

## **Council Study Session Minutes, July 31, 2012**

### **I. CALL TO ORDER:**

The Ely City Council Study Session was called to order by Acting Mayor Debeltz at 6:00pm on July 31, 2012 at the Ely City Hall.

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

Absent: Mayor Skraba (1)

### **II. Additions or omissions to tonight's agenda:**

1. Addition: IV.2. – discuss reserve fund account
2. Addition: IV.3. – Library closures

### **III. OLD BUSINESS**

1. Discussion ensued regarding administration structure options. Option One involved the hiring of a new City Clerk/Treasurer. Option Two went with our current Operations Director Harold Langowski taking over the duties of the Clerk/Treasurer as a City Administrator plus continuing his duties as Operations Director. The Assistant Treasurer would become the Treasurer and the Deputy Clerk would become Clerk.

Council member Zupec stated his concerns regarding Option Two that there would need to be a Charter change for the new position. He was also concerned about the statement in the Charter regarding the Clerk/Treasurer position could not hold any other employment. The Charter change would have to be agreed upon with a unanimous vote from the Council and he would not be in favor of this at this time. He stated if the Charter change was on the ballot for the public to vote on and the majority voted in favor of the change, then he too would agree.

EUC Commission members Tony Colarich and Kurt Soderberg said the EUC Commission supports Option Two. They felt Langowski is here for the long term and the position would benefit the City. Concerns were that focus would be detracted from the EUC but felt it could be worked out.

Langowski stated that the new position would be a challenge but he would like to give it a try and if it wasn't working as planned after a year then the City could go back to a Clerk/Treasurer position.

Council member Nikkola felt that any concerns with Option Two could be dealt with and it would be a move toward streamlining the operations of the City. He also stated that each Council member would have to be on board with the decision for it to work.

Council member Omerza suggested contacting the League of Minnesota Cities to help guide us down the right path.

Clerk Lowell stated this discussion will be placed on the next agenda for the Council to make a decision.

### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

1. An EADA Session Report was provided regarding their meeting at the Grand Ely Lodge on July 19, 2012 which was attended by approximately 50 people. Council member Nikkola suggested making the EADA a Board/Committee of the City but Zupec stated that we should give it a year with EEDA and John Fedo of JPJ Engineering before making that decision.

## **Council Study Session Minutes, July 31, 2012**

2. Council member Nikkola brought up for discussion to charge the Budget Committee with creating a plan to add a Reserve Fund Account to the Budget so the City can start putting extra funds aside for emergencies only. This will be brought up at the next Council meeting.
3. Council member Omerza stated that the Ely Library will be closed to the public this Thursday & Friday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> due to staffing issues.

**Omerza/Nikkola moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:45pm. Motion carried unanimously.**

Claire Huisman  
Deputy Clerk