

Ely City Council Regular Meeting Minutes, October 2, 2012

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Ely City Council Regular Meeting was called to order by Mayor Skraba at 6:00pm on October 2, 2012 at the Ely City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL:

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

Absent: Council member Sheddy (1)

A moment of silence was observed for Duane Whalen.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Approve September 18, 2012 Regular Meeting and September 25, 2012 Study Session as presented.

Zupec/Debeltz moved approval. Motion carried unanimously.

4. ADDITIONS OR OMISSIONS TO AGENDA:

A. Addition 5.A. – High School Homecoming Activities

B. Addition 5.B. – Ely Hospital Survey

Debeltz/Zupec moved approval of Additions A & B. Motion carried unanimously.

5. MAYOR'S REPORT:

A. Mayor Skraba reported on the upcoming Homecoming events at the High School which include: Friday, October 5, 2012 game against Chisholm at 7:00pm; parade at 4:00pm which will follow the 4th of July parade route; Pep Rally in the parking lot after parade; Spaghetti feed between 4:00pm & 7:00pm to help fund the Washington D.C. trip; Bonfire at Semer's Park on Saturday from 8:00pm-11:00pm. Homecoming Queen is Mickey Hartman-Mattson and King is Matt Cole.

B. Mayor Skraba encouraged everyone to fill out the Ely Hospital Survey that was mailed to all Ely & surrounding area residents.

6. CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Motion to waive readings in entirety of all ordinances and resolutions on tonight's agenda.

Zupec/Nikkola moved approval of consent agenda item A. Motion carried unanimously.

7. REQUESTS TO APPEAR:

A. Douglas Johnston at 2121 Camp St Lot 39 has resided there for 13 years. He stated the new owner of the Trailer Park did not follow protocol for closing the park and is looking to the Council for assistance from the City to help stop the closing of the Trailer Park or to at least help to extend the closure for another 9 months. Attorney Klun stated that according to the letter sent to Mr. Defenbaugh that there seems to be a contested issue with whether the closure statement was correct which could extend the time frame if they agree that the letter needs to be reissued. Clerk Lowell will keep in touch with Mr. Johnston regarding variance issues with placing a trailer on a city lot.
Debeltz/Zupec moved to request of Attorney Klun to look into the situation and to get an update on the closing of the Park by contacting the owner and her attorney. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Chuck Novak, Ely Citizen Representative Board Member of the Ely Area Ambulance Service gave their annual briefing to the Council regarding contributions, funding, service and overall status of the organization.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. Council member Omerza reported being in St Paul last week for League Board Meetings which included HR Data Practices and Fiscal Futures. Their policies are now on the League website and if anyone has ideas or changes to these policies, they can contact her or the League. She also attended the League Board Retreat last Wednesday to Friday where they looked more at what the League needs to improve upon. They looked at doing more through video conferencing in Ely and throughout the State. She and Mayor Skraba went to a press conference in Virginia where the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities discussed what LGA does for the Cities on the Iron Range.

Council member Polyner reported on Planning & Zoning's public hearings for Twin Metals zoning and the Recreational Trails Overlay Ordinance. Also, discussed at their meeting was the City's Comprehensive Plan. She stated that the sand and diggers are still trying to be installed this month in Whiteside Park.

Clerk Lowell stated the Twin Metals Variance for a bigger footprint on the property was denied but they were allowed a 20ft set back instead of the required 25ft.

Mayor Skraba stated he was at Giants Ridge on Monday for the opening of the bridge connection between Mesabi Trail in Giants Ridge and Embarrass over Wynne Lake. He also attended the RAMS meeting last week where they set up a budget and they are waiting for projects from cities to lobby for in the Legislature. He welcomed the County Board Meeting which met at Miners Dry and he told them of the Cities partnership with the Ely Greenstone Committee and that the building behind Miner's Dry may be a bonding project in the near future. LELS met for arbitration but the outcome of the meeting will not be available until November 19, 2012.

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, September 26, 2012:
 - 1. Approved the purchase of a replacement SCADA computer at the WWTF from In Control for \$13,140.00.
 - 2. Approved the purchase of a cordless press for the electric department for \$1,619.00 from Wesco.
 - 3. Approved the service quote from ICS for repair of the VFD at the WTP for \$1,898.00.
 - 4. Approved payment of the August EUC Bills for \$336,095.68.

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

- E. Police Chief Lahtonen stated Cops & Kids will sponsor an event on October 10, 2012 along with Town of Morse and Fire Departments at the Ely Fire Station.
- F. City Attorney:
 - i. Pamida/Shopko Purchase Agreement has been agreed to but not effectuated yet since there have been some changes. Pamida will put \$33,000 toward the project unencumbered and should be closing in the next couple of weeks. The City will continue to pay taxes on the property until the property can be issued in the Cities name for tax abatement.
 - ii. Attorney Klun sent a letter to the Town of Morse requesting they join in with the City for Annexation of the parcels included in the sale of the Old County Garage. Langowski & the Attorney will meet with JPJ on some legal issues and would like to move this forward. The Town of Morse has a meeting tomorrow night which Terry Lowell plans on attending.

- iii. **Zupec/Debeltz moved approval of the 2nd Reading of Ordinance 263, 2nd Series amending chapter 20, section 20.2 Sales of Land. Roll called: Debeltz-yes, Nikkola-yes, Omerza-yes, Polyner-yes, Zupec-yes and Mayor Skraba-yes. Motion carried unanimously.**
- iv. **Debeltz/Zupec moved approval of the 2nd Reading of Ordinance 264, 2nd Series amending Ely City Code, chapter 11, section 11.02 related to the Ely Business Park Covenants. Roll called: Debeltz-yes, Nikkola-yes, Omerza-yes, Polyner-yes, Zupec-yes and Mayor Skraba-yes. Motion carried unanimously.**

G. City Engineer

10. COMMUNICATIONS:

- A. Ely Bloomenson Community Hospital notice of Annual Shareholder Meeting on December 3, 2012.

11. CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT:

- A. City and EUC claims for October 2, 2012 - \$177,722.70

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

12. OLD BUSINESS:

13. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Approve 1st Reading of Ordinance #261, 2nd Series amending Ely City Code chapter 11, section 11.01 related to land use regulation (zoning) adding subdivision 11.39 related to recreational trail overlay (RTO) district and adding section 11.49 recreational trail overlay district.

No action taken at this time due to more information forthcoming from Attorney Klun.

- B. Approve Mayor to sign the two year Lease #NR20018 between the City of Ely and the State of MN, DNR regarding unheated seasonal storage area – Unit#26 at the Ely Airport.

Debeltz/Zupec moved approval. Motion carried unanimously.

- C. Approve Mayor and Clerk/Treasurer to sign the FY13 Snowmobile Grant-In-Aid Agreement for \$22,034.10. The City acts as Fiscal Agent

Debeltz/Zupec moved approval. Motion carried unanimously.

- D. Approve to adopt and sign by Clerk/Treasurer the semi-annual Community Business Partnership Grant account report.

Debeltz/Nikkola moved approval. Motion carried unanimously.

- E. Approve the appointment of the new election judges for the November 6, 2012 General Election as submitted.

Debeltz/Polyner moved approval. Motion carried unanimously.

Debeltz/Polyner moved approval for the City of Ely to make application for the 2013 Infrastructure Improvement Project and accept funds from the IRRB Public Works Grant Program. Motion carried unanimously.

Nikkola/Debeltz moved approval for having the Joint meeting with ISD 696 at the Joint maintenance Facility on October 25, 2012 at 7:00pm.

14. OPEN FORUM

15. ADJOURN:

Omerza/Nikkola moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:10pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Claire Huisman
Deputy Clerk