

Ely City Council Regular Meeting Minutes, September 18, 2012

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Ely City Council Regular Meeting was called to order by Mayor Skraba at 6:30pm on September 18, 2012 at the Ely City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL:

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

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Approve September 4, 2012 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. **Nikkola/Debeltz moved approval. Motion carried unanimously.**

4. ADDITIONS OR OMISSIONS TO AGENDA:

- A. Addition 5.A. – Ely Clinic Recognition
- B. Addition 9.B.i – Hiring 1st Responders
- C. Addition 9.B.ii. – Fire Chiefs convention in Duluth
- D. Addition 12.A. – 1st Reading of Ordinance 263, 2nd Series
- E. Addition 12.B. – 1st Reading of Ordinance 264, 2nd Series
- F. Addition 13.C. – Resolution #2012-042

Debeltz/Zupec moved approval of Additions A-F. Motion carried unanimously.

5. MAYOR'S REPORT

A. Mayor Skraba congratulated Ely's Essentia Health Clinic on receiving highest rankings for their Diabetes and Cardiovascular Care among the 500 clinics across the state.

Debeltz/Zupec moved to send a note of congratulations to the Ely Clinic. Motion carried unanimously.

6. CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Motion to waive readings in entirety of all ordinances and resolutions on tonight's agenda
- B. Approve Mayor and/or Council to attend 2012 CGMC Fall Conference in Alexandria, MN on November 14-16, 2012.

Debeltz/Zupec moved approval of consent agenda items A&B. Motion carried unanimously.

7. REQUESTS TO APPEAR:

- A. Gloria Erickson (Ely resident), Dovetail Partners, Inc. Local Coordinator, gave an update and overview on the Biomass Feasibility Study. They partnered with the Forest Management Team on the Federal, State and Local levels for this Study which covers: How much biomass is in the area and is there enough to support a biomass heating system?; How much will it cost to get the biomass out of the forest?; What kind of emissions will be in the air and what is the impact on the forest? The Feasibility Study also includes 5 options to fund the project. The Study simply states the facts from a scientific study. She suggests that our local Legislators be notified of the information resulting from the Study and the work that the City is doing on this project.

Debeltz/Omerza moved approval of sending Senator Bakk and Representative Dill the packet on the Biomass Project including the Feasibility Study and requests their feedback once they have reviewed the material. Council member Sheddy felt the material should be handed to them in person in order to point out the highlights. Motion carried unanimously.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. **Sheddy/Debeltz moved approval for Operations Director Langowski to post externally for the current Equipment Operator II position. Motion carried unanimously.**

Council member Omerza stated the Library is still closed on Wednesdays and applications are being accepted for the Library Clerk position until Monday, September 24, 2012 by 5:00pm. On Tuesday, October 2, 2012 at 3:30pm at the Library there will be a Family Comedy Music Show funded by the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

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Omerza stated that the Telecommunications Advisory Board is working on renewing contracts with Voltz and Ely TV. Also regarding the Park and Rec Board, the public restrooms are now closed due to the cold weather.

Omerza/Debeltz moved approval to add the cost of new siding to the Semer's Park Pavilion Project per Operations Director Langowski's recommendation and not to exceed the Park & Rec Budget. This will result in a project cost increase of approx. \$5000 for a total project cost of \$22,639.35. Motion carried unanimously.

Omerza/Sheddy moved approval to add the wording, "restrict parking and driving in the park during events", to the Park Rental Forms. In discussion, Council member Sheddy stated there should be a designated entry and exit area for vehicles to enter the park to avoid damage to sidewalks. Langowski stated that the rules should be made enforceable and the entity renting the park would be the responsible party. Also, there will be specific times listed for loading and unloading from the vehicles. Motion carried unanimously.

Omerza/Nikkola moved approval for a volleyball group to prepare the sand volleyball court at Semer's Park with borders, etc under the direction of Operations Director Langowski for league play starting next year. Motion carried unanimously.

Council member Polyner reminded everyone of the 3 public hearings to be held tomorrow night at the Joint Maintenance Facility starting at 5:30pm. She gave an update on the Whiteside Park playground area: sand box and wood chips to be put in this fall; 7 benches are in the plan and can be purchased and personalized for \$350; bricks to go in this fall or next spring and they can still be purchased; the Boat Spring Rider donated by the Jaycees has been installed.

Council member Sheddy reported on the HRA meeting with Terry Lowell, Chief of Police and Director Pat Lammi where they discussed certain issues and steps were taken to make the corrections.

Mayor Skraba reported on the Joint Powers Ambulance meeting. He stated that rates have gone up since the population increased from 3460 to 3473 according to the State Demographer. There was an open house at Miner's Dry where they are working hard to preserve our history. Mayor extended a "Thank You" to Langowski and his staff for helping to deliver tables, etc for the open house. Mayor Skraba talked about the Airport Crack Sealing Project which will begin September 24, 2012. The runway will need to be resurfaced in the next 5 years and they would like to include a parallel taxi way. This would all cost (including lighting) approx. 6.5 million dollars which with the 90/10 split with the Federal Government, this would cost Ely \$650,000. If the State would take this on as a bonding project and put up \$400,000-\$450,000 then the City would only have to come up with \$200,000- \$250,000 in the next 5 years. This could be done by putting \$50,000/year into a savings account for this project.

Langowski reported that Steve Peterson, Mayor of Virginia and Executive Director of Economic Development for IRRRB, visited all the area airports to see what the issues were. Since all the airports seem to have the same problems and issues, there is a possibility of going together on a Regional Bonding Bill request to the Legislature in the next 5 years.

Mayor Skraba was interviewed by a gentleman from the University of Pennsylvania who was doing a study around the country on how prescribed burns affect the community to determine if the Federal Government should be burning trees and creating smoke. He will return in January with a recap from his study results.

9. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

A. Clerk-Treasurer

- i. Approve Assistant Treasurer to attend training on Advanced Governmental Accounting at Hermantown City Hall Training Center on October 25, 2012. **Debeltz/Polyner moved approval. Motion carried unanimously.**

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B. Fire Chief

- i. Approve authorization to hire Adam Borchart and Cara Bigelow as 1st Responders.
Debeltz/Polyner moved approval. Motion carried unanimously.
- ii. Approve authorization for up to two people to attend the Fire Chief's Convention in Duluth on October 12 & 13, 2012 which is within the budget. **Debeltz/Polyner moved approval. Motion carried unanimously.**

C. Library Director

D. Operations Director:

- iii. EUC Consent Agenda Items: The following items of business were recommended for approval at the regular EUC meeting of Wednesday, September 12, 2012:
 1. Approved an LED lighting rebate for Amici's Event Center totaling \$763.80
 2. Approved the purchase or leasing of a new Versa Term data collector for an amount not to exceed \$6,145.
 3. Approved the AEOA Heating Assistance Agreement for FFY 2013
Nikkola/Omerza moved approval of EUC consent agenda items 1-3 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- ii. Approve to include siding for the Semer's Park Project – (This was covered under Committee Reports)
- iii. Approve the application of the IRRRB Culture and Tourism Grant submitted through Ely Chamber of Commerce on behalf of the City of Ely for Whiteside Park building repairs.
Debeltz/Zupec moved approval. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Police Chief

F. City Attorney:

- i. Arbitration with LELS will be held on Thursday, September 20, 2012.
- ii. Annexation of the West side of Ely with properties owned by the City of Ely. Regarding a portion of those properties that encompass the property being sold to the Overland Group, Attorney Klun suggests forming an agreement and/or move forward with orderly annexation of just a portion of the West side properties which would facilitate an agreement with the Town of Morse which they would amend or agree to the Cities annexation of those lands that would be included in the sale to the Overland Group. Council was in agreement.
- iii. Lucky Boy – Attorney Klun has contacted the two land owners: Thomas O'Brien and Robert Newcomer. She offered purchasing their interest in the Lucky Boy parcels but has not received a reply.
- iv. Approve 2nd Reading of Ordinance 262, 2nd Series amending chapter 20, section 20.2 Sale of Land to Thompson Blodgett. **Nikkola/Zupec moved approval. Roll called: Debeltz-yes, Nikkola-yes, Omerza-yes, Polyner-yes, Shedly-yes, Zupec-yes and Mayor Skraba-yes. Motion carried unanimously.**

G. City Engineer

10. COMMUNICATIONS:

- A. Community Leader Roundtable on the Past, Present and Future of Local Government Aid in MN held Monday, September 24, 2012 at 1:00pm at the Iron Range Rehabilitation Center

11. CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT:

- A. City and EUC claims for September 18, 2012 - \$455,768.21
Zupec/Debeltz moved approval of claims for payment A. Motion carried unanimously.

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12. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Approve First Reading of Ordinance 263, 2nd Series amending chapter 20, section 20.2 Sales of Land to Jack Zorman. **Omerza/Nikkola moved approval. Roll called: Debeltz-yes, Nikkola-yes, Omerza-yes, Polyner-yes, Shedly-yes, Zupec-yes and Mayor Skraba-yes. Motion carried unanimously.**

B. Approve First Reading of Ordinance 264, 2nd Series amending Ely City Code, chapter 11, section 11.02 related to Business Park Covenants Sec. 11.02 subd. 5(H). **Debeltz/Omerza moved approval. Roll called: Debeltz-yes, Nikkola-yes, Omerza-yes, Polyner-yes, Shedly-yes, Zupec-yes and Mayor Skraba-yes. Motion carried unanimously.**

13. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Approve Supplemental Authorization #1 on the 2011 CIP – Crack Repair & Roof Repair on the Ely Airport \$750.00. **Debeltz/Shedly moved approval. Motion carried unanimously.**

B. Approve revised job description for the City Clerk-Treasurer position. **Omerza/Nikkola moved approval. Motion carried 6 to 1 with Zupec voting “no”.**

Approve revised job description for the Deputy Clerk/Personnel Coordinator position.

Omerza/Nikkola moved approval. Motion carried 6 to 1 with Zupec voting “no”.

Approve revised job description for the Assistant Treasurer/Benefits Administrator position.

Omerza/Nikkola moved approval. Motion carried 6 to 1 with Zupec voting “no”.

Approve revised job description for the Confidential Accounting Clerk position. **Omerza/Nikkola moved approval. Motion carried 6 to 1 with Zupec voting “no”.**

Nikkola/Debeltz moved approval for the Negotiating Committee to determine pay scales for the positions with new job descriptions. Motion carried 6 to 1 with Zupec voting “no”.

C. Approve Resolution #2012-042 supporting the application to the MN DNR for the Parks and Trails Legacy Grant Program. **WHEREAS**, the City of Ely supports the grant application made to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for the Parks and Trails Legacy Grant Program. The application for a safe routes trail from the City’s north end to the school buildings, a distance of approximately ½ mile, and **WHEREAS**, the City of Ely recognizes that it has secured \$150,000 in non-state cash matching funds (Transportation Enhancement Grant) for this project. **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, if the City of Ely is awarded a grant by the Minnesota Department of Natural resources, the City of Ely agrees to accept the grant award, and may enter into an agreement with the State of Minnesota for the above referenced project. The City of Ely will comply with all applicable laws, environmental requirements and regulations as stated in the grant agreement, and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, City Council of the City of Ely names the fiscal agent for the City of Ely for this project as: Dan Smith, Asst. Treasurer, City of Ely, 209 E Chapman St, Ely MN 55731. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Mayor and City Clerk are hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with the State of Minnesota for the above referenced project and sign any and all related documents needed to implement the same. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that acceptance of the grant award is also deemed to be budgeted and appropriated as part of the City of Ely’s budget requirements. **BE IT BURTHER RESOLVED**, that the City of Ely hereby assures that the safe routes trail will be maintained for a period of no less than 20 years. **Omerza/Nikkola moved approval. Roll called: Debeltz-yes, Nikkola-yes, Omerza-yes, Polyner-yes, Shedly-yes, Zupec-yes and Mayor Skraba-yes. Motion carried unanimously.**

14. OPEN FORUM

Council member Zupec thanked Langowski and his crew for their hard work in locating the water leak in the Chandler section of Ely.

15. ADJOURN

Omerza/Nikkola moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:50pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Claire Huisman
Deputy Clerk