spoke regarding the Playground Task Force. They will have a booth in the Blueberry Festival in order to raise additional money through donations and the sale of pavers. They are trying to complete the project by the end of this summer.

Council member Omerza stated the park dome has been installed inside the park play area. Signs are yet to be installed and a new bike pad has been installed.

Omerza/Sheddy moved to approve the recommendation from the Park and Recreation Board to allow the unexpended funds budgeted in 2011 for the Whiteside Playground Project to be spent in 2012 for the completion of playground project. Motion carried unanimously.

Omerza thanked the Chamber for giving the Playground Task Force a free booth in the Blueberry Festival. People are to contact Bill Tefft if anyone wishes to volunteer to be in the booth.

If anyone has any policies that they wish to bring to the League of MN Cities Policy Committee, they should contact Council member Omerza. She will be attending the CGMC Summer Conference that will be held next week. They thanked Commissioner Frans for visiting Ely yesterday and Mayor Skraba thanked the Governor for making his Commissioners available throughout the state.

Council member Sheddy discussed whether the Tree Committee should be a standalone Committee or a Task Force under the Projects Committee. Langowski stated this issue will be discussed further at a council study session.

Council member Debeltz stated there was no quorum at the last Cemetery Committee meeting.

Mayor Skraba stated he interviewed with WCCO TV regarding mining in Ely and there is interest to do more interviews concerning the Trailer Park.

Debeltz/Zupec moved approval to send a Thank You note to Commissioner Frans of the Department of Revenue for his visit to Ely. Motion carried unanimously.

The Mayor also stated that information from Wilson Engineering and Dovetail regarding Alternative Energy will be available in the Clerk's office for anyone to review.

VCC is interested in building a 120 unit dormitory and abandoning the existing duplexes. They would like the City of Ely to act as a fiscal agent to help them apply for grant monies for this six million dollar project. Operations Director Langowski stated that this should not short the City of Ely any money they could receive for their own infrastructure projects.

Omerza/Zupec moved approval to send VCC a letter of support for their project. Motion carried unanimously.

Council member Zupec shared his concerns with the Cities infrastructure needs being met with the new construction going up near the College and Langowski assured him that the system will be able to handle it and if needed extra pumps could be installed.

9. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

A. Clerk-Treasurer

B. Fire Chief

C. Library Director

D. Operations Director:

i. EUC Consent Agenda Items: The following items of business were recommended for approval at the regular EUC meeting of Wednesday, July 11, 2012:

1. Approved receiving the Minnesota Power True Up for \$30,310.37 on the July Minnesota Power bill.

2. Authorized assistance to the Chamber of Commerce with the set up for the Blueberry Arts Festival.

3. Approved payment of the invoices for the repair of the water, sanitary sewer and storm sewer repair near Piragis Outfitters for \$15,168.39.

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4. Approved LED Lighting Rebates for First Presbyterian Church for \$3,748.80; Grace Lutheran Church for \$1,951.70; Starkman Oil for \$426.00; Vermilion Community College for \$3,600.00; and Paddle Inn for \$4,902.00.
5. Approved payment of the May EUC Bills List for \$350,713.19.

Nikkola/Debeltz moved approval of EUC consent agenda items 1-5 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

- ii. Langowski discussed the IRRRB Residential Redevelopment/Demolition Program which would pay 75% or \$4/main floor sq ft of the demolition costs. An ad will be put in the paper and letters will be sent for anyone to submit a request to the city if they have a building they wish to be demolished. The City would then submit an application to the IRRRB for this program. The homeowner will be responsible for 25% of the demolition costs.
- iii. Another IRRRB Project involving the Neighborhood Survey that was conducted from Central Ave to 4th St. and Chapman St to James St. will be funded through AEOA. This is a deferred loan to cover roofs, windows and many other exterior items in the homes for energy efficient improvements. Also rental properties of 4 units or less can apply for this program as well. Information will be put in the newspaper as to how homeowners can apply to AEOA for this program.

E. Police Chief:

- i. **Nikkola/Omerza moved approval of the Ely Police Commission recommendation to promote Officer Jason Carlson to Sergeant within the Ely Police Department. Motion carried unanimously.**
- ii. Due to numerous complaints of properties that are in need of mowing, the cities rules and regulations regarding lawn maintenance for properties within the City were reviewed. It was stated that the property owner has 10 days to comply with a warning letter sent by the Police Department. If they do not comply, a civil citation with a fine of \$100 is issued. After seven days of non-compliance then a criminal citation for public nuisance is issued which requires a court appearance and then another seven days to comply. If still no compliance, then the city will cut the grass and access the homeowner's taxes the cost of the mowing at \$75/hr.
- iii. **Debeltz/Nikkola moved approval to send a letter of commendation to Officer Carlson for his actions on June 24, 2012 in Tower, MN as a civilian. Motion carried unanimously.**

F. City Attorney

- iv. Attorney Klun updated the council regarding the purchase agreement with Twin Metals. They have started testing of the soil and we will work with them to get the required letters to the NPCA. Due to the last testing done on their previous property, no negative results are expected to be found.
- v. Charter Questions – Omitted
- vi. **Debeltz/Nikkola moved approval of the 1st reading of Ordinance 260, 2nd Series – amending Chapter 5, related to hours of liquor sales. There will be no added city fees to the liquor establishments if they choose to extend their hours as described in the ordinance. Roll call: Debeltz-yes, Nikkola-yes, Omerza-yes, Polyner-yes, Sheddy-yes, Zupec-yes and Mayor Skraba-yes. Motion carried unanimously.**

G. City Building Official

10. COMMUNICATIONS:

A. Correspondence from Gary Johnson from Urban & Community Forestry, University of MN

B. Debeltz/Sheddy moved approval for Chip Hanson, owner of the Ely Vet Clinic, to hold an employee appreciation party in his parking lot with music, food vendor and beer tent pending working with the Clerk's office to obtain all required permits. Motion carried unanimously.

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11. CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT:

A. City and EUC claims for July 17, 2012 - \$486,528.83

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

12. OLD BUSINESS: None

13. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Omerza/Debeltz moved approval of Resolution 2012-035 AUTHORIZING APPLICATION OF RUFFED GROUSE SOCIETY CRAZY FLIGHT CHAPTER TO APPLY FOR RAFFLE PERMIT

WHEREAS, the Ruffed Grouse Society Crazy Flight Chapter has applied for a Minnesota Lawful Gambling Permit to conduct a raffle on October 18, 2012 at the Grand Ely Lodge, 400 N Pioneer Rd., Ely MN 55731 and

WHEREAS, the City of Ely approves of said application and that the Ruffed Grouse Society Crazy Flight Chapter be authorized to submit the necessary paperwork to the State of Minnesota Department of Gambling Control.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Ely, Minnesota does hereby adopt this resolution.

B. Omerza/Nikkola moved approval of Change Order from JPJ Engineering for Project No. 11-550, 2012 Sanitary/Storm Sewer Improvements for \$6,698.00. Motion carried unanimously.

14. OPEN FORUM:

Angela Campbell of Ely spoke on behalf of the citizens to ask the City Council to help fund the Arrowhead Transit Bus to come to Ely for the two election days (Primary and General) to help get everyone who wants to vote to the polls for voting. The cost is \$50/hr. After discussion of the availability of absentee voting, the council decided not to fund the bus for these additional days at this time. A Notice will be put in the paper to educate the public on the availability to absentee voting.

15. ADJOURN:

Nikkola/Omerza moved to adjourn meeting at 8:44pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Claire Huisman
Deputy Clerk